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Three new bathyal raphitomine gastropods (Mollusca: Conoidea) from the Indo-Pacific region

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Abstract

Three new species of Conoidea are described from Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Philippines. *Awheaturris lozoueti* **sp. nov.**, from Philippines, is the first representative in the recent Indo-Pacific molluscan fauna of a hitherto Miocene fossil genus. *Taranis adenensis* **sp. nov.**, from Gulf of Aden, is the first species certainly referable to genus *Taranis* Jeffreys, 1870 reported in the Gulf of Aden and the smallest described member of this genus in the Indo-Pacific region. *Mioawateria vivens* **sp. nov.** represents the first member of the genus *Mioawateria* Vella, 1954 reported in the Red Sea. The status of *Mioawateria* is discussed and photographs of its type species, *Awateria (Mioawateria) personata* Powell, 1942, from the Pliocene of New Zealand, are presented for the first time.

Key words: Conoidea, Raphitomidae, new species, Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Philippines

Introduction

The purpose of the present paper is to describe three species belonging to the genera *Taranis* Jeffreys, 1870, *Mioawateria* Vella, 1954 and *Awheaturris* Beu, 1970, belonging to the family Raphitomidae. The discovery of *Taranis adenensis* **sp. nov.** in the Gulf of Aden is of interest as it represents the first species certainly referable to *Taranis* reported in that area. The type material of *Awheaturris lozoueti* **sp. nov.**, from the Philippines, represents the first record in the recent fauna of a genus previously reported in the Miocene of New Zealand and Chile. *Awheaturris lozoueti* is assigned to the family Raphitomidae mainly on the basis of its *Mioawateria*-like teleoconch features. Maxwell (1988) and Sysoev (1997) used the generic name *Mioawateria* for some recent species which implies assumption that the protoconch sculpture in *Mioawateria* is diagonally cancellated. That assumption has been recently questioned by Figueira & Absalão (2012) as *Mioawateria personata* (Powell, 1942), type species of *Mioawateria*, was based on a single specimen with broken and eroded protoconch. Comparison between Middle Miocene specimens of *Mioawateria personata* studied by Maxwell (1988), bearing an intact "typical" raphitomine protoconch, with the holotype of *M. personata* clearly indicates identical teleoconch features thus suggesting conspecificity. For this reason, we consider justified the use of the generic name *Mioawateria* for recent species.

Material and methods

The material studied originated from the RED SED 92 expedition performed in the southern Red Sea and Gulf of Aden by the French research vessel *Marion Dufresne* in order to contribute to the knowledge of the bathyal thanatocoenoses and biocenosis of that area, and from the AURORA 2007 expedition performed in the Philippines within the French Tropical Deep-Sea Benthos programme, a joint project of the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) and the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN) Paris (France).

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