

A new bathyal *Fusinus* (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Fasciolariidae) from New Caledonia

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Abstract

A new bathyal species of *Fusinus* is described from New Caledonia. *Fusinus lavinia* new species is distinguished from other New Caledonia *Fusinus* by its long siphonal canal and angular sculpture. This new species is compared to *F. colus* (Linnaeus, 1758), *F. nicobaricus* (Röding, 1798), *F. nobilis* (Reeve, 1847), *F. salisburyi* Fulton, 1930, *F. similis* (Baird, 1873), and *F. undatus*, (Gmelin, 1791). A range extension for *F. nobilis* to New Caledonia is noted.

Key words: Gastropoda, Fasciolariidae, *Fusinus*, new species, New Caledonia

Introduction

The genus *Fusinus* comprises small to large (up to 337 mm) fusiform or spindle-shaped shells. These carnivorous gastropods live from the intertidal zone to deep water in tropical and temperate world oceans, with virtually worldwide distribution. For information on distribution and biology of this group see Grabau (1904), Habe (1958), Harasewych (1998), and Portmann (1955). New fasciolariid material has recently become available from the New Caledonia region through deep-water oceanographic expeditions and commercial operations, and is now available in several museums and private collections. Background information on the French oceanographic expeditions, with narratives of the cruises, station lists, maps and additional information can be found in Richer de Forges (1993) and Richer de Forges & Chevillon (1996). One *Fusinus* species is described in this paper as new to science, *Fusinus lavinia* **sp. nov.**