

Teralatirus, a new genus in the Fascioliariidae

by

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A small "*Latirus*" from the West Indies was described and figured by MELVILL (1910) as *Latirus ernesti*. The description is based on a single empty shell, which is ochraceous in colour, with many white spiral lirae; the length measures 12 mm.

Another small "*Latirus*", from Mujeres Island, Yucatan, Mexico, was described and figured by HAAS (1941, p. 167, pl. 1) as *Latirus festivus*. This is a brightly coloured shell, dark brown with yellow and purplish lirae. The holotype is a juvenile specimen, length 7 mm; one paratype measures 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. According to HAAS, *L. festivus* is closely related to *L. ernesti*, but they differ in colour and in the number and width of the lirae.

During our stay in the Netherlands Antilles (1957-1960), we collected fourteen specimens of a small "*Latirus*" from three islands. Four more specimens were collected by Mr. P. BRONNEBERG and presented to the author. All specimens resemble both *L. ernesti* and *L. festivus*. The locality records are:

Curacao. — Beach at Valentijnbaai, one partly discoloured specimen, length 8 mm; beach at Vaersenbaai, two brightly coloured specimens, length 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm; St. Michielsbaai, from dredged sand, two partly discoloured specimens, length 3 and 7 mm; beach at Piscaderabaai, two partly discoloured specimens, length 6 mm (with Hermit crab) and 9 mm; St. Annabaai, from dredged sand (coll. P. Bronneberg), two partly discoloured specimens, length 6 and 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm, two discoloured specimens, length 6 and 7 mm.

Bonaire. — Beach at Paloe Lechi, one brightly coloured specimen, length 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm; coast at Pekelmeer, east of Witte Pan, one brightly coloured specimen, length 8 mm, one partly discoloured broken shell, two discoloured specimens, length 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 10 mm.

Klein Bonaire. — Sandy beach at north side, one brightly coloured specimen, length 10 mm, one partly discoloured specimen, length 7 mm.

After comparing our specimens with the descriptions and figures of MELVILL and HAAS, we decided that the discoloured specimens (brown with white spiral lirae) match *Latirus ernesti*, and that the brightly coloured specimens match *L. festivus*. HAAS mentioned differences other than colour between *L. ernesti* and *L. festivus*; but our series of specimens show that there is variation in the number

PLATE 1



Teralatirus ernesti (Melvill), length $10\frac{3}{4}$ mm, Curaçao, Vaersenbaai.

and width of the lirae. Since we collected also partly discoloured (half faded) specimens, we may conclude that *Latirus festivus* Haas, 1941, is a junior synonym of *L. ernesti* Melvill, 1910; the latter being only a faded *L. festivus*. It is unfortunate that the original name was given to a discoloured specimen with no exact locality data. The synonymous name *festivus* suits this brilliantly coloured species perfectly (Plate 1).

According to MELLVILL (1910), *Latirus ernesti* belongs in the subgenus *Latirus* s.str.; HAAS (1941, p. 169) thought that *L. ernesti* and *L. festivus* form a distinct group within *Latirus*, but he did not create a new subgenus for them.

MCGINTY (1955, p. 79) described a new genus in the Fasciolaridae, *Fusilatirus*, the type species being newly discovered in the Florida Keys: *Fusilatirus pauli* McGinty. He included another West Indian species in this genus: *Latirus cayohuesonicus* Sowerby. The radula of *Fusilatirus*, in which the lateral teeth are bicuspid, is quite unlike that of *Latirus*, with multicuspid lateralia. This is MCGINTY's main reason for creating the new genus.

Latirus exilis Gabb from the Tertiary of Santo Domingo might also belong to *Fusilatirus*. This species was placed in *Latirofusius* by PILSBRY (1921, p. 346), together with more fossil "*Latirus*" species from North America. Since *Latirofusius* Cossmann, 1889, and the very closely related or identical taxon *Exilifusius* Conrad, 1865, have only extinct representatives, their radulas are unknown, and the relationship of these taxa to *Fusilatirus* remains uncertain.

ABBOTT (1958, p. 77) wonders if *Fusilatirus* might be a synonym of *Dolicholatirus* Bellardi 1884. Type species of *Dolicholatirus* is *Turbinella bronni* Michelotti, a fossil, but this genus has living species also.

Recently MCGINTY (1962, p. 42-43) stated that *Latirus ernesti* and *L. festivus* might also belong in the genus *Fusilatirus*, but he mentioned that a decision can be made only after studying the radula. However, on shell characters alone, we think that *Latirus ernesti* does not belong in *Fusilatirus*, and we propose for it a new genus: **Teralatirus**. The differences between these two genera are:

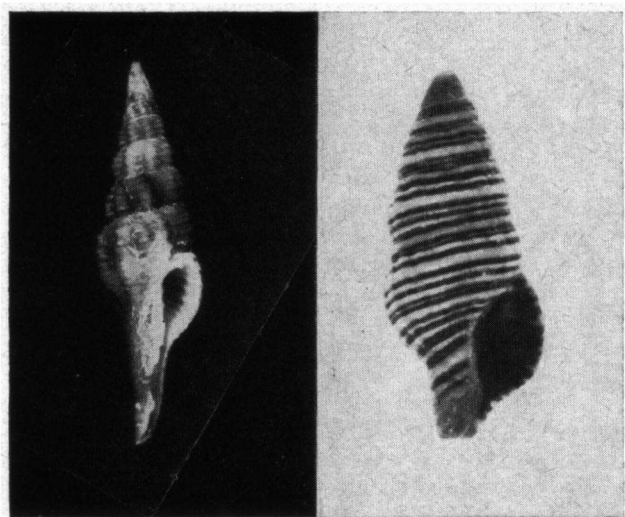


Fig. 1. (left). *Fusilativirus pauli* McGinty, holotype, length $28\frac{3}{4}$ mm, Florida Keys. Fig. 2. (right). *Terlativirus ernesti* (Melvill), length $10\frac{3}{4}$ mm, Curaçao.

Fusilativirus McGinty, 1955

Type species by original designation:
F. pauli McGinty

shell small or medium sized, adult longer than 15 mm

siphonal canal straight and long, 1-2 times the length of the aperture

swollen axial ribs

strong spiral lirae

spiral lirae all equally wide
space between the spiral lirae is 3 to 5 times as wide as the lirae

aperture relatively small, $\frac{1}{5}$ - $\frac{1}{6}$ \times the length of the shell

shell unicoloured, brown

Terlativirus new genus

Type species: *Latirus ernesti* Melvill

shell small, adult shorter than 15 mm

siphonal canal curved and short, about half the length of the aperture

no swollen axial ribs, although sometimes broad axial crenulations are present

spiral sculpture consists of many low lirae

spiral lirae of various widths
space between the spiral lirae is as wide or narrower than the lirae

aperture relatively large, $\frac{1}{4}$ \times the length of the shell

shell brown with multicoloured lirae

The species in both genera are rare. *Fusilativirus pauli* is known only from deep water off the Florida Keys. *F. cayohuesonicus* lives in shallow water from the Florida Keys to the Virgin Islands; the species is reported from Panama (OLSSON & MCGINTY, 1958, p. 17) and Grand Cayman Island (ABBOTT, 1958, p. 78). Mr. Th L.

MCGINTY informed us that he has specimens in his collection from South Florida, the Virgin Islands, Lesser Antilles, and Central America (Mexico, Panama). *Fusilatirus cayohuesonicus* was found recently by Dr. C. O. VAN REGTEREN ALTENA among material dredged off the coast of Surinam. Therefore the genus is distributed all over the West Indies.

Teralatirus ernesti (= *T. festivus*) seems restricted to the Caribbean area: Yucatan, Cuba, and Antigua (MCGINTY, 1962, p. 42-43), Curaçao, Bonaire, and Klein Bonaire.

When live specimens of *Teralatirus* are found, it will be possible to study the radula and determine whether there is a closer relationship to *Fusilatirus* than to *Latirus*.

Since *Teralatirus* has two columellar plaits, the genus belongs in the subfamily Fasciolarinae, together with *Latirus* and *Fusilatirus*. The Fusiniinae have no plications on the columella.

HAAS (1941, p. 167, 169, pl. 2, fig. d) discussed *Mitra roborea* Reeve, a lost species. Judging by the description and figure, this may be a *Teralatirus*; long ago TRYON (1882, p. 140) remarked: "Judging from the figure, this little shell is a *Latirus* rather than *Mitra*." The type locality of *Mitra roborea* is unknown. HAAS also suspects it to be a *Latirus*.

Turbinella noumeensis Crosse (CROSSE, 1871, p. 199, pl. 6, fig. 1) from New Caledonia and Japan (HABE, 1961, p. 66, pl. 33, fig. 7, sub *Latirus noumensis*) is in length, shape, and colour close to *Teralatirus ernesti*.

We are grateful to Dr. A. SOLEM at Chicago for comparing one of our specimens with the holotype of *Latirus festivus*. Dr. R. ROBERTSON of Philadelphia was so kind as to read the manuscript, and he made the photograph of *Fusilatirus pauli*. Mr. Th. L. MCGINTY of Boynton Beach gave us informations about *Fusilatirus pauli* and *F. cayohuesonicus*. Mr. G. RAEHLE and Mr. S. LEVINE from New York provided us with the colour pictures of *Teralatirus ernesti*. The funds for printing the colour plate were generously donated by Commander and Mrs. ROGER MARTIN of New York.

Teralatirus is named for our brilliant teacher in malacology, Mrs. TERA VAN DER FEEN-VAN BENTHEM JUTTING, upon the occasion of her retirement from the Zoological Museum in Amsterdam. For many years she has been The Netherlands leading malacologist.

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