



The magellanic mollusca of Rochebrune and Mabile

RICHARD E. PETIT

806 Saint Charles Road, North Myrtle Beach, SC, U.S.A. 29582–2846. E-mail: r.e.petit@att.net

Abstract

The often confused authorship and date (1889) of Rochebrune & Mabile's *Mollusques* portion of the *Mission Scientifique du Cap Horn* is explained. Other related papers of the 1880s by the same authors are examined and the Magellanic mollusks they named are listed with remarks on their current status. Comments in the literature about their work are quoted. The source of their material is explained.

Key words: Cape Horn, expedition, South America, taxa

Introduction

Alphonse Amédée Trémeau de Rochebrune (1836–1912) and Jules François Mabile (1831–1901) are best known to malacologists for the molluscan portion of the *Mission Scientifique du Cap Horn* although they made numerous other contributions. Authorship of taxa was switched within that paper, causing problems for future workers. Other problems with their work also merit discussion. In addition to the *Mission* paper, Rochebrune & Mabile's other papers treating Magellanic material are listed and discussed, and all Magellanic species they named are listed with their current status noted.

Rochebrune & Mabile

Biographical information about Rochebrune and Mabile may be found in Anonymous (1885a–b) and Lamy (1905, 1912). Additional sources are listed in Coan, Kabat & Petit (2009). In literature of his time, Mabile's name was always preceded by "J." or "Jules" in the title of papers and in the authorship of zoological names. This was done to distinguish him from Paul Mabile, also a zoologist. Paul and Jules both authored entomological papers in the *Mission du Cap Horn* series, and they sometimes published individual papers in the same issue of journals. However, as Paul is not known to have written anything about mollusks, the "J." is not used herein.

The quality of their malacological contributions, individually and collectively, is questionable. In the list of taxa included herein there are notes about current placement. It will be noted that many synonyms were created by Rochebrune and Mabile. Some of the comments made by those working on their taxa are here reiterated.

In a discussion of *Modiolarca trapezina* [sic; = *sina*] (Lamarck), E. A. Smith commented:

"Attention may also be directed to seven species (?), all from the same locality, Orange Bay, described and figured by Mabile & Rochebrune ... Personally I must confess to being unable to appreciate the specific value of these so-called species." – (E. A. Smith 1905: 338)

The seven species mentioned are all currently placed in the synonymy of *Modiolarca trapesina* (Lamarck, 1819).