

A new species of *Cribrarula* (Gastropoda: Cypraeidae) from New South Wales, Australia

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Abstract

A new species in the *Cribrarula cribraria* complex (Cypraeidae) is described from New South Wales, Australia, on the basis of a multivariate analysis of shell characters, the radula and odontophore cartilage. *Cribrarula gravida* **sp. nov.**, can be easily separated from its congeners by its large, inflated shell, with rostrate extremities, large elliptical off-white dorsal spots against a light brown dorsal coat, and columellar teeth thicker than in shells of most species of *Cribrarula*. This is the twelfth known species in *Cribrarula*, and the third from Australian waters.

Key words: Cypraeidae, *Cribrarula gravida* sp. nov., new species description, *C. cribraria* complex, Australia, radula, odontophore

Introduction

Species in the genus *Cribrarula* Strand, 1929 are known as the *Cribrarula cribraria* Linnaeus, 1758 species complex (Gastropoda: Cypraeidae), and have shells with characteristic white dorsal spots on a brown background and orange-red mantles. In the past ten years six new taxa have been proposed in *Cribrarula*: *gaspardi* Biraghi and Nicolay, 1993 and *oceanica* Raybaudi, 1993, apparently two names for the same new subspecies of *C. cribraria* from the Marshall Is. (*gaspardi* has priority); *C. taitae* (Burgess, 1993) from American Samoa; *C. cribraria ganteri* Lorenz, 1997 from Sri Lanka; *C. pellisserpentis* Lorenz, 1999 from Madagascar, and *C. garciai* Lorenz and Raines, 2001 from Easter Island.

For a systematic review of the genus *Cribrarula* Strand, 1929 (Moretzsohn, in prep. A), several major museums were visited in the USA and Australia, and hundreds of specimens borrowed for multivariate morphometric, radular and molecular analyses. The complete results from these analyses are beyond the scope of the present article and will be presented elsewhere (Moretzsohn, in prep. B, C, D).