

Two new records of Epitoniidae from Easter Island, Chile

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Abstract

While dredging off the coast of Easter Island, two species of Epitoniidae were discovered, which have not been previously reported, *Epitonium (Parviscala) deificum* (Melvill & Standen, 1903), a species previously known from the Red Sea, Gulf of Oman and Hawaii, and *Opalia (Opalia) sumatrensis* (Thiele, 1925) a species previously known from Padang, Sumatra, and are the first epitoniids to be reported from the island in nearly twenty-five years.

Keywords: Mollusca, Gastropoda, Epitoniidae, taxonomy, Easter Island

Introduction

The family Epitoniidae is well represented in the Indo-Pacific, however, until now, only one species has ever been reported from Easter Island. Rehder (1980) reported the first epitoniid species as *Gyroscala pyramis* Tinker, 1952. Although Rehder considered *G. pyramis* to be distinguishable from *G. lamellosa* Lamarck, *G. lamellosa* is a highly polymorphic species and experts, [Kilburn (1985), DuShane (1990), Weil *et al.* (1999)] consider *G. pyramis* to be a junior synonym.

In November 2002, the junior author performed a two-week sampling effort on the island. The main focus of the trip was to collect molluscan fauna and sediments from 50 to 400 meters. The shallowest sampling depth was selected based on the previous reporting of a thermocline at approximately 50 meters [see DiSalvo *et al.* (1988)]. The intent of this sampling effort was to determine which of the already reported species live beyond this temperature change and to collect new or unreported species that live below this zone. The depth of 400 meters was selected by default, as it was the maximum depth that the dredge could be reasonably retrieved without a winch. With the exception of DiSalvo *et al.* (1988) and Raines (2002), little effort has been made to study sublittoral mollusks from Easter Island.