

A new bathyal *Fasciolaria* (Mollusca: Caenogastropoda) from the southwestern Caribbean

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Abstract

A new bathyal species of *Fasciolaria* is described for the southwestern Caribbean based on conchological characters. *Fasciolaria tephрина* **sp. nov.** is distinguishable from its west Atlantic congeners by its ashen white color, highly convex whorls, long thin siphonal canal, and large deviated protoconch.

Key words: Gastropoda, Fasciolariidae, *Fasciolaria*, bathyal, taxonomy

Introduction

The genus *Fasciolaria* comprises large, spindle shaped, carnivorous gastropods living in tropical and temperate oceans of the world. According to Rosenberg (2002: Malacolog 3.1.2 online database) in the tropical western Atlantic, there are currently five taxa: *F. tulipa* (Linné, 1758); *F. lilium lilium* Fischer, 1807; *F. lilium hunteria* (Perry, 1811); *F. hollisteri* Weisbord, 1962; *F. bullisi* Lyons, 1972. However, their species level taxonomy (i.e. validity and or taxonomic rank) is still controversial, since the status of these taxa is not well established (see the specific classification adopted by, e.g., Abbott, 1974; Miloslavich, 1996 and Pechaszadeh & Paredes, 1996), and there is overlap in the geographical range of some putative subspecies (Rosenberg, 2002; Abbott, 1974), which is not in accord with the concept of subspecies. Moreover, a thorough revision of the group, which is beyond the scope of the present study, is still lacking.

The other western Atlantic species is the Magellanic *Fasciolaria insularis* Fernández, 1977 from Isla de los Estados, Argentina, is quite distinctive from its congeners due to shell size and the short siphonal canal. Its radula (Fernández, 1977: 28, fig 3), however, conforms to the Fasciolariidae norm (e.g. Bandel, 1984: pl. 17 figs. 5–10).