



Four new African turritiform gastropods (Mollusca: Conoidea)

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Abstract

Four new species, belonging to four distinct conoidean families, are described from east Africa and Mozambique Channel. *Iredalea adenensis* **sp. nov.** (Drilliidae Olsson, 1964), from Gulf of Aden, and *Buchema shearmani* **sp. nov.** (Horaiclavidae Bouchet *et al.*, 2011), from off Mogadishu (Somalia), both trawled by local fishermen, represent the first record of their respective genera in eastern Africa. *Crassispira somalica* **sp. nov.** (Pseudomelatomidae Morrison, 1965), also collected offshore from Mogadishu (Somalia), represents the first eastern Africa species bearing “typical” *Crassispira* features. *Tropidoturris vizcondei* **sp. nov.** (Borsoniidae Bellardi, 1875), from the Mozambique Channel, increases the knowledge of a genus considered endemic to southeastern Africa.

Key words: Conoidea, new species, eastern Africa, Gulf of Aden

Introduction

The conoidean family Turridae sensu Powell, 1966 is the largest family in Mollusca with about 4,000 named living species (Tucker, 2004) and 358 recognized genera and subgenera (Bouchet *et al.*, 2011). Because of the extraordinary species diversity and variability in shell features, the family level classification of Turridae s.l. has traditionally been rather controversial, with authors recognizing different numbers of subfamilies varying from none to 15 (Bouchet and Warén, 1980; McLean, 1971a). Combining morphological, radular and molecular features, Bouchet *et al.* (2011) recently proposed a revised classification of the Conoidea in which the polyphyletic taxon Turridae is resolved as 13 monophyletic families.

In the present paper, four new Conoidean gastropods are described from east Africa and the Mozambique Channel. According to the new classification (Bouchet *et al.*, 2011), the new species here discussed belong to four families: Borsoniidae Bellardi, 1875 (*Tropidoturris vizcondei* **sp. nov.**), Drilliidae Olsson, 1964 (*Iredalea adenensis* **sp. nov.**), Horaiclavidae Bouchet *et al.*, 2011 (*Buchema shearmani* **sp. nov.**) and Pseudomelatomidae Morrison, 1965 (*Crassispira somalica* **sp. nov.**). The discovery of *Crassispira somalica* **sp. nov.** offshore from Mogadishu, Somalia, is of interest as it represents the first eastern Africa record of a species bearing “typical” *Crassispira* features. Similarly, *Iredalea adenensis* **sp. nov.** and *Buchema shearmani* **sp. nov.** represent the first eastern Africa record of their respective genera. These findings of distinctive undescribed species are not surprising considering that no regional studies on the shallow water turritiform gastropods occurring in eastern Africa have been published and the entire area remains insufficiently explored. The description of *Tropidoturris vizcondei* **sp. nov.** from the Mozambique Channel, is also of interest as it provides further information on a morphologically distinctive genus currently reported only from southern Africa.

Material and methods

One of the species, *Tropidoturris vizcondei* **sp. nov.**, was dredged in the Mozambique Channel during the MAINBAZA Cruise which took place in April 2009 onboard the R.V. “Vizconde de Eza”, a Research Vessel from