

A new genus and species of Typhinae (Mollusca, Gastropoda, Muricidae) from off northeastern Brazil

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Abstract

A new member of the marine gastropod muricid subfamily Typhinae was discovered during dredgings off the continental shelf of northeastern Brazil. Although its four varices per whorl and the presence of sealed anal tubes (except for then anterior most one) suggest its placement in this subfamily, the taxon accords with no known genera. *Brasityphis barrosi* n. gen. and n. sp. is characterised by its small size, the absence of any partition, and the presence of five strong rounded denticles within the outer lip and a callus on the anterior of the parietal wall.

Key words: *Brasityphis barrosi*, Neogastropoda, Typhinae, Muricidae, Mollusca, taxonomy, new genus, new species, Brazil, Southwestern Atlantic

Introduction

During 2000, the company Petrobras S.A. carried out a series of dredgings off the continental shelf of the state of Sergipe, northeastern Brazil, with the aim of characterising the environment of a potential petroleum production area (PCABS — Sergipe Basin Environmental Characterisation Project). During these activities, some shells of an unknown gastropod were obtained from about 100 m depth in sand-mud bottoms. According to their shell morphology this species belongs to the neogastropod family Muricidae, subfamily Typhinae.

Typhinae have been the subject of several revisions, including higher levels (summarised by Houart 2002). Although we consulted works such as Keen (1944), Radwin & D'Attilio (1976) and D'Attilio & Hertz (1988), our attempts to classify our material in one of the known genera were unsuccessful. Thus, we describe herein a new genus and species of Typhinae.