



The Genus *Pustulatirus* Vermeij and Snyder, 2006 (Gastropoda: Fasciolaridae: Peristerniinae) in the Western Atlantic, with Descriptions of Three New Species

WILLIAM G. LYONS¹ AND MARTIN AVERY SNYDER²

¹4227 Porpoise Drive SE, St. Petersburg, FL, 33705-4328 USA. Email: w.lyons9@knology.net

²Department of Malacology, Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1195 USA; and Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, 55, Rue Buffon, Paris, France. Email: dr.martin.snyder@gmail.com

Abstract

Western Atlantic species of the New World genus *Pustulatirus* Vermeij and Snyder, 2006 are revised. Types of previously named taxa are figured. Species recognized as valid include *P. attenuata* (Reeve, 1847), range uncertain; *P. eppi* (Melvill, 1891), Curaçao; *P. ogum* (Petuch, 1979), northeastern Brazil; and *P. virginensis* (Abbott, 1958), Bahama Islands and eastern Caribbean Sea to Aruba. *Latirus karinae* Nowell-Usticke, 1969 is confirmed as a junior subjective synonym of *P. virginensis*. *Syrinx annulata* Röding, 1798, treated as a Caribbean *Pustulatirus* by Vermeij and Snyder (2006), and *Latirus annulatus* Melvill, 1891 are regarded as *species inquirenda*. Three new species are described: *P. biocellatus*, northeastern Brazil; *P. utilaensis*, Bay Islands, Honduras and northwestern Panamá; and *P. watermanorum*, Honduras continental shelf and offshore Colombian banks. Most western Atlantic *Pustulatirus* shells exhibit little intraspecific variability in morphology or color and occur within rather precise, well-defined ranges; an exception is *P. virginensis*, whose shells exhibit much variability in size, morphology and color.

Key words: Fasciolaridae; *Pustulatirus*; systematic; western Atlantic; Caribbean; Brazil; Recent; Neogene

Introduction

Species of *Pustulatirus* were previously classified in the genus *Latirus* Montfort, 1810, an obviously polyphyletic taxon. Vermeij and Snyder (2006) proposed a more satisfactory classification of that taxon by elevating to generic rank *Polygona* Schumacher, 1817 and *Hemipolygona* Rovereto, 1899, taxa previously treated as subgenera of *Latirus*, and erecting the new genera *Pustulatirus* and *Turrilatirus* for other species-groups formerly placed in *Latirus*. Species of *Turrilatirus* and all species of *Latirus* live in the tropical Indo-West Pacific whereas species of *Polygona* and *Pustulatirus* live in the New World tropics. In addition to the type species and several others endemic to the tropical eastern Pacific, Vermeij and Snyder placed four Recent western Atlantic species in *Pustulatirus*: *P. annulatus* (Röding, 1798), *P. attenuatus* (Reeve, 1847), *P. eppi* (Melvill, 1891), and *P. virginensis* (Abbott, 1958); several Neogene New World taxa were also included.

We report results of a more extensive study of the western Atlantic component of *Pustulatirus* in which we examine all known type material of six named taxa and more than 600 other specimens. We combine three previously named taxa as a single species, clarify the identity of one oft-misidentified species, provide evidence to support the reclassification in *Pustulatirus* of another previously named species, and describe three new species. We also reject the recent reclassification in *Pustulatirus* of a Neogene species from South America.

Materials and Text Conventions

Most specimens were acquired from commercial shell dealers or amateur collectors. Animals had been removed and discarded but opercula still accompanied many shells. Most shells had passed through several hands before we obtained them, and collection data for such material may be inaccurate and/or imprecise; however, most species