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A New Species of *Dolicholaturus* (Gastropoda: Fascioliariidae) from the Red Sea and the Western Indian Ocean

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With 7 Figures on Plate 1

Keywords

Gastropoda, Fascioliariidae, *Dolicholaturus*, Egypt, Mauritius, new species.

Abstract

A new species of *Dolicholaturus* BELLARDI, 1884 is described and compared with appropriate congeners. The newly described species is known from Egypt and Mauritius Island.

Zusammenfassung

Eine neue Art der Gattung *Dolicholaturus* BELLARDI, 1884 wird beschrieben und mit ähnlichen Arten verglichen. Die neue Art ist von Ägypten und Mauritius bekannt.

Introduction

The genus *Dolicholaturus* BELLARDI, 1884 only comprises about 15 Recent species (SNYDER 2003, BOUCHET 2017), of which 6 are known to occur along the eastern African coasts: *Dolicholaturus bairstowi* (SOWERBY III, 1886), *Dolicholaturus bozzettii* LUSSI, 1993, *Dolicholaturus mosterti* LUSSI, 2014 and *Dolicholaturus brevicaudatus* LUSSI, 2014 from South Africa, *Dolicholaturus fernandesi* BOZZETTI, 2002 from Mozambique and *Dolicholaturus lancea* (GMELIN, 1791), a widespread species known from the Red Sea to Australia and Japan. The latter is also the only *Dolicholaturus* species mentioned by SHARABATI (1984), DEKKER & ORLIN (2000) and VERBINNEN & DIRKX (2006). Because of the aforementioned thorough studies of the Red Sea molluscan fauna, we were astounded when Mr. LE COURT DE BILLOT collected seven specimens of another *Dolicholaturus* species at Hurghada, Egypt. Later on, the present second author also collected a single specimen off southwestern Mauritius on one of his biodiversity campaigns in the Indo-Pacific region. Comparison with all known *Dolicholaturus* species, and all the ones mentioned above, lead to the conclusion that both samples from Egypt and Mauritius were conspecific and that they represent a yet

undescribed species. They are therefore hereby introduced as *Dolicholaturus maryseae* n. sp.

Systematics

Family Fascioliariidae J. E. GRAY, 1853

Subfamily Peristerniinae TRYON, 1880

Genus *Dolicholaturus* BELLARDI, 1884

Type species by subsequent designation (COSSMANN, 1901: 22): *Fusus bronni* MICHELOTTI, 1847. Miocene, Europe. For a detailed discussion of the type species designation, we refer to SNYDER (2003: 10-11).

Dolicholaturus maryseae n. sp.

(Pl. 1, Figs 1-2, 7)

Type material

Holotype Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France. IM-2000-32635, 27.8 × 7.8 mm.

Paratypes 1-6: from type locality, 17.6-26.8 mm (1-3 coll. Molluscan Science Foundation, Owings Mills, USA; 4-6: coll. DAVID MONSECOUR).

Paratype 7: Rivière Noire, SW Mauritius, 43.9 × 9.4 mm, coll. FELIX LORENZ.

Type locality

Abu Ramada Island, Hurghada, Egypt.

Habitat

In Egypt, the species was collected in coral rubble at 10-20 metres. Paratype 7 from Mauritius was dredged on a muddy bottom at 60 m.

Habitat

Known from Hurghada, Egypt (holotype and paratypes 1-6), southern Sinai, Egypt, Marsa Alam, Egypt and southwestern Mauritius (paratype 7).

Description

Shell of medium size for the genus (largest specimen known: 43.9 mm, paratype 7), slender, elongate. Protoconch damaged in all examined

shells, by estimation consisting of 1½ to 1¾ whorls. Transition to teleoconch clearly visible, marked by the appearance of both axial and spiral sculpture. Teleoconch consisting of 9-9½ slightly rounded whorls. Suture very indistinct, almost invisible, which renders the whorls hard to tell apart. Spiral sculpture consisting of 2 strong, flattened primary cords dividing the whorls in three almost equal parts on all whorls, except for the final whorl, which bears 7 or 8 primary cords (not including the cords on the siphonal canal). All whorls also bear a third, less strong primary cord just below the suture. In between the primary cords, 1-5 usually equally strong secondary cords are visible on all whorls. These secondary cords are randomly arranged and the type lot does not show a fixed system as to how many secondary cords are present on which whorl. Siphonal canal with 7-9 primary spiral cords with 1-4 secondary spiral cords in between them. Axial sculpture consisting of broad, rounded cords, rendering an undulating effect of the spiral sculpture. Uppermost teleoconch whorl with 5-6 such axial cords, becoming 6-7 on third or fourth whorl; last but two, penultimate whorl and final whorl with 7-8 axial cords. In between the axial cords, numerous fine growth lines are visible, but none of them rises to the level of secondary axial cords. Siphonal canal about 25 % of total shell length, narrow, straight, closed, except for the most abapical part. Columella with a weakly developed semi-attached columellar shield demarcating the aperture; adorned with two strong striae extending into the aperture. Outer lip clearly showing the spiral sculpture in its shape, somewhat thickened. Inside the aperture 5 striae extend into the aperture, leaving a smooth interspace behind the inner lip before they set off like a small, thickened bead. Aperture semi-ovate, adapically with a small groove and a thickened callus on the columellar side, abapically tapering towards the siphonal canal.

Shell colour uniformly dark brown to black, even though the 3-4 adapicalmost whorls are somewhat paler. Protoconch (damaged in all examined shells) pale brown. Aperture off-white to greyish, cords extending into the aperture paler. There is a brown axial line right behind the inner lip. Adult specimens also show brown lines in the spiral grooves on the inside of the inner lip. Columellar shield with a hint of brown, especially near the edge.

Animal pale orange with a dense pattern of irregularly placed pale pink flecks.

Comparison

Even though the only possible sympatric congener is *D. lancea*, *D. maryseae* n. sp. cannot be confused with this species as the latter is much more slender, has more bulbous whorls with a subsutural concavity, stronger and sharper spiral and axial cords and a completely different colour (grey as opposed to brown or black in *D. maryseae* n. sp.).

D. maryseae n. sp. stands out from both *D. bairstowi* and *D. bozzetii* by the higher number of teleoconch whorls, the much longer, closed siphonal canal, the much lower number of spiral cords, the tapering abapical end of the aperture and the overall dark brown to black colour. Moreover, the known range of both species is restricted to South Africa.

Even though *D. maryseae* n. sp. and *D. fernandesi* (only known from Mozambique) share the same colour, they can easily be separated by the shorter siphonal canal, the more bulbous whorls, the lower number of teleoconch whorls, the more rounded shape of the outer lip, the lack of thickened callus and groove on the adapical end of the columella and the dark colour of the aperture in *D. fernandesi*.

Both *D. mosterti* and *D. brevicaudatus* are limited to South African waters. The former is much more slender and more elongate than *D. maryseae* n. sp. and has a completely different sculpture of much weaker spiral ribs and above all broad, wavy axial ribs. Moreover, its colour is off-white. The latter has fewer spiral ribs (only 9 on final whorl), which are white on a rusty brown shell, its whorls are more rounded and its siphonal canal shorter.

Etymology

This species is named in honour of MARYSE LE COURT DE BILLOT, wife of the discoverer ERIC LE COURT DE BILLOT.

Acknowledgements

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Plate 1 (on p. 38)

Figs 1-2: *Dolicholatirus maryseae* n. sp. Holotype. MNHN.

Figs 3-4: *Dolicholatirus fernandesi* BOZZETTI, 2002. Mozambique, Nacala Bay area.

Figs 5-6: *Dolicholatirus lancea* (GMELIN, 1791). Hurghada, Egypt.

Fig. 7: *Dolicholatirus maryseae* n. sp. Living animal. Mauritius.

Plate 1



Explanation on p. 37