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A NEW SUB SPECIES OF SLIT SHELL FROM COLOMBIAN DEEP WATER

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INTRODUCTION

South America has an immense continental shelf, but it is no good for slitshells. The first recorded species was *Pleurotomaria adansoniana* Crosse & Fisher, 1861, collected in West Indies and after in Brazil (North Amapá and Pará).

Later on, after one hundred years, Rios and Matthews described *Perotrochus atlanticus* collected by the german research vessel “Walther Hering”, in 133 m deep, off São Paulo coast (March, 2, 1968). Today we know that this species has a geografic distribution from off Vitória, Espírito Santo, to Rio Grande do Sul.

In 1969, Moreira Leme & Lícia Pena described *Mikadotrochus notialis* off Rio Grande do Sul deep waters. The mencioned species is a junior synonym of *P. atlanticus* according to Anseew & Goto, 1999.

In April of 2003, the malacologists José and Marcus Coltro visited Cartagena (Colombia) and got an ineditct slitshell very close to *P. amabilis* that I guess is a new subspecies to science and I am describing it as follows.

GENERIC DESCRIPTION

In order to establish the generic placement, I have seen using X-rays that the external part of the columella is not curved and the slit being short, the shell belongs to the genus *Perotrochus* Fisher, 1885.

SPECIFIC DESCRIPTION

Shell medium-sized, 58x63 mm, trochoidal with 9 slightly convex whorls. Protoconch paucispiral, smooth (broken). Spire high having an apical angle of 68°. Circunference of 201 mm, slit 30x3 mm, 1/6 of the body whorl.

Teloconch sculptured with spiral cords including de selenizone (measuring 3,0 mm of wide).

First five whorls with selenizone almost indistinct having 3 - 4 spiral cords.

From de sixth whorl below the suture there are 3 spiral cords thicker than the anterior ones with oblong nodules followed by another 3 slender spiral cords and 6 slender spiral nodulose cords. Body whorl with 6 substructural spiral cords having oblong nodules alternating one thick and another slender ending in the selenizone.

Base ornamented with about 20 spiral slender cords. Color light brown with irregular white blotches. Aperture subquadrate and interior iridescent as the genus. Specimen dead collected in a small fish trap. Radula and operculum unknown. Deep-water species feeding probably on sponges.

NAME AND ETYMOLOGY

This subspecies is named *Perotrochus amabilis coltrorum* in honor to the excellent malacologists José and Marcus Coltro, who got the shell.

TYPE LOCALITY

The shell was collected off Golfo de Morrosquilo, Southern Cartagena (Colombia) from fish traps, 300 to 400 meters, only one specimen. Holotype MORG n^o 45.419.

DISCUSSION

Perotrochus amabilis coltrorum has the same profile than the typical species, but differs by the different sculpture. *P. amabilis* has all the whorls completely dominated by a granulose spiral cords while the new subspecies has the 3rd, 4th and 5th whorl with only 3 slender spiral cords. In relation to the body whorl *coltrorum* has 6 granuloses spiral cords below the suture alternating one normal and another thicker, while *amabilis* has 15 cords on the body whorl, not alternated.

	ANGLE OF SPIRE	NUMBER OF WHORLS	SIZE OF SLIT	SLIT / CIRCUNF.	NUMBER OF CORDS ON BODY WHORL		
					ABOVE SELENIZONE	BELOW SELENIZONE	ON THE BASE
<i>P. amabilis</i>	68°	10	38 mm	1/5 (0,2)	11-13	4-5	24-26
<i>P. Coltrorum</i>	68°	8	34 mm	1/7 (0,16)	10	8	18
<i>P. atlanticus</i>	72°	7	43 mm	1/6 (0,14)	20-22	7-8	29-35

table 1

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ABSTRACT

A new subspecies of slitshell (Pleurotomarioidea, Archaeogastropoda), collected off Cartagena, Colombia, is described as *Perotrochus amabilis coltrorum*. This is the second pleurotomariid to be described for south America and the 25th recent species of this family. The principal characteristic of this new subspecies is 3 granulated spiral cords the 3rd, 4th and 5th whorls.



Plate 1: *Peretrochus amabilis coltrorum*

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