



Three new species of Barleeidae (Mollusca, Gastropoda, Rissooidea) from Brazil

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Abstract

Three new species of the Barleeidae are described from Brazilian waters. *Caelatura tigrina* n.sp. from Davis Seamount (20°39' S / 034°43' W) is diagnosed by 5 narrow well-spaced spiral cordlets in each whorl and its golden-brown color with white axial flames. *Caelatura especulabunda* n.sp. from Dogaressa Seamount (20°51' S / 033°45' W) is diagnosed by its shell oval-pupoid with slightly convex whorls and 9-10 close, thick, spiral cordlets. *Protobarleeia pyrrocincta* n.sp. from Abrolhos Bank (about 19° S, 38° W), the first report of the genus from South Western Atlantic, is diagnosed by its reddish belts.

Key words: *Caelatura*, *Protobarleeia*, Barleeidae, sea mount, South Western Atlantic, Brazil

Introduction

Few malacologists are presently working with micromollusks in South America, probably because small gastropods such as members of the Rissooidea have proved to be difficult to classify on shell characters alone (Ponder & Worsfold 1994). In few cases are soft parts available for comparison with newly collected material. However, in the past 10 years several new species have been brought to light (Leal 1993; Absalão & Rios 1995; Absalão *et al.* 2001; Pimenta & Absalão 2001), showing that, despite the difficulties, some progresses are being made towards understanding the true level of micromollusk biodiversity in this region.