



***Scissurella clathrata* in the San Jorge Gulf (Argentina) and the identity of the enigmatic *S. dalli* Bartsch, 1903 (Gastropoda: Scissurellidae)**

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Abstract

Scissurella dalli Bartsch, 1903, from the southwestern Atlantic Ocean has been reported at least six times in the malacological literature. However, the species is thus far known only from the original description; it was never figured; and the type material is missing from the original repository, the United States National Museum, Smithsonian Institution. In the present study, we examine specimens of a scissurellid collected adjacent to the type locality of *Scissurella dalli*, and evaluate their identity. These specimens proved to correspond to *Scissurella clathrata* Strebel, 1908. Even though this species shows some similarity with the original description of *Scissurella dalli*, the vague description by Bartsch lacking details and even containing contradictory indications, led us to the conclusion that they are not conspecific. Thus, *Scissurella clathrata* is reported for the first time at the type locality of *S. dalli*, and the latter remains as a *nomen dubium*.

Key words: Vetigastropoda, Southwestern Atlantic Ocean, Scissurellidae

Introduction

Five species were described in the nominal genus *Scissurella* from the Magellan Region: *Scissurella conica* d'Orbigny, 1841, from the Malvinas Islands; *Scissurella dalli* Bartsch, 1903, from San Jorge Gulf [Patagonia]; *Scissurella clathrata* Strebel, 1908, from Tierra del Fuego; *Scissurella eucharista* Melvill & Standen, 1912, from the Burdwood Bank; and *Scissurella malvinarum* Zelaya & Geiger, 2007, from the Malvinas Islands. In a recent revision of the Sub-Antarctic and Antarctic scissurellid species, Zelaya & Geiger (2007) demonstrated that “*Scissurella*” *conica* is not actually a member of *Scissurella* but *Anatoma* (Anatomidae); synonymized *S. eucharista* under *S. clathrata*; and added two other scissurellid species to the list of taxa occurring in the Magellan Region: *Scissurella petermannensis* Lamy, 1910, and *Ariella subantarctica* (Hedley, 1916).

The status of *Scissurella dalli* could not be conclusively determined by Zelaya & Geiger (2007): although it is listed by several authors (Thiele 1912; Carcelles 1950; Carcelles & Williamson 1951; Ageitos de Castellanos & Landoni 1988; Geiger 2003), the species was not recollected after the original description. The latter, apparently based on a single specimen, contains little specific information that could be useful to identify this scissurellid at the species level; the species was never illustrated;