

COLOUR PATTERNS IN THE GENUS *OLIVA*. AN ATTEMPT TO SIMPLE ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION.

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ABSTRACT.

An elementary model, based upon a "cellular game", can simulate the formation of most of the isolated elements found in *Oliva* shell patterns. These are shown to be chevrons or simple chevron derivatives. It predicts the interaction between chevrons and thus allow the description of local patterns in simple quantitative terms. Taxonomic applications are considered.