

A new species of *Atrimitra* Dall, 1918 (Gastropoda: Mitridae) from seamounts of the recently created Nazca-Desventuradas Marine Park, Chile

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We describe *Atrimitra isolata* sp. n. (Gastropoda: Mitridae), collected on the summit of seamounts (~200 m water depth) in the vicinity of Desventuradas Islands, Chile insular territory. Additionally, we provide some insight into the habitat of this new species based on underwater imagery taken with a remotely operated vehicle (ROV). *Atrimitra isolata* sp. n. is characterized by its small size (up to 26 mm), elongate-ovate shape, solid shell and smooth appearance. It has a base brown color, with some specimens being tan or yellow. It is morphologically related to counterparts from shallow depths on the west coast of North, Central and South America (i.e., *Atrimitra idae*, *Atrimitra orientalis* and *Atrimitra semigranosa*), but has no affinities with species of the family reported from around Easter Island, on the far western side of the Salas y Gómez ridge (e.g., *Strigatella flavocingulata*, *Imbricariopsis punctata* and *Neocancilla takiisaoi*), or with other Indo-Pacific species. The present contribution adds to the knowledge of the poorly studied fauna of the seamounts in the southern portion of the Nazca ridge and easternmost section of the Sala y Gómez ridge, an area characterized by the high degree of endemism of its benthic fauna, and now protected within the large and newly created Nazca-Desventuradas Marine Park.

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21 **Abstract**

22 We describe *Atrimitra isolata* sp. n. (Gastropoda: Mitridae), collected on the summit of seamounts (~200
23 m water depth) in the vicinity of Desventuradas Islands, Chile insular territory. Additionally, we provide
24 some insight into the habitat of this new species based on underwater imagery taken with a remotely
25 operated vehicle (ROV). *Atrimitra isolata* sp. n. is characterized by its small size (up to 26 mm),
26 elongate-ovate shape, solid shell and smooth appearance. It has a base brown color, with some specimens
27 being tan or yellow. It is morphologically related to counterparts from shallow depths on the west coast of
28 North, Central and South America (i.e., *Atrimitra idae*, *Atrimitra orientalis* and *Atrimitra semigranosa*),
29 but has no affinities with species of the family reported from around Easter Island, on the far western side
30 of the Salas y Gómez ridge (e.g., *Strigatella flavocingulata*, *Imbricariopsis punctata* and *Neocancilla*
31 *takiisaoi*), or with other Indo-Pacific species. The present contribution adds to the knowledge of the
32 poorly studied fauna of the seamounts in the southern portion of the Nazca ridge and easternmost section
33 of the Sala y Gómez ridge, an area characterized by the high degree of endemism of its benthic fauna, and
34 now protected within the large and newly created Nazca-Desventuradas Marine Park.

35

37 Introduction

38

39 In 2015, Chile created the large Nazca-Desventuradas Marine Park (NDMP), covering almost 300,000
 40 km² of this remote part of the SE Pacific. Comprising San Ambrosio and San Félix Islands (known as
 41 Desventuradas Islands), and the seamounts located northwest of them, at the intersection of the Salas y
 42 Gómez and the Nazca Ridges, this park aims to protect the unique marine fauna inhabiting this area,
 43 recognized as a hotspot of species endemism (Fernández et al., 2014; Friedlander et al., 2016). As an
 44 example, the estimated endemism of fishes, one of the few groups for which enough information exists, is
 45 about 40% (Friedlander et al., 2016). Conversely, information for invertebrates in the area is sparse. Most
 46 of the existing references are associated with research expeditions carried out between 1973 and 1987 by
 47 the former Soviet Union, and limited to the area beyond Chilean jurisdiction east of ~83°W (Mironov and
 48 Detinova 1990; Parin et al., 1997). Even with this limited information, endemism estimations in general
 49 are outstandingly high, reaching ~46% for the benthic biota (Parin et al., 1997). For mollusks, these
 50 authors report, for the 22 seamounts along the Salas y Gomez and Nazca ridges explored, a total of: one
 51 species of Polyplacophora, 27 species of Gastropoda (most of them of the superfamily Conoidea), seven
 52 species of Bivalvia, and seven species of Cephalopoda. The latter corresponding to pelagic species,
 53 collected most probably during the transit of the trawl nets through the water column. In Parin et al.
 54 (1997), as well as in subsequent malacological studies in the area, no representatives of the family
 55 Mitridae have ever been mentioned. However, in the westernmost side of the Salas y Gómez ridge, at
 56 Rapa Nui (Easter Island), Osorio (2018) mentioned the occurrence of the following three Mitridae
 57 species: *Strigatella flavocingulata* (Lamy, 1938), *Imbricariopsis punctata* (Swainson, 1821) and
 58 *Neocancilla takiisaoi* (Kuroda, 1959). The two species of the family reported for continental Chile are:
 59 *Atrimitra orientalis* (Griffith and Pidgeon, 1834) (see Marinovich, 1973) and *Atrimitra semigranosa*
 60 (von Martens, 1897) (see Keen, 1971), both from northern Chile, ~20-22°S.
 61 In the present study, we revise the Mitridae reported for the region, but with emphasis in continental and
 62 insular marine jurisdictional areas of Chile, and describe a new species of *Atrimitra* collected on the
 63 summit of seamounts within the NDMP. Insight into the habitat of the new species, based on underwater
 64 imagery, is also provided.

65

66 Abbreviations

67	AL	Aperture length (mm).
68	ANSP	Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, Philadelphia, USA.
69	CIDA	Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History, The College of Idaho, USA.
70	d	Dead collected specimen.
71	L	Length (mm).
72	lv	Live collected specimen.
73	MNHNCL	Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, Chile.
74	NDMP	Nazca Desventuradas Marine Park.
75	NMW	National Museum of Wales, Cardiff
76	RAS	Richard A. Salisbury
77	ROV	Remotely operated underwater vehicle.
78	SCBUCN	Sala de Colecciones Biológicas de la Universidad Católica del Norte, Chile.
79	SDMNH	San Diego Museum of Natural History, San Diego, USA.
80	W	Width (mm).

81

82 **Materials & Methods**

83

84 **Material collection and in situ observations:** From October to November 2016, a multidisciplinary
85 oceanographic cruise (CIMAR 22 “Oceanic Islands”) was carried out on the research vessel *AGS61 Cabo*
86 *de Hornos*. The aim of the cruise was to study benthic habitats and fauna of unexplored seamounts of the
87 Juan Fernández and Desventuradas Ecoregion (Fig. 1) (Spalding et al. 2007; ecoregion number 179).
88 Within the newly created NDMP, six seamounts were visited and six stations were also studied around
89 San Ambrosio and San Felix islands (i.e., Desventuradas Islands) (Fig. 1). Unless weather or sea
90 condition precluded it, the protocol for the benthic survey consisted of a first visual observation of the
91 study site using a ROV (Commander MK2; Mariscope Meerestechnik, Kiel, Germany) equipped with a
92 HD Camcorder (Panasonic SD 909) and laser pointers (10 cm apart), followed by sampling with an
93 Agassiz trawl. The latter consisted of a metal frame with a mouth of 1.5 m × 0.5 m (width × height) fitted
94 with a net of 12-mm mesh at the cod end, operated in 10-min. hauls (bottom contact), at ~3 knots.
95 Collected specimens were preserved in 95% ethanol. Type material as voucher specimens were deposited
96 in the MNHNCL, SCBUCN, ANSP and CIDA, including specimens prepared for scanning electron
97 microscope (SEM) analysis. Sample collection was performed under permission Res. Ext N°41/2016
98 from SERNAPESCA (Chile) to Universidad Católica del Norte.

99 The radula and protoconch were examined with a Hitachi SU3500 SEM at the Microscopy Laboratory of
100 the Facultad de Ciencias del Mar, Universidad Católica del Norte, Coquimbo, Chile. A radula from an
101 adult specimen, that was broken for this purpose, was extracted by dissection of the soft parts and cleaned
102 in a 1:50 commercial bleach solution. The examined protoconch was from the same specimen. The radula
103 and the protoconch were dried in a Tousimis, Samdri-780A critical-point dryer using CO₂, mounted on
104 bronze stubs and coated with gold in a JEOL JFC-100 evaporator. Description of the radula followed the
105 formula proposed by Cernohorsky (1970), which uses the number of cusps on the lateral and central
106 rachidian plates.

107 Genomic DNA was extracted from samples SCBUCN 7030, SCBUCN7031 and SCBUCN7033 (see type
108 material), from 20 mg of foot tissue of each, and using an E.Z.N.A.® Tissue DNA kit (Omega, Bio-Tek).
109 In order to amplify partial sequences of the histone 3 (H3) nuclear gene and the mitochondrion
110 cytochrome oxidase I (COI) gene, the pairs of primers H3F (ATGGCTCGTA CCAAGCAGACVGC)
111 and H3R (ATATCCTTRG GCATRATRGTGAC) (Colgan et al., 2000) and HCO-1490
112 (GGTCAACAAA TCATAAAGAYATGYG) and LCO-2198 (TAAACTTCAGGG
113 TGACCAAARAAYCA) (Folmer et al., 1994) were used, respectively. The PCR profile for COI started
114 with 5 min at 95 °C, followed by 40 cycles of denaturation at 95 °C (1 min), annealing at 50 °C (1min),
115 and elongation at 72 °C (2 min), with a final elongation phase at 72 °C (13 min). A similar PCR profile
116 was set for H3 (annealing at 55 °C). Since amplification of the products obtained with both pairs of
117 primers failed, the integrity of genomic DNA samples from all individuals was analyzed by agarose gel
118 electrophoresis, following the procedure described in Pereira et al. (2011). While a tight band (minimal
119 smearing and no banding patterns) of high molecular weight would indicate a high-quality genomic DNA,
120 smearing would indicate degraded DNA, and thus low quality (Pereira et al., 2011). In our case, the
121 visualization in the agarose gel showed smearing and no band, suggesting degradation of the DNA,
122 probably caused by suboptimal preservation of the tissue.

123

124 **Nomenclature:** The electronic version of this article in Portable Document Format (PDF) will represent a
125 published work according to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN), and
126 hence the new names contained in the electronic version are effectively published under that Code from
127 the electronic edition alone. This published work and the nomenclatural acts it contains have been
128 registered in ZooBank, the online registration system for the ICZN. The ZooBank LSIDs (Life Science
129 Identifiers) can be resolved and the associated information viewed through any standard web browser by
130 appending the LSID to the prefix <http://zoobank.org/>. The LSID for this publication is: LSID: Atrimitra
131 isolata sp. n. urn: lsid:zoobank.org:pub:787A4D2A-260C-49BC-B8B0-0665F2BF6108. The online
132 version of this work is archived and available from the following digital repositories: PeerJ, PubMed
133 Central and CLOCKSS.

134

135 **Results**

136

137 **Systematics account**

138

139 Superfamily: Mitroidea Swainson, 1831

140 Family: MITRIDAE Swainson, 1831

141 Subfamily: Mitrinae Swainson, 1831

142 Genus: *Atrimitra* Dall, 1918

143 Type species: *Mitra idae* Melvill, 1893 by original designation.

144

145 *Atrimitra isolata* sp. n. Sellanes and Salisbury

146 Figs. 2(A–H), 3(A–E)

147

148 **Diagnosis:** Main characteristics of the shell are the small size to 26 mm, elongate-ovate shape, solid, with
149 smooth appearance. Base color brown with some specimens tan or yellow in color.

150

151 **Description:** Medium sized shell up to 26 mm, solid, elongate-ovate. Protoconch multispiral, of 4-5 large
152 brown glassy bulbous whorls (Fig. 2D, 3C–D). Spire whorls convex, post nuclear whorl with numerous
153 weak, beaded, axial ribs, with 3–4 strong, deep punctate grooves, spiral grooves bisect the axial ribs
154 giving the first whorl a fenestrate sculpture, sculpture changes rapidly on the early whorls, axial ribs
155 become nearly obsolete with spiral punctate grooves varying in number and spacing (Fig. 3E).

156 Penultimate whorl with 6 to 8 spiral grooves of which 3 to 4 are deeply punctate, the axial ribs are
157 flattened. Suture distinct but not deeply incised, last adult whorl with 12-14 shallow spiral grooves, half
158 with punctations in the grooves, last adult whorl sculpture changes on the lower half to wide, 10-12 flat
159 spiral cords separated by spiral grooves, the spiral cords are oblique on the fasciole. Aperture of medium
160 width, outer lip gently rounded and smooth, interior of aperture smooth, columella with 4 columellar
161 folds, siphonal canal short and wide, lacking a siphonal notch. Aperture length greater than half the shell
162 length. Base color brown with some specimens tan or yellow in color. Aperture brown with a faint purple
163 tint. Foot, siphon and eye stalks of the fresh collected animal, white, becoming black when fixed in
164 ethanol. Based on the cusp number the formula of the radula is: 15-5-15, with the lateral rachidian cusp
165 number count +/- 1 (Fig. 3E).

166

167 **Type material:**

168 Holotype MNHNCL 203730 (Fig. 2 A–D), L: 20.4 mm, W: 7.3 mm, AL: 10.2 mm, seamount off coast of
169 Chile, CIMAR 22 cruise, Station SF9, Lat. -25.7774, Long. -83.163, October 27, 2016, C22 SSF9 A,
170 trawled, 200 m water depth, lv.

171

172 Additional type material:

173 paratype 1 MNHNCL 203731 (Fig. 2E–F), L: 25.8 mm, W: 9.2 mm, AL: 13.4 mm, same as holotype, lv.

174 paratype 2 CIDA 126,574 (Fig. 2G–H), L: 21.5 mm, W: 8.1 mm, AL: 11.4 mm, same as holotype, lv.

175 paratype 3 ANSP 476798, L: 16.1 mm, W: 6.0 mm, AL: 8.1 mm, same as holotype, lv.

176 paratype 4 MNHNCL 203732, L: 19.1 mm, W: 7.0 mm, AL: 10.8 mm (with predator holes in shell and
177 limpet scars on the columella and aperture), same as holotype, lv.

178 paratype 5: SCBUCN 7627, L: 11.8 mm, W: 4.9 mm, AL: 6.7 mm, same as holotype, lv.

179 paratype 6 SCBUCN 6953, L: 20.4 mm, W: 7.5 mm, same as holotype, d.

180 paratype 7 SCBUCN 7029, L: 20.1 mm, W: 7.4 mm, same as holotype, lv.

181 paratype 8 SCBUCN 7033, L: 22.9 mm, W: 8.4 mm, same as holotype (with attached limpet), lv.

182 paratype 9 SCBUCN 7038, L: 19.6 mm, W: 7.5 mm, Seamount SF5, lv.

183 paratype 10 SCBUCN 6952a, L: 21.2 mm, W: 7.5 mm, same as holotype, d.

184 paratype 11 SCBUCN 6952b, L: 21.7 mm, W: 8.0, same as holotype, lv.

185 paratype 12 SCBUCN 7031, L: 17.1 mm, W: 7.0 mm, Seamount SF6, lv.

186 paratype 13 SCBUCN 7030 (Fig. 3A–E), L: 21.4, W: 8.0 mm, same as holotype, lv.

187 paratype 14 SCBUCN 6946a, L: 16.2 mm, W: 6.2 mm, same as holotype, lv.

188 paratype 15 SCBUCN 6946b, L: 19.1 mm, W: 7.0 mm, same as holotype, lv.

189 paratype 16 SCBUCN 6946c, L: 20.2 mm, W: 7.6 mm, same as holotype, lv.

190 paratype 17 SCBUCN 6946d, L: 18.8 mm, W: 7.7 mm, same as holotype (with drill hole), d.

191 paratype 18 SCBUCN 6947a, L: 22.4 mm, W: 8.8 mm, Seamount SF5, lv.

192 paratype 19 SCBUCN 6947b, L: 22.9 mm, W: 8.8 mm, Seamount SF5, d.

193 paratype 20 SCBUCN 6947c, L: 23.4 mm, W: 9.0 mm, Seamount SF5, lv.

194

195 **Comparative material:** *Atrimitra idae* (Melvill, 1893), holotype NMW 1955.158.00100, Point Loma,
196 Lower California, USA, *Strigatella coronadoensis* Baker and Spicer, 1930, holotype SDMNH 44409-
197 667, southeastern end of Los Coronados Islands, Lower California, Mexico (Fig. 4A–C), *Atrimitra*
198 *semigranosa*, collected near Arica, Parinacota Region, Chile, RAS collection (Fig. 4D–F), *Atrimitra*
199 *orientalis*, Lobos de Afuera Islands, Peru, RAS collection (Fig. 4G–I), two lots of specimens including
200 *Atrimitra orientalis* and *Atrimitra semigranosa*, SCBUCN-7617, Caleta Los Verdes, Iquique, and
201 SCBUCN-7618, El Ñajo, Iquique, Chile.

202

203 **Type locality:** Seamount SF9, Lat. -25.7774, Long. -83.3163, Sta. C22SSF9-A, 27 October 2016, at 200
204 m water depth.

205

206 **Distribution and habitat:** Specimen samples come from the summit of three seamounts within the
207 NDMP: SF5 (Lat. -25.4272, Long. -81.8806, 180 m depth), SF6 (Lat. -25.5535, Long. -82.3963, 176 m
208 depth), and SF9 (Lat. -25.7774, Long. -83.3163, 200 m depth). ROV images suggest that the species is
209 also present at nearby seamount SF2 (Lat. -24.7424, Long. -82.5226, 280 m depth). All these seamounts
210 are located within the NDMP.

211 For the three seamounts on which the species was collected, the summits of two of them (SF6 and SF9)
212 were explored using a ROV. The summit of SF2 was surveyed with the ROV but roughness of the terrain

213 precluded trawling. The bottom at SF6 and SF9 was dominated by coarse sand and the presence of maërl-
214 rhodoliths (Fig. 5A and 5B, respectively), scattered rocky outcrops were also spotted at both sites. Habitat
215 at SF2 differed by the predominance of hard substrates (Fig. 5C). Although about 20 mollusk taxa were
216 found in total at the three collection sites (SF5, SF6 and SF9), species that co-occurred with *A. isolata* sp.
217 n. at all sites were *Architectonica karsteni* Rutsch, 1934 and *Chryseofusus kazdailisi* (Fraussen and
218 Hadorn, 2000).

219

220 **Etymology:** From *isolatus* (Latin for isolated) in reference to the remote and isolated geographical
221 location of the four seamounts on which the new species was found.

222

223 **Species comparisons:** The holotype of *Atrimitra idae* (Fig. 2I), the type species of the genus *Atrimitra*,
224 measuring 72.1 mm (Cernohorsky 1976) is much larger than the largest recorded specimen of *A. isolata*
225 sp. n. (paratype 1, 25.8 mm). *Atrimitra idae* is covered with a thick black periostracum which obscures
226 the sculpture and color pattern of the shell. With the periostracum removed *A. idae*, is brown to tan in
227 color. The early whorls are almost always eroded and often covered with a thick encrustation.
228 Cernohorsky (1976) listed *Strigatella (Atrimitra) coronadoensis* (holotype, Fig. 4A–C) as a synonym of
229 *Mitra idae*, but this has yet to be confirmed. *Strigatella coronadoensis* has a tiny bullet-shaped, glassy
230 white protoconch of 4-5 whorls. *Atrimitra isolata* sp. n. also has a protoconch of 4-5 whorls but these are
231 large, brown, glassy and bulbous. Unlike *A. idae*, the new species has a thin, nearly transparent
232 periostracum, and the sculpture can be seen through it. Sculpture also differs from *A. idae*, which is
233 ornamented with fine spiral grooves, unevenly spaced on the early whorls, with strong axial grooves and
234 growth lines giving the shell a fenestrate appearance. The spiral grooves grow wider on the last adult
235 whorl and the spiral cords also grow wider on the upper part of the last adult whorl. The spiral cords are
236 more uniform in size on the lower part of that adult whorl and not bisected with as many axial grooves or
237 growth lines. *Atrimitra isolata* sp. n. is sculptured with widely spaced punctate spiral grooves with fine
238 spiral grooves, usually not punctate that alternate with the deeper punctate grooves. The early whorls are
239 ornamented with shallow axial grooves which form close-set axial ribs. The axial ribs widen and flatten
240 on later whorls. This smoothes the sculpture and makes the shells slippery. The two species live in
241 entirely different habitats, while *Atrimitra idae* can be found at depths reachable by scuba and in subtidal
242 habitats such as rocks and rubble, the new species lives at depths between 180 and 280 meters on rocky
243 bottoms on seamounts.

244 Two other Mitridae species have been reported from Chile (Cernohorsky 1976), both formerly in the
245 genus *Mitra* but now placed in *Atrimitra* (Fedosov et al., 2018). Both *A. semigranosa* (Fig. 4D–F) and *A.*
246 *orientalis* (Fig. 4G–I), are found in intertidal and subtidal zones associated with rocks, gravel and sand.
247 *Atrimitra semigranosa* can be easily separated from this new species by the pustulate early whorls, and
248 larger size, up to 46 mm. The shell of *A. semigranosa* is covered with a dark brown periostracum, the
249 shell is brown with the early whorls beaded and light brown in color. The beads become obsolete on later
250 whorls with the shell sculptured with spiral cords that are separated by shallow spiral grooves and
251 bisected by axial grooves, giving the mid-whorls a clathrate appearance, the last adult whorl is
252 ornamented with very fine, close-set spiral grooves which grow larger toward the base of the shell.
253 *Atrimitra orientalis* is covered with a thick black periostracum and has a much smoother and larger shell,
254 up to 72 mm, that is gray or light brown in color under the periostracum.

255

256 Discussion

257

258 *Atrimitra isolata* sp. n. is one of only a few Mitridae reported from Chilean waters. The new species
259 seems to be isolated from the mainland and so far has been found only on the Nazca Plate, where it lives
260 in deep water associated with seamounts. Since the Nazca and Salas y Gómez ridges are still poorly
261 known in terms of their benthic biodiversity, it is only possible to speculate that the new species might be
262 endemic to the area. The multispiral protoconch of *A. isolata* sp. n. suggests a planktotrophic larval
263 development mode, and thus a high potential for dispersion. On the other hand, physical processes
264 determining connectivity patterns in the area are still poorly known. As an example, it has been suggested
265 that the Humboldt Current System, with characteristic cold and nutrient-rich waters could be acting as a
266 barrier, at least separating the biota of this area from the South American coast (Friedlander et al., 2016).
267 Seamounts are also known to generate particular circulation patterns over their summits, which could be
268 contributing in the retention of locally generated larvae (Rogers, 2018). All these factors could be
269 contributing to the isolation of the local fauna and thus to their potential endemism.

270 The recent publication by Fedosov et al. (2018) defining the phylogeny of the Mitridae has indicated that
271 the genus *Atrimitra* Dall, 1918 is represented by several species living along the western coasts of North,
272 Central and South America. We have chosen to include the new species in *Atrimitra* based on the very
273 fine sculpture of the shell. However, further research, including molecular, analysis is still needed to
274 confidently place the new species within the *Atrimitra* or *Isara* generic units (Fedosov et al., 2018).
275 Failure in the extraction of genomic DNA of sufficient quality for sequencing the COI and H3 genes in
276 our specimens could be attributed to deficient tissue preservation. The animal in the preserved specimens
277 was deeply retracted, and considering also that the aperture of the shell is relatively small, probably an
278 amount of ethanol sufficient to avoid DNA degradation did not reach the soft parts.

279 The number of cusps on the central rachidian plate of the radula is a feature often considered for the
280 taxonomy of Mitridae. For *Atrimitra idae*, only drawings of the radula have been published (e.g.,
281 Cernohorsky, 1970; 1976), and the non-existence of SEM photos and the little detail presented by the
282 drawings of the radula caused confusion in the cusp formula. Radula of *A. idae* drawings show a formula
283 of 28-6-28 or 28-7-28, with the lateral rachidian plates cusp number +/- 3 counts (due to drawing quality).
284 The central rachidian plate in Mitridae often shows two types of formula. The first type presents an even-
285 numbered set of cusps, where each side of the central rachidian plate has the same number and size of
286 cusps (R. A. Salisbury, pers. obs.). The second type presents a longer central cusp with shorter lateral
287 cusps on each side. This type has an odd number of cusps and *A. isolata* sp. n. is an example of this
288 central rachidian type which has five cusps. However, there are not enough SEM images of radulae of this
289 type (see Fedosov et al., 2018) to make any decisions as to the importance of the cusp count on the central
290 rachidian plate.

291 It is interesting to note that species of the family Mitridae found around Easter Island, *Strigatella*
292 *flavocingulata* (Lamy, 1938), *Imbricariopsis punctata* (Swainson, 1821) and *Neocancilla takiisaoi*
293 (Kuroda, 1959), reviewed in Osorio (2018), on the far western side of the Salas y Gómez ridge, are all
294 Indo-Pacific species, with ranges across the Indian and Pacific Ocean. The new species has no
295 morphological affinities with them and available evidence suggests that it is found only on seamounts of
296 this region, which hosts a fauna characterized by the high levels of endemism (Friedlander et al., 2016).
297 An interesting ecological observation is that some specimens of *A. isolata* sp. n. show drill holes, perhaps
298 from Muricidae, Naticidae or other predators. Shells of live and dead specimens sometimes present scars
299 from a hipponicid limpet (Fig. 6). Although we cannot confirm identity, similar limpets are also found
300 attached to spines of the urchin *Stereocidaris nascaensis* (JM Tapia pers. obs.), suggesting that the

301 relationship with *A. isolata* sp. n. is just an opportunistic commensalism. Regarding potential food
302 sources of *A. isolata* sp. n., it has been observed that rhodoliths recovered from SF6 and SF9 seamounts
303 were profusely bored by sipunculans of the genus *Aspidosiphon* (JM Tapia, pers. obs.). Sipunculans have
304 been often reported as a prey for Mitridae (Ponder, 1998). For further details of the habitat and ecological
305 aspects of these seamounts, refer to Easton et al. (2019).

306

307 Conclusions

308

309 We describe *Atrimitra isolata* sp. n. from seamounts near Desventuradas Islands, at the intersection of the
310 Nazca and Salas y Gómez Ridges. Although the region is still poorly studied in terms of its benthic
311 biodiversity, the new species has so far been found only in this area. Available evidence suggests that the
312 new species is more closely related to eastern Pacific Mitridae and not to other central Pacific or Indic
313 Ocean counterparts. Further molecular analysis is still needed to properly place the new species within the
314 *Atrimitra* or *Isara* generic units. The present contribution adds to the knowledge of the fauna of
315 seamounts of the Salas y Gómez and Nazca Ridges, an area known by its high levels of endemism, and
316 part of which is now protected within the large and newly created NDMP.

317

318

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332

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Figure 1

Study area

Map of the study area comprising Desventuradas Islands and seamounts from Salas y Gómez, Nazca Ridge and Juan Fernández Archipelago. Gray triangles: sampled points during CIMAR 22 cruise. Red triangles: seamounts (SF5, SF6 and SF9) where *Atrimitra isolata* sp. n. was collected. Red circle: seamount SF2, in which *Atrimitra isolata* sp. n. was observed *in situ*. The pink areas represent marine protected areas (MPAs). NDMP=Nazca-Desventuradas Marine Park, EEZ= Exclusive economic zone. Credits for the map: A. Mecho.

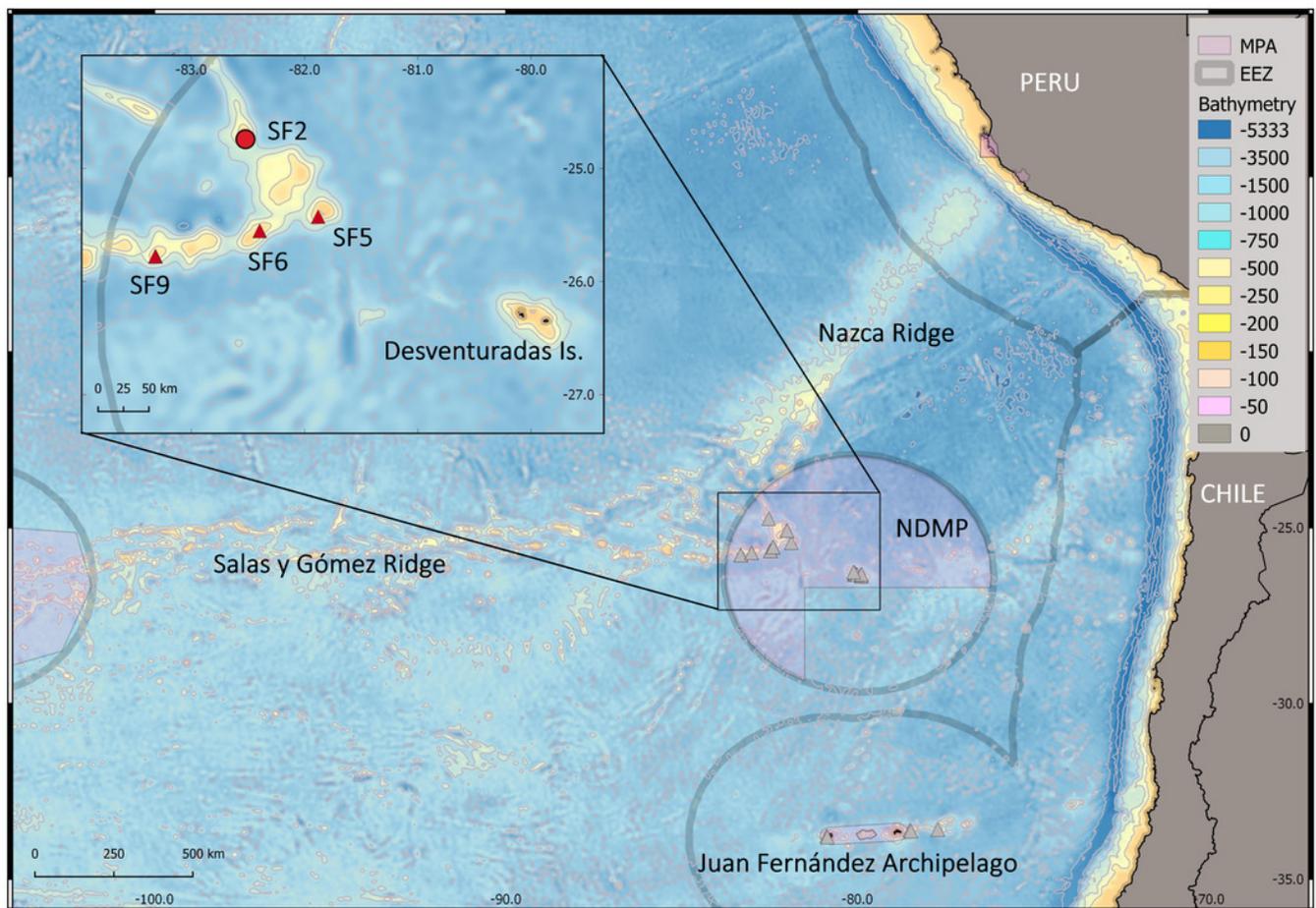


Figure 2

Type material.

Atrimitra isolata sp. n. (A–D) holotype MNHNCL 203730, Seamount SF 9 off Chile, Lat. -25.7774° , Long. -83.163° , 200 m depth. (E–F) paratype 1 MNHNCL 203731, same as holotype. (G–H) paratype 2 CIDA 126,574, same as holotype. *Atrimitra idae* (I) holotype NMW 1955.158.00100, Point Loma, Baja California, USA. A: abapertural view, B: apertural view, C: side view, D: view of the protoconch and first whorls, E: abapertural view, F: apertural view, G: abapertural view, H: apertural view, I: apertural view.

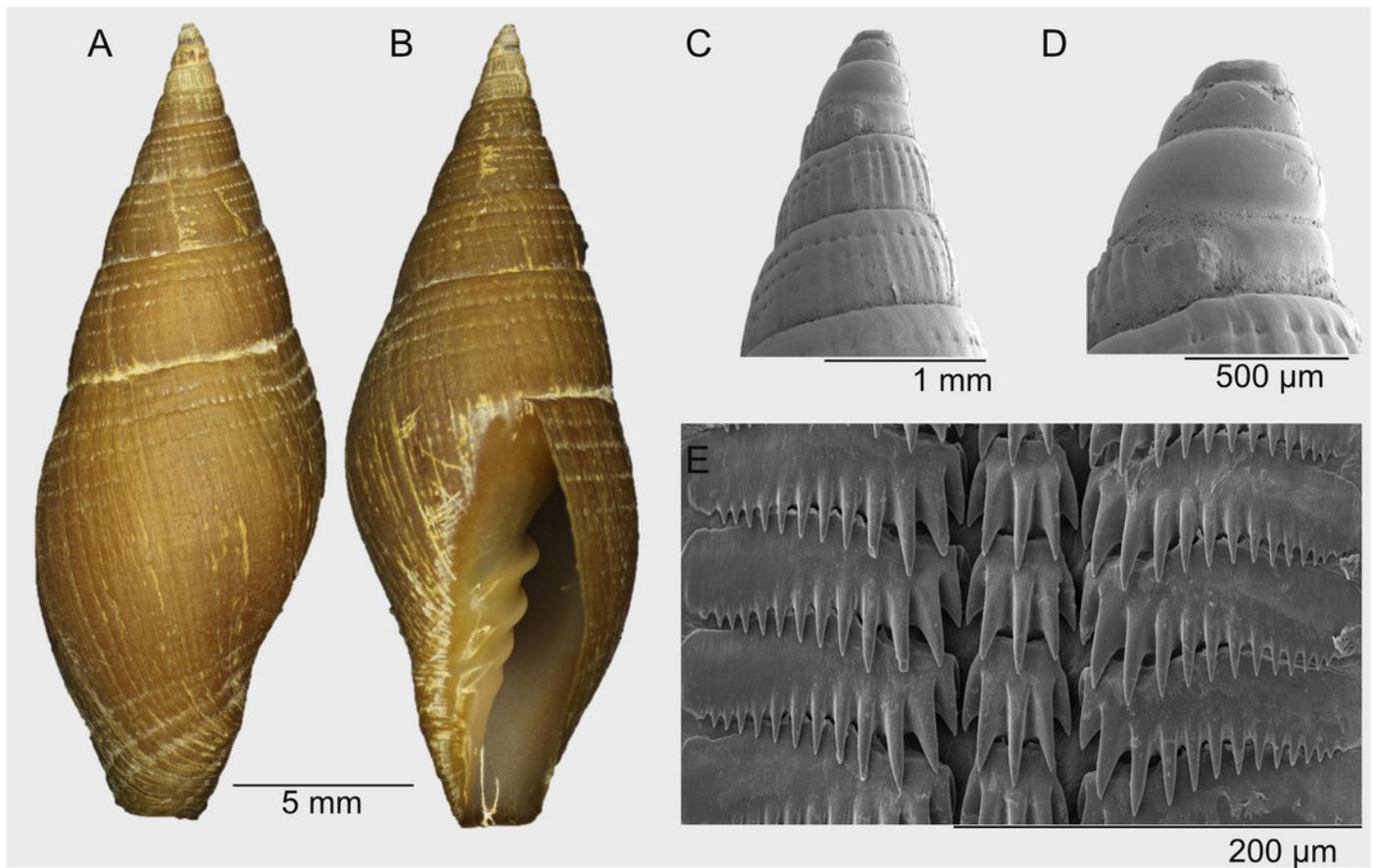


Figure 3

Radula and protoconch SEMs

Atrimitra isolata sp. n. (A-E) paratype 13 SCBUCN 7030, Seamount SF9 off Chile, Lat.

-25.7774°, Long. -83.3163°, 200 m depth. A: abapertural view, B: apertural view, C: SEM of the radula, D: SEM side view of the protoconch, E: SEM side view of the first whorls, showing details of the fenestrate sculpture and axial ribs.

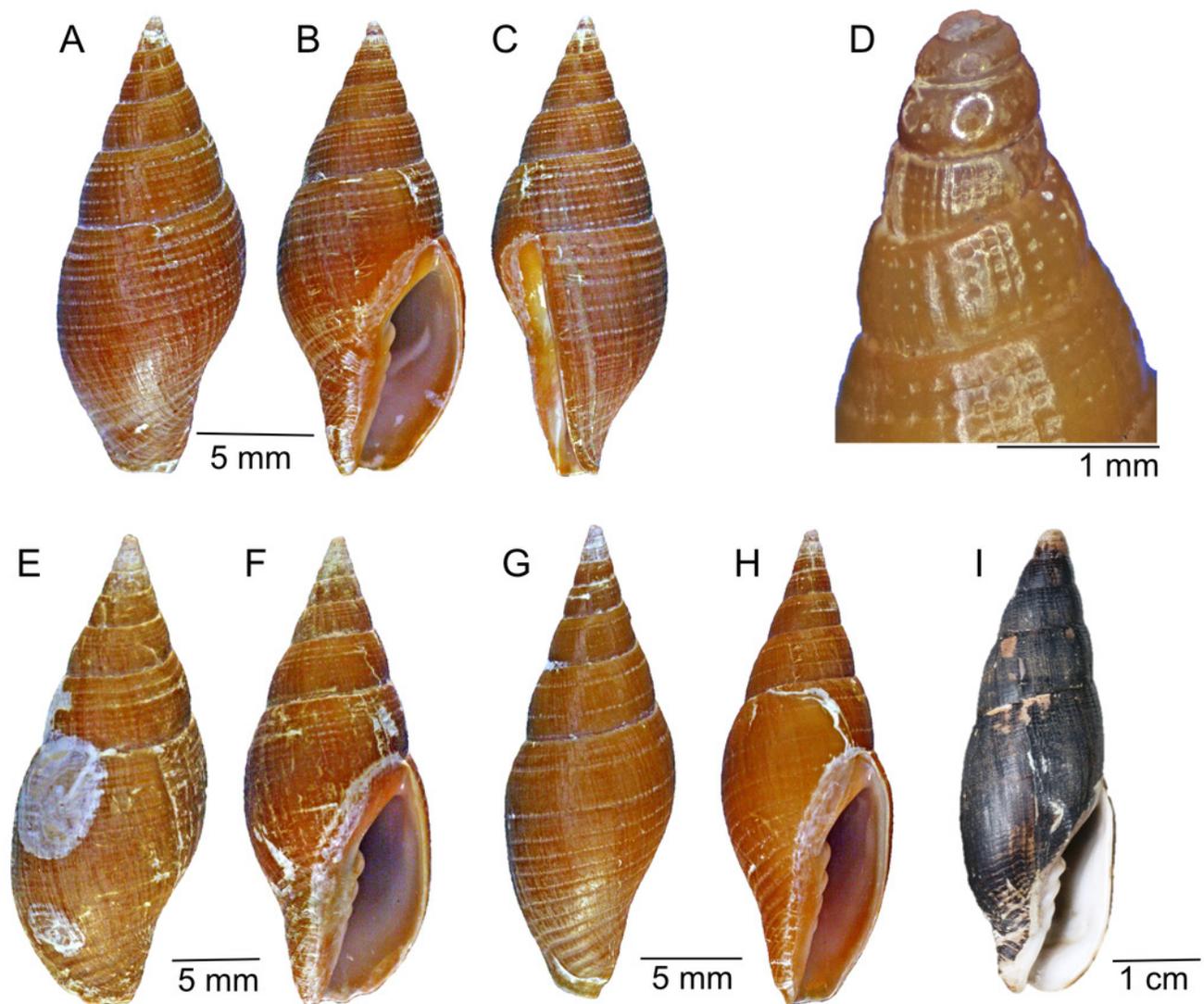


Figure 4

Comparative species

Comparative species. (A-C) *Strigatella coronadoensis*, holotype SDMNH 44409-667, southeastern end of Los Coronados Islands, Baja California, Mexico. (D-F) *Atrimitra semigranosa* Arica, Parinacota Region, Chile, RAS collection. (G-I) *Atrimitra orientalis* Lobos de Afuera Islands, Peru, RAS collection. A: abapertural view, B: apertural view, C: side view, D: abapertural view, E: apertural view, F: side view, G: abapertural view, H: apertural view, I: side view.

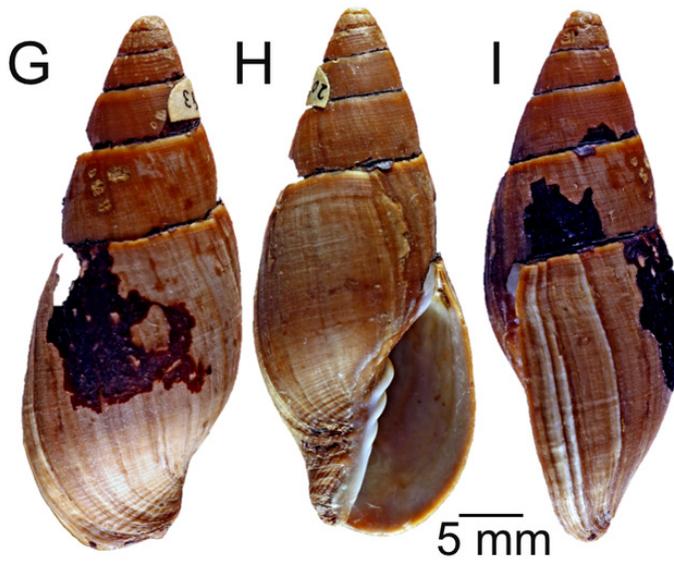
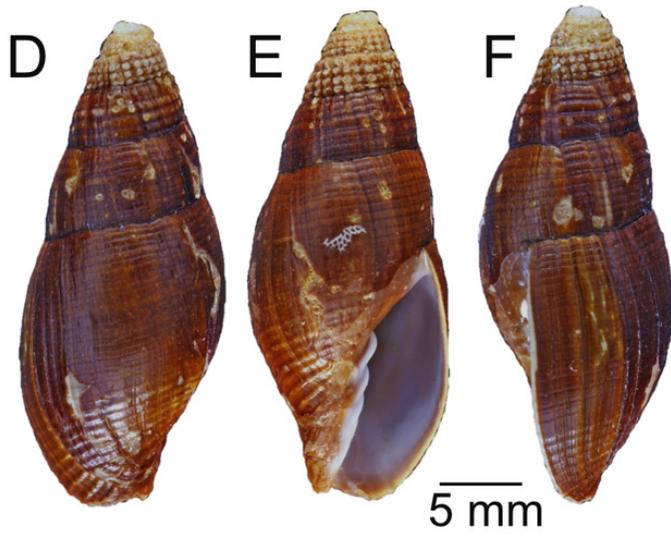
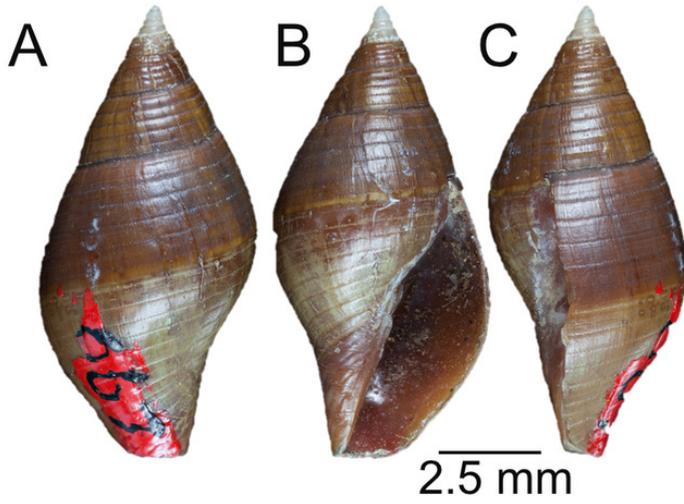


Figure 5

Habitat

Images taken with a ROV at the sites where *Atrimitra isolata* sp. n. was spotted within the Nazca-Desventuradas Marine Park. (A) summit of seamount SF6, 175 m depth, regular continuous homogeneous bottom with little relief, coarse sand dominated by sea pens (*Protoptilum* sp.), sea anemones (*Hormathia* sp. and Cerianthidae) and echinoids (*Stereocidaris nascaensis*). (B) summit of seamount SF9, 200 m depth, regular continuous homogeneous bottom with little relief, coarse sand and maërl-rhodoliths, dominated by sponges and sea anemones (*Hormathia* sp. and Cerianthidae). (C) live specimen of *Atrimitra isolata* sp. n. on the summit of seamount SF2, 280 m depth, irregular rock bottom with structures fractured, faulted and folded, dominated by sea pens (*Scleroptilum* sp.) and hydrozoans (*Stylaster marenzelleri*). Image credits: Matthias Gorny, OCEANA.

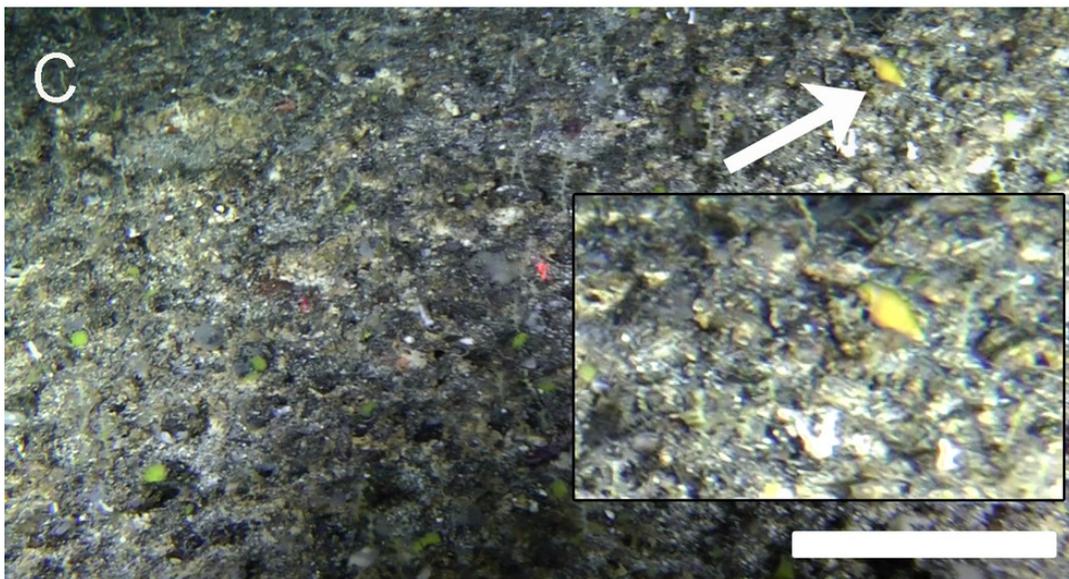
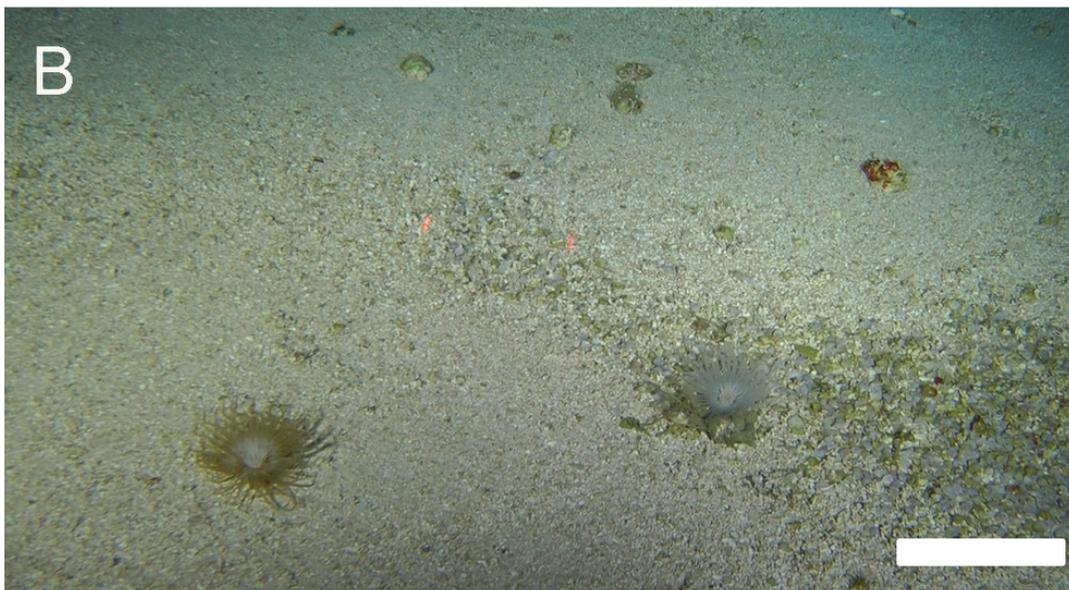


Figure 6

Commensal limpet

Detail of a hipponicid limpet attached to the shell of *Atrimitra isolata* sp. n., paratype 8 SCBUCN 7033.

