

PYRAMIDELLIDAE (GASTROPODA: HETEROBRANCHIA)
FROM THE END OF THE WORLD

Javier Di Luca^{1,3}, Marina Güller^{2,3*} & Diego G. Zelaya^{2,3}

ABSTRACT

Current knowledge on the pyramidellids from the southern tip of South America appears restricted to a couple of species described in the beginning of the 20th century and a few taxa subsequently reported from this area, including some species recognized as new, but never formally described. This study fills this gap in the knowledge by performing the first revision on the diversity of Pyramidellidae occurring in the Magellanic Province. The material for this study arises from extant collections made along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Patagonia, the Beagle Channel, the Magellan Strait and in Burdwood Bank; this information was supplied with specimens from museum collections. As part of this study, eight pyramidellid species, belonging to the genera *Turbonilla*, *Fargoa*, *Menestho* and *Brachystomia* are recognized from the Magellanic Province, including five species new to science: *Turbonilla deseadensis* n. sp., *Menestho beaglensis* n. sp., *M. patagonica* n. sp., *Brachystomia conica* n. sp. and *B. tenuilirata* n. sp. The distinctive characters of *Menestho*, a genus frequently misunderstood in the past, are also discussed. The presence of *Menestho* and *Brachystomia* are here documented for the first time for the southern tip of South America. In addition, a neotype for *Turbonilla strebeli* Strebel, 1905 (*non* Verrill, 1880) is here designated.

Key words: Magellanic Province, Patagonia, southwestern Atlantic Ocean, Turbonillinae, Odostomiinae.

INTRODUCTION

Pyramidellidae is one of the most diversified families of gastropods. In the last years, several studies performed in different areas, have greatly improved the knowledge on this family (e.g., Schander, 1994; van Aartsen et al., 1998, 2000; Lygre et al., 2011; Pimenta et al., 2008, 2018; Høisaeter, 2014; and references therein). These studies frequently showed that numerous pyramidellid species are found co-existing in particular, even small, geographic areas, as well as the fact that a high number of species have remained undescribed until recent times, a phenomenon particularly noticeable when considering the fauna from South America (Pimenta, 2012; Pimenta & Absalão, 2001, 2004; Pimenta et al., 2008, 2009; Güller & Zelaya, 2019). Even considering all the extant published literature on this family, the current knowledge on this group still appears far

from being complete. In fact, the pyramidellid fauna from several areas of the world remains unstudied in detail. This is the case of the Magellanic Province, the area located at the southernmost tip of South America, including the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Patagonia south of 42°S, the Beagle Channel, the Magellan Strait, the Malvinas/Falkland Islands and the Burdwood Bank.

The first reports of pyramidellids from the Magellanic Province date from the beginning of the 20th century, when Strebel (1905) described *Turbonilla smithi* from the Le Maire Strait, and Lamy (1905), *Turbonilla madrinensis* from Puerto Madryn. Later, two other species attributed to this family were described from the vicinity of Malvinas/Falkland Islands and Burdwood Bank: *Odostomia biplicata* Strebel, 1908, and *Eulimella xenophyes* Melvill & Standen, 1912, respectively. However, these species were subsequently excluded from the Pyra-

¹Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia". Av. Ángel Gallardo 470, 3° Piso, Lab. 80, C1405DJR, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina.

²Universidad de Buenos Aires, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Departamento Biodiversidad y Biología Experimental. Ciudad Universitaria, Pabellón 2, 4° Piso, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

³Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET). Buenos Aires, Argentina.

*Corresponding author: mguller@bg.fcen.uba.ar

midellidae: the former was first reallocated to the genus *Acteon* Montfort, 1810 (Acteonidae) by Castellanos & Landoni (1984), and more recently in *Toledonia* Dall, 1902 (Cyllichnidae: Toledoniinae) by Di Luca et al. (2020). The latter was regarded as a member of Aclididae by Pimenta et al. (2011). Castellanos (1982a) also reported *Volutaxiella subantarctica* Strebel, 1908 (under *Odostomia*), "*Turbonilla sanmatiense* sp. n." and "*Odostomia (Chrysallida) multituberculata* sp. n." as three additional Magellanic pyramidellids. However, after studying the holotype of *V. subantarctica*, Engl (2012) concluded that this species actually belongs to the Eulimidae. Güller & Zelaya (2019) found that the material reported by Castellanos (1982a) as *Turbonilla sanmatiense* actually comprises four species, none of them present in the Magellanic Province, since the lot reported by Castellanos (1982a) from 42°28'S, 63°19'W (i.e., north of the Magellanic Province) was not found. Those authors considered *T. sanmatiensis* to be restricted to the San Matías Gulf in the Argentine Province. Similarly, these authors stated that the material referred as *Odostomia multituberculata* actually comprised two different species, neither of them currently with documented records in the Magellanic Province (the inclusion of this name in Magellanic lists of species was originated in a mistake in the coordinates provided by that author for the sampling station). Castellanos & Landoni (1984) and Castellanos (1989) identified as *Odostomia translucens* (Strebel, 1908) specimens collected at 54°20'S, 65°28'W (wrongly referred as "64°28'W", by Castellanos, 1989). However, Güller & Zelaya (2019) concluded that these specimens are not conspecific with the type material of that species. Castellanos et al. (1993) also reported *Streptacionella singularis* Pfeffer, in Martens & Pfeffer, 1886, and *Odostomia nova* Castellanos, 1982, as Magellanic species. However, the first of these species is thus far only known from South Georgia, which is not actually part of the Magellanic Province but of the Antarctic Province (Zelaya, 2005), while for the second of these species, there are no documented records of its occurrence in the area. In addition, Di Luca & Zelaya (2019) reported three "most probably new [Recent] species" of *Odostomia* from Burdwood Bank, and Gordillo et al. (2010) and Zelaya & Gordillo (2011), two undescribed Quaternary species from the Beagle Channel.

The previous account suggests the presence of a reduced number of pyramidellid species in the southern tip of South America, as well

as the presence of some still undescribed species occurring in this area. This contribution searches to fill the gap in the knowledge on the diversity of Pyramidellidae from the Magellanic Province, by means of properly describing the diversity of the living species occurring in this area.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The material here studied was collected during several field trips along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Patagonia, the Beagle Channel, the Magellan Strait and at the Marine Protected Area Namuncurá, in Burdwood Bank, from the intertidal zone to 271 m depth. Benthic samples from the intertidal were collected with a sieve at hand; those from the subtidal by using a 2 mm mesh-size net. In both cases, animals (an.) and empty shells (sh.) were sorted from the sediment under a stereoscopic microscope. Studied specimens were deposited in the collections of the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales (MACN), Buenos Aires and Museo de La Plata (MLP), La Plata. These museums were also searched for additional materials of pyramidellids from the Magellanic Province. Additional specimens reported in this study come from the Los Angeles County Museum (LACM), Los Angeles.

The species here studied are described on the basis of shell morphology. Images were taken either with an AxioCam MRc mounted on a Zeiss Discovery V20 stereo microscope or a Philips XL 30 scanning electron microscope (SEM). Measurements of the shells (maximum length = L; maximum width = W) were taken with an eyepiece mounted on a stereo microscope; those of the protoconchs, from SEM images.

RESULTS

Genus *Turbonilla* Risso, 1826

Type species: *Turbonilla costulata* Risso, 1826, by subsequent designation (Hermannsen, 1852).

Turbonilla strebeli Corgan, 1969 Fig. 1A–I

Turbonilla smithi Strebel, 1905: 659, pl. 23, fig. 42a–d (Le Maire Strait, 65 fathoms, type lost);

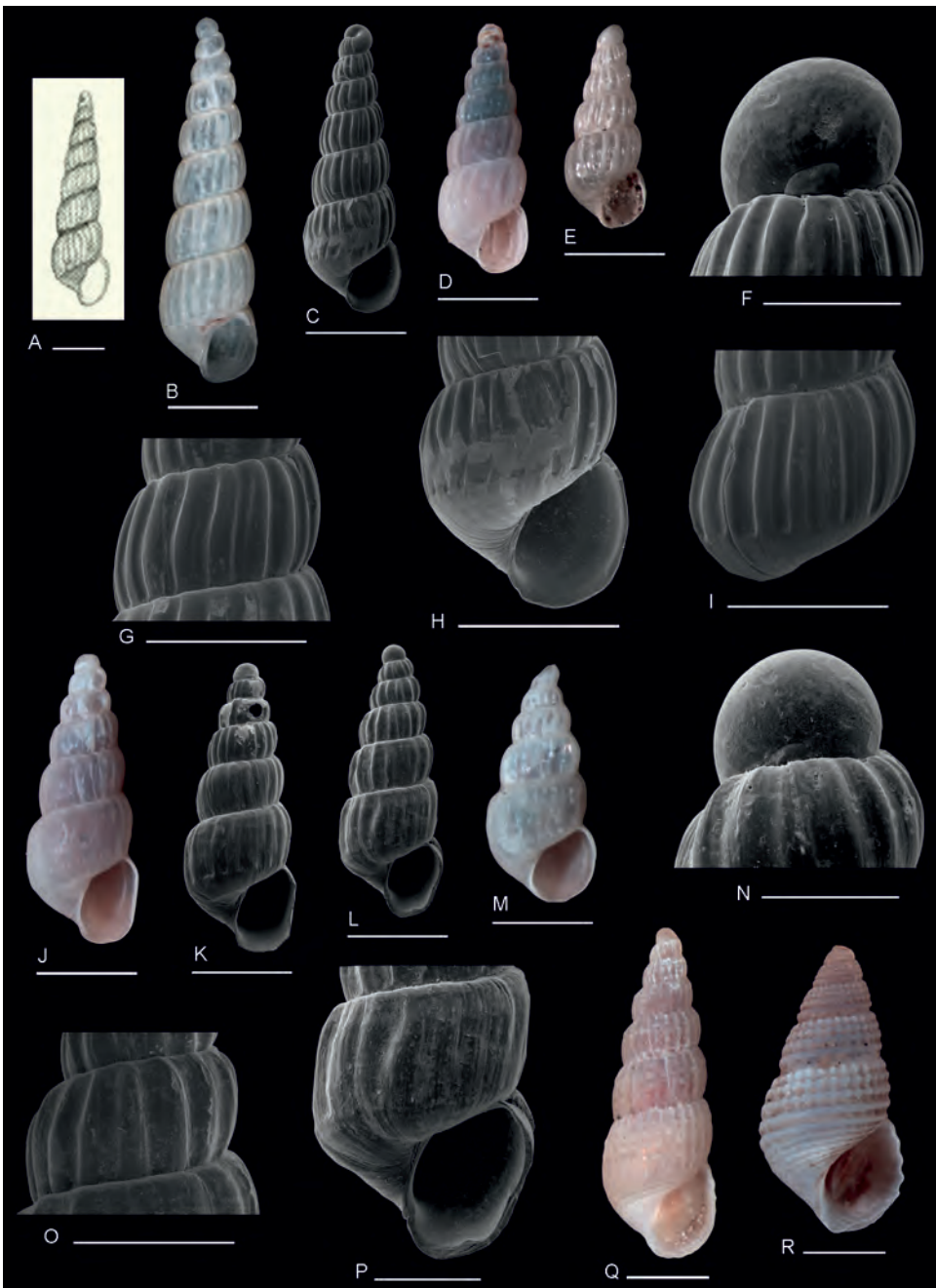


FIG. 1. *Turbonilla* and *Fargoa* spp. A–I. *Turbonilla strebeli*. A: Original drawing by Strebel (1905: fig. 42a); B: Neotype (MACN-In 43371); C, G, H: Specimen from Burdwood Bank (MACN-In 43433); D, E: Specimens from the Atlantic coast of Patagonia (D: MACN-In 43360; E: MACN-In 43361); F, I: Specimen from Magellan Strait (MACN-In 43372). J–P. *Turbonilla deseadensis* n. sp. J, K: Holotype (MACN-In 43375); L–P: Specimens from the Atlantic coast of Patagonia (MACN-In 43377); Q: *Turbonilla* cf. *madriensis*. Specimen from the Atlantic coast of Patagonia (MACN-In 43382); R: *Fargoa pyramidalis*. Specimen from the Atlantic coast of Patagonia (MACN-In 43383). Scale bars: A–E, J–M, Q, R = 1 mm; F, N = 200 μ m; G–I, O, P = 500 μ m.

Gordillo et al., 2010: 171; Zelaya & Gordillo, 2011: 14, fig. 3M (all *non* Verrill, 1880).

Turbonilla smithii (*sic*) – Melvill & Standen, 1912: 127 (*non* Verrill, 1880).

Turbonilla strebeli Corgan, 1969: 574 (replacement name for *Turbonilla smithi* Strebel, 1905, *non* Verrill, 1880); Di Luca & Zelaya, 2019: 66, fig. 5J.

Turbonilla (*Chemnitzia*) *smithi* – Castellanos 1982a: 66, figs. 2, 3; Castellanos et al. 1993: 18, fig. 24 (both *non* Verrill, 1880).

Type material: Neotype (here designated) from 54°30'23.40"S, 59°48'39.24"W, Burdwood Bank, 105 m (MACN-In 43371).

Additional material examined

Atlantic coast of Patagonia: 43°40'S, 65°20'W, Playa Escondida, intertidal (MACN-In 43361: 1 sh.); 45°56'48"S, 67°32'48"W, Rada Tilly, intertidal (MACN-In 43360: 1 sh.); 50°30'40"S, 68°02'33"W, 62 m (MACN-In 43362: 3 an., 28 sh.); 55°00'00"S, 66°20'36"W, Bahía Slogget, 15–27 m (MACN-In 43363: 1 sh.); 54°57'24.48"S, 65°27'26.94"W, 72 m (MACN-In 43364: 1 sh.).

Malvinas/Falkland Islands: 10–20 m (MLP-Ma 15084: 1 sh.).

Burdwood Bank: 54°52'26.64''S, 64°03'22.08''W, 271 m (MACN-In 43365: 2 sh.); 54°35'50.16''S, 61°06'51.6''W, 168 m (MACN-In 43366: 2 sh.); 54°00'14.40''S, 61°04'45.72''W, 139 m (MACN-In 43367: 1 an.); 54°05'15.96''S, 60°53'40.26''W, 132 m (MACN-In 43368: 1 an., 2 sh.); 54°13'50.76''S, 60°49'00.96''W, 126 m (MACN-In 43369: 1 an.); 54°15'S, 60°00'W, 97–101 m (MACN-In 40705: 2 sh.); 54°15'48.3''S, 59°59'2.52''W, 103 m (MACN-In 43370: 1 sh.); 54°30'23.40''S, 59°48'39.24''W, 105 m (MACN-In 43433: 1 sh.).

Magellan Strait: Canal David: 53°38'S, 72°22'W, 40 m (MACN-In 43372: 2 an., 5 sh.).

Beagle Channel: 54°52'S, 68°14'W, 7–13 m, Islas Bridges (MLP-Ma 15085: 2 sh.). Punta Segunda: 54°51'16.1''S, 68°02'8.9''W, 14 m (MLP-Ma 15086: 2 sh.); 54°51'26.10''S, 68°00'38.10''W, 20–21 m (MLP-Ma 15087: 1 sh.). 54°54'36''S, 67°21'24''W, Isla Gable, 15–20 m (MLP-Ma 15088: 2 sh.). 54°54'44.64''S, 67°14'08.64''W, 38 m (MACN-In 43373: 1 sh.). 55°01'S, 66°42'W, Punta Moat, 15–20 m (MLP-Ma 15089: 1 sh.).

Pacific coast of Patagonia: 42°09'32.0''S, 72°35'41.1''W, Isla Lilihuapi, 8 m (MACN-In 43374: 15 sh.).

Description

Shell up to 4.5 mm L, 1.4 mm W; narrowly elongate, delicate, whitish, translucent in living specimens. Protoconch (Fig. 1F) almost planispiral, rotated with respect to longitudinal shell axis, of 1¼ to 2 whorls, about 270 µm diameter; smooth in appearance, microscopically sculptured with few isolated spiral threads; nucleus visible. Teleoconch (Fig. 1B–E) with up to 7½ whorls, markedly convex in outline. Suture deep. Spire comprising up to 60% of total shell length. Sculpture (Fig. 1G–I) of straight to slightly sinuous, orthocline to slightly prosocline axial ribs, 18 to 19 per whorl; ribs equally or somewhat wider than interspaces, abruptly interrupted on the periphery of last whorl. Usually ribs well-marked in all teleoconch whorls, although sometimes less evident in last whorls. Periphery of last whorl (Fig. 1H, I) evenly convex. Base usually smooth, sometimes with microscopic spiral furrows. Aperture (Fig. 1H) subovate, outer margin evenly arcuated. Columella sinuous.

Distribution

All along the Magellanic Province.

Remarks

Corgan (1969) noticed that *Turbonilla smithi* Strebel, 1905, is a primary junior homonym of *Turbonilla smithii* Verrill, 1880, consequently proposing *Turbonilla strebeli* as replacement name for the former. Despite that, this name was overlooked by several subsequent authors when referring to the species (e.g., Castellanos 1982a; Castellanos et al. 1993; Gordillo et al., 2010; Zelaya & Gordillo, 2011).

Strebel (1905) described this species based on a single specimen of 4.1 mm L and 1.2 mm W, coming from Le Mair Strait (i.e., between the Atlantic coast of Patagonia and Isla de los Estados), originally deposited in the Zoological Museum Hamburg (ZMH), but subsequently destroyed during World War II (B. Hausdorf, pers comm., 27 August 2018). According to the original description this specimen comprised a total of 8 convex whorls, with the teleoconch sculptured by strong axial ribs, separated by interspaces as wide as the ribs; the axial sculpture ending abruptly on the periphery of the last whorl. All these characters are also recognizable in the original illustration provided by Strebel (1905: fig. 42a–d, one of them here

reproduced in Fig. 1A), as well as in the material here attributed to this species. Due to the great similarity of *T. strebeli* with another (new) species occurring at the same geographic area (described below), a neotype for this species is here selected in order to clearly fix the species concept (Fig. 1B). Castellanos (1982a: fig. 3) figured a specimen that agrees in general shell morphology and sculpture with *T. strebeli*, although showing a multiwhorled protoconch. This figure was reproduced in Castellanos et al. (1993: fig. 24). However, in our opinion, such difference arises in a mistake in the drawing rather than in a true difference, as no Magellanic species of *Turbonilla* shows such protoconch morphology.

In general shell outline and sculpture, *T. strebeli* resembles *Turbonilla zulmae* Pimenta & Absalão, 1998 (a species properly figured by Güller & Zelaya, 2019: 7A–D), which differs by having a narrower and more elongate shell and helicoidal protoconch. Furthermore, *T. zulmae* is only known from the Argentine Province, between 22°S and 42°S (Güller & Zelaya, 2019).

***Turbonilla deseadensis* n. sp.**

Fig. 1J–P

Type locality: 47°45'11.6"S, 65°52'53.7"W, Puerto Deseado, Santa Cruz Province, Argentina, intertidal.

Type material: Holotype (MACN-In 43375) and 11 paratypes from the type locality (5 paratypes at MACN-In 43376; 6 paratypes at MLP-Ma 15090).

Etymology

The species name refers to the site of provenance of the studied material.

Additional material examined

Atlantic coast of Patagonia: Puerto Deseado: 47°45'18"S, 65°52'54"W, intertidal (MACN-In 43377: 3 an., 59 sh.); 47°45'24.72"S, 65°52'38.28"W (MACN-In 43378: 1 an., 3 sh.); 47°46'42"S, 65°52'06"W, 9 m (MACN-In 43379: 1 sh.); 47°46'54"S, 65°52'48"W, 6 m (MACN-In 43380: 8 sh.).

Diagnosis

Shell conical-elongate; first teleoconch whorls convex, progressively becoming straighter in

outline; with 14 to 16 axial ribs per whorl; base angulated at periphery.

Description

Shell up to 3.8 mm L, 1.2 mm W; conical-elongate, moderately solid, whitish, translucent in living specimens. Protoconch (Fig. 1N) almost planispiral, rotated with respect to longitudinal shell axis, of 1¼ to 2 whorls, about 265 µm diameter; smooth in appearance, microscopically sculptured with few isolated spiral threads; nucleus visible. Teleoconch (Fig. 1J–M) with up to 5½ whorls; first two whorls markedly convex in outline, subsequent whorls flattened, producing a gradated appearance. Suture deep. Spire comprising up to 55% of total shell length. Sculpture (Fig. 1O, P) of straight to slightly sinuous, orthocone to slightly prosocline, coarse but flat axial ribs, 14 to 16 per whorl; ribs somewhat wider than interspaces, abruptly interrupted on the periphery of last whorl (Fig. 1K) or devanishing towards the base (Fig. 1L, P). Usually, ribs well marked in all teleoconch whorls, although sometimes less evident on last whorls (Fig. 1J). Periphery of last whorl (Fig. 1P) angulated. Base smooth. Aperture (Fig. 1P) subquadrangular, outer margin almost straight. Columella sinuous.

Distribution

Only known from the vicinity of Puerto Deseado, in the Atlantic coast of Patagonia.

Remarks

Turbonilla deseadensis n. sp. closely resembles *Turbonilla alexandrei* Güller & Zelaya, 2019, which however differs by having more gradated whorls, sculptured with a greater number of axial ribs (up to 30 per whorl), and helicoidal protoconch. Furthermore, living specimens of *T. alexandrei* are only known from the San Matías Gulf in the Argentine Province (Güller & Zelaya, 2019). ***Turbonilla deseadensis*** n. sp. also resembles *T. strebeli* from which it differs by its higher incremental rate of whorls, consequently resulting in a wider shell even in specimens of the same size or number of whorls. Furthermore, in ***T. deseadensis*** the whorls outline turns straighter from the third teleoconch whorl onwards, while in *T. strebeli* all teleoconch whorls are evenly convex. The straight outline of the whorls of ***T. deseadensis*** originates a gradated spire, which is not the case of *T. strebeli*; as well as

a prominent angulation in the periphery of the last whorl, which derives in a subquadrangular aperture. Instead, in *T. strebeli* the periphery of the last whorl is evenly curved, and consequently the species shows an ovate aperture. In addition, *T. deseadensis* has fewer axial ribs per whorl than *T. strebeli* (14 to 16 vs. 18 to 19, respectively), which in addition are lower and coarser. Furthermore, *T. strebeli* reaches a larger size than *T. deseadensis*. Another similar species is *Turbonilla lamyi* Hedley, 1916, described from Macquarie Island, which differs by having a narrower and more elongate shell than *T. deseadensis*.

Turbonilla cf. *madrinensis*
Lamy, 1905
Fig. 1Q

Turbonilla cf. *madrinensis* – Güller & Zelaya, 2019: 115, fig. 4A–K.

Material examined

Atlantic coast of Patagonia: 43°40'S, 65°20'W, Playa Escondida, intertidal (MACN-In 43381: 2 sh.); 44°53'S, 65°37'W, Cabo Dos Bahías, intertidal (MACN-In 43382: 11 an., 1 sh.).

Remarks

Güller & Zelaya (2019) discussed the great morphological variability exhibited by a large number of specimens they studied from the Argentine Province. Such variability encompasses the characteristics present in the type material of both *T. madrinensis* and *T. parala-minata* Castellanos, 1982. The observation of a continuum of variation in such material, led the authors to tentatively refer to such material as "*Turbonilla* cf. *madrinensis*". The morphological characteristics of the material here studied fit within the range of variability recognized for this taxon by Güller & Zelaya (2019).

Genus *Fargoa* Bartsch, 1955

Type species: *Fargoa callesi* Bartsch, 1955 by original designation.

Fargoa pyramidalis
Güller & Zelaya, 2019
Fig. 1R

Odostomia (*Chrysallida*) *multituberculata* Castellanos, 1982a: 81 (in part).

Odostomia (*Menestho*) *impressa* Say – Farinatti, 1993: 308, fig. 18 (*non* Say, 1822).
Fargoa pyramidalis Güller & Zelaya, 2019: 106, fig. 2A–H.

Material examined

Atlantic coast of Patagonia: 44°53'10.4"S, 65°37'58.7"W, Cabo Dos Bahías, intertidal (MACN-In 43383: 1 an.); 44°53'S, 65°37'W, Cabo Dos Bahías, intertidal (MACN-In 43384: 1 sh.).

Remarks

Güller & Zelaya (2019) described this species based on several lots collected in the Argentine Province, between 38°10'S, and 41°58'S. The present findings allow to extend the southern distributional range to 44°53'S, providing the first records of this species in the Magellanic Province.

Genus *Menestho* Møller, 1842

Type species: *Turbo albula* Fabricius, 1780, by monotypy.

Menestho beaglensis n. sp.
Fig. 2A–L

Type locality: 54°54'44.64"S, 67°14'08.64"W, Beagle Channel, Argentina, 38 m.

Type material: Holotype (MACN-In 43385) and 4 paratypes from the type locality (2 paratypes at MACN-In 43386; 2 paratypes at MLP-Ma 15091).

Etymology

The species name refers to the site of collection of the type material.

Additional material examined

Atlantic coast of Patagonia: Rada Tilly: 45°56'48.00"S, 67°32'47.88"W, intertidal (MACN-In 43387: 14 an., 2 sh.); 45°56'51.84"S, 67°32'48.18"W, intertidal (MACN-In 43388: 1 an.). Puerto Deseado: [47°45'S, 65°52'W] (MACN-In 43389: 1 sh.); 47°45'11.60"S, 65°52'53.70"W, intertidal (MACN-In 43390: 2 an., 1 sh.); 47°45'18"S, 65°52'54"W, intertidal (MACN-In 43391: 42 sh.); 47°45'25.20"S, 65°50'35.70"W (MACN-In 43392: 1 sh.);

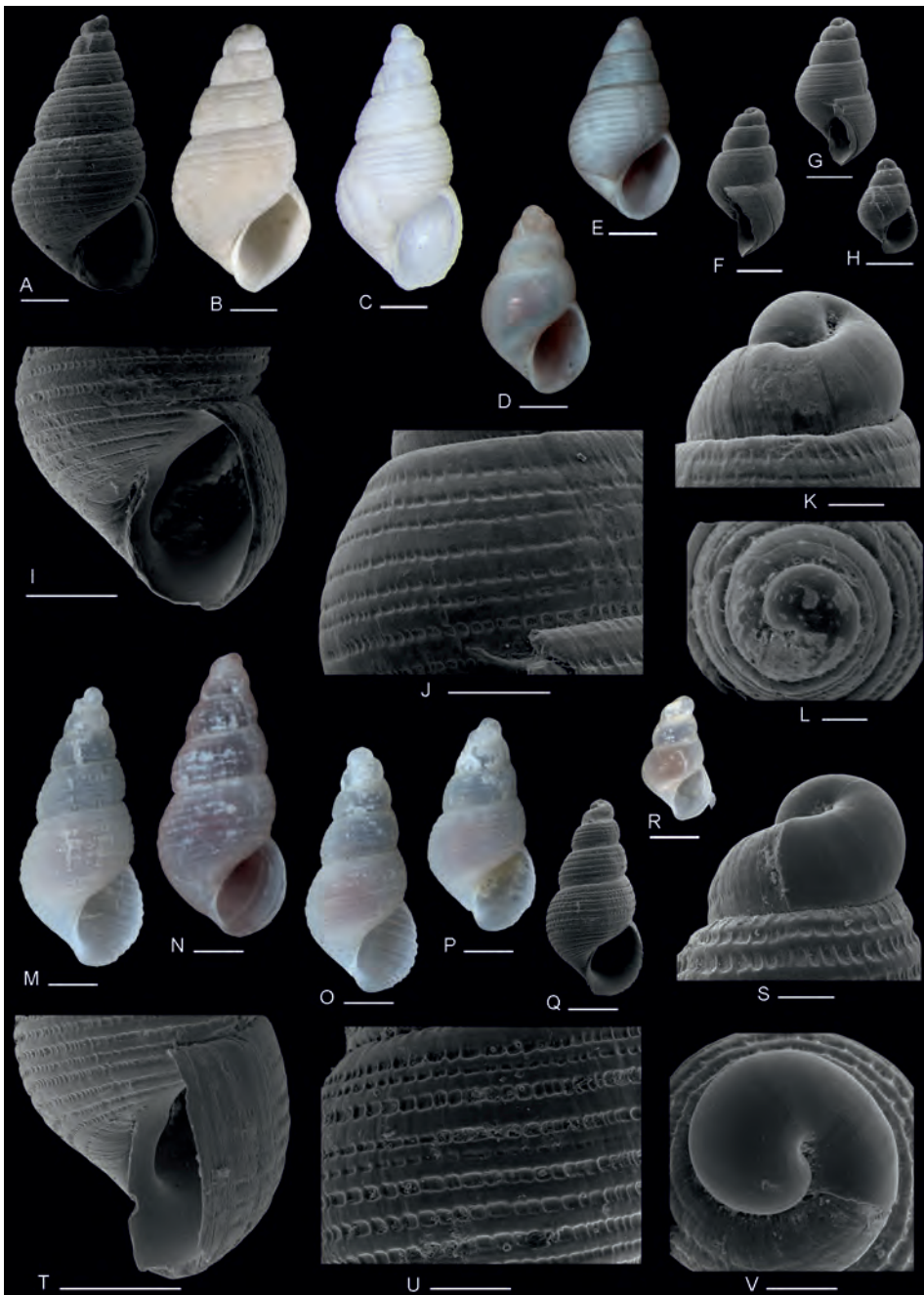


FIG. 2. *Menestho* spp. A–L. ***Menestho beaglensis*** n. sp. A, I: Holotype (MACN-In 43385); B: Specimen from Malvinas/Falkland Islands (MLP-Ma 15092); C, G, J, K: Specimens from Beagle Channel (C: MLP-Ma 15097; G, J, K: MLP-Ma 15096); D, F, H, L: Specimens from the Atlantic coast of Patagonia (D, F: MACN-In 43387; H, L: MACN-In 43396); E: Paratype (MACN-In 43386); M–V: ***Menestho patagonica*** n. sp. M: Holotype (MACN-In 43410); N, P: Specimens from the Atlantic coast of Patagonia (N: MACN-In 43413; P: MACN-In 43432); O, Q–V: Paratypes (O, R: MLP-Ma 15101; Q, S–V: MACN-In 43411). Scale bars: A–I, M–R, T = 500 µm; J, U = 200 µm; K, L, S, V = 100 µm.

47°45'41.46"S, 65°50'59.22"W (MACN-In 43393: 1 sh.); 47°46'54"S, 65°52'48"W, 6 m (MACN-In 43394: 1 sh.); 47°47'18"S, 65°52'42"W, 6 m (MACN-In 43395: 1 sh.); 50°30'40"S, 68°02'33"W, 62 m (MACN-In 43396: 5 an., 1 sh.). 55°02'51.42"S, 66°20'13.32"W, 45–50 m (MACN-In 43397: 2 sh.); 54°57'24.48"S, 65°27'26.94"W, 72 m (MACN-In 43398: 2 sh.).

Malvinas/Falkland Islands: (MLP-Ma 15092: 2 sh.).

Burdwood Bank: 54°31'40.74"S, 61°27'58.74"W, 137 m (MACN-In 43399: 1 sh.); 54°05'15.96"S, 60°53'40.26"W, 132 m (MACN-In 43400: 2 sh.); 54°05'30.06"S, 60°4'58.68"W, 122 m (MACN-In 43401: 1 sh.); 54°30'23.40"S, 59°48'39.24"W, 105 m (MACN-In 43402: 2 sh.).

Magellan Strait: 53°38'S, 72°22'W, Canal David, 40 m (MACN-In 43403: 7 sh.); 53°38'28.5"S, 72°22'51.6"W, 30–50 m (MACN-In 43404: 2 sh.).

Beagle Channel: 54°51'35.7"S, 68°32'43.1"W, Bahía Lapataia, 16 m (MACN-In 43405: 1 sh.). Bahía Golondrina: 54°50'S, 68°19'W, 5 m (MLP-Ma 15093: 5 sh.); 54°50'S, 68°19'W, 27 m (MLP-Ma 15094: 13 sh.). 54°51'57.9"S, 68°10'44.4"W, 16 m (MLP-Ma 15095: 2 sh.). 54°51'16.1"S, 68°02'08.9"W, Punta Segunda, 14 m (MACN-In 43406: 3 an., 6 sh.). 54°53'S, 67°42'W, Isla Gable, 66–68 m (MLP-Ma 15096: 17 sh.). 54°53'47.40"S, 67°18'49.98"W, 25 m (MACN-In 43407: 1 an., 28 sh.). 54°54'28.2"S, 67°14'34.2"W, Punta Navarro, 32 m (MLP-Ma 15097: 1 an., 4 sh.). 54°54'44.64"S, 67°14'08.64"W, 38 m (MACN-In 43408: 24 sh.). 54°57'S, 67°01'W, Isla Becasses, 30–40 m (MLP-Ma 15098: 11 sh.). 55°01'S, 66°42'W, Punta Moat, 15–20 m (MLP-Ma 15099: 2 sh.). 55°03'55.56"S, 66°40'58.26"W, 38–44 m (MACN-In 43409: 3 sh.). 55°03'S, 66°37'W, Cabo San Pío, 30–35 m (MLP-Ma 15100: 7 sh.).

Diagnosis

Shell moderately conical, with whorls slightly convex to almost straight in outline; sculptured with 5 to 9 wide but low spiral cords per whorl, separated by narrow interspaces; umbilicus chink-like.

Description

Shell up to 3.5 mm L, 1.8 mm W; moderately conical, moderately thick, whitish. Protoconch

(Fig. 2K, L) rotated with respect to longitudinal shell axis, partially sunken, of 1½ to 1¼ whorls, about 280 µm diameter; smooth in appearance, microscopically sculptured with a few spiral threads; nucleus not visible. Teleoconch (Fig. 2A–H) with up to 4½ whorls, slightly convex to almost straight in outline. Spire comprising up to 40% of total shell length. Suture deep. Sculpture (Fig. 2I, J) of wide but low spiral cords, 5 to 9 per whorl; interspaces narrower than cords, with numerous, thin, axial ribblets. Base (Fig. 2I) evenly convex, with 7 to 9 additional spiral cords. Spiral and axial sculpture fading towards the umbilical area. Sometimes other parts of the shell also with deminished axial sculpture, only evidencing prosocline growth lines. Aperture subovate, only slightly expanded anteriorly; outer lip evenly arcuated. Columella curved, with a gentle swelling (Fig. 2I), not visible in apertural view. Umbilicus chink-like.

Distribution

Atlantic coast of Patagonia, Malvinas/Falklands Islands, Burdwood Bank, Magellan Strait and Beagle Channel.

Remarks

In general shell morphology, *Menestho beaglensis* n. sp. closely resembles *M. albula* (figured by Warén, 1974: fig. 7; Warén, 1991: fig. 27F; Nekhaev, 2017: fig. 1B, fig. 2C, D, H, J, K) from which it differs by having a smaller size at a same number of whorls, and lower and wider spiral cords, which in addition are separated by narrower interspaces. In shell sculpture *M. beaglensis* is more similar to *M. schikovi* (figured by Nekhaev, 2017: fig. 1A, C, E; 2A, E, G, I), from which it differs by having a much slenderer shell, with less convex whorls and narrower umbilicus. Another species of *Menestho* occurring in Magellanic waters is *M. patagonica* n. sp. (see comparison under that species). The only other South American living species reported under *Menestho* is *M. chilensis* (Dall & Bartsch, 1909). This species was described based on a broken shell collected at Tomé [~ 36°37'S], Chile. Subsequently, Marinovich (1973) collected well-preserved specimens at Iquique [20°13'S], Chile. *Menestho chilensis* (Fig. 3) strikingly differs from *M. beaglensis* n. sp. by its pyramidal shell, by having fewer, flatter and wider spiral cords, and by the presence of a notorious columel-

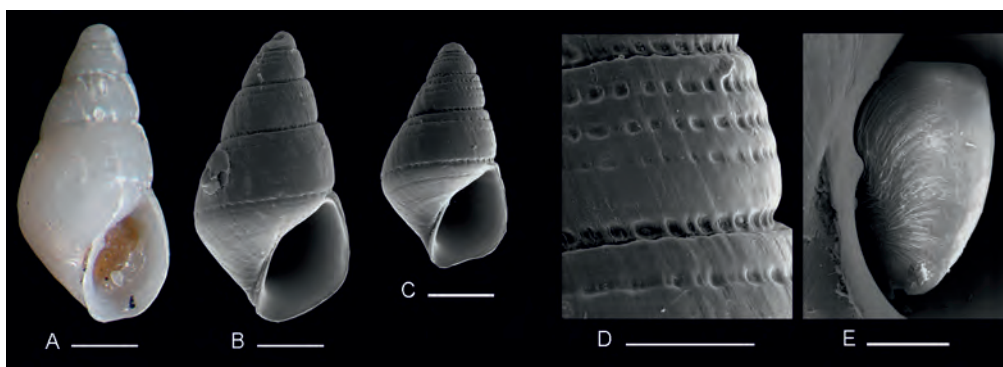


FIG. 3. *Menestho chilensis*. A–E: Specimens from Iquique, 20°13'S, 70°10'W (LACM 64-16). Scale bars: A–C = 500 µm; D, E = 200 µm.

lar fold. In fact, the latter characteristic opens the question whether this species is actually a member of *Menestho* (see Discussion section below).

***Menestho patagonica* n. sp.**

Fig. 2M–V

Odostomia sp. 2 – Gordillo et al., 2010: 171, fig. 3.9.

Odostomia sp. 1 – Zelaya & Gordillo, 2011: 14, fig. 3L.

Odostomia sp. 3 – Di Luca & Zelaya, 2019: 65, fig. 5I.

Type locality: 50°30'40"S, 68°02'33"W, Santa Cruz Province, Argentina, 62 m.

Type material: Holotype (MACN-In 43410) and 5 paratypes from the type locality (3 paratypes at MACN-In 43411, 2 paratypes at MLP-Ma 15101).

Etymology

The species name makes allusion to "Patagonia", a term frequently used to refer to the southern tip of South America, the site of provenance of this species.

Additional material examined

Atlantic coast of Patagonia: Puerto Deseado: [47°45'S, 65°52'W] (MACN-In 43412: 1 sh.); 47°45'11.60"S, 65°52'53.70"W, intertidal (MACN-In 43413: 13 an., 6 sh.); 47°45'18"S, 65°52'54"W, intertidal (MACN-In 43414: 4

an., 197 sh.). 50°30'40"S, 68°02'33"W, 62 m (MACN-In 43432: 3 an.). 55°02'28.80"S, 66°04'27.90"W, 86 m (MACN-In 43415: 1 sh.).

Burdwood Bank: 54°35'50.16"S, 61°06'51.6"W, 168 m (MACN-In 43416: 1 sh.); 54°15'S, 60°00'W, 97–101 m (MACN-In 40704: 4 sh.).

Beagle Channel: 54°50'S, 68°19'W, Bahía Golondrina, 27 m (MLP-Ma 15102: 2 sh.). Punta Segunda: 54°50'53.8"S, 68°02'47.2"W, 12 m (MLP-Ma 15103: 1 an.); 54°51'16.1"S, 68°02'08.9"W, 14 m (MLP-Ma 15104: 1 an.). 54°52'S, 67°52'W, Punta Remolino, 25 m (MLP-Ma 15105: 1 sh.).

Diagnosis

Shell narrowly elongate, with whorls markedly convex in outline; sculptured with 5 to 8 prominent spiral cords per whorl, separated by wide interspaces; umbilicus chink-like.

Description

Shell up to 3 mm L, 1.4 mm W; narrowly-elongate, moderately thick, whitish, translucent in living specimens. Protoconch (Fig. 2S, V) rotated with respect to longitudinal shell axis, partially sunken, of 1½ to 1¼ whorls, about 310 µm diameter; smooth in appearance, microscopically sculptured with a few spiral threads; nucleus not visible. Teleoconch (Fig. 2M–R) with up to 4½ whorls; markedly convex in outline. Spire comprising up to 40% of total shell length. Suture deep. Sculpture (Fig. 2T, U) of prominent, narrow but well-raised spiral cords, 5 to 8 per whorl; interspaces equal to or narrower than

cords, which are sculptured with thin axial riblets. Base (Fig. 2T) evenly convex, with 7 to 8 additional spiral cords. Spiral and axial sculpture fading towards the umbilical area; sometimes other parts of the shell also with vanished axial and spiral sculpture, only showing slightly prosocline growth lines. Aperture wide, subovate, markedly expanded anteriorly; outer lip evenly arcuated. Columella curved, with a gentle swelling (Fig. 2T), almost imperceptible in apertural view. Umbilicus chink-like.

Distribution

Atlantic coast of Patagonia, Burdwood Bank and Beagle Channel.

Remarks

Menestho patagonica n. sp. resembles ***M. beaglensis*** n. sp., from which it differs by having a narrower shell, with more convex whorls. In addition, ***M. patagonica*** has higher spiral cords than ***M. beaglensis***, and its aperture is more projected anteriorly. These two species were found co-existing in some Magellanic localities. The teleoconch sculpture of ***M. patagonica*** n. sp. closely resembles that of ***M. albula***. However, ***M. patagonica*** is considerably narrower than ***M. albula***. ***Menestho schikovi*** also has a wider shell than ***M. patagonica***, and ***M. chilensis*** is distinctively pyramidal and bears a conspicuous columellar fold.

Genus *Brachystomia* Monterosato, 1884

Type species: *Odostomia rissoides* Hanley, 1844, by subsequent designation (Crosse, 1885) (= *O. scalaris* MacGillivray, 1843).

Brachystomia conica n. sp.

Fig. 4A–H

Odostomia sp. – Castellanos, 1982b: 43.

Odostomia translucens – Castellanos & Landoni, 1984: 296, figs. 10, 11; Castellanos, 1989: 89–92, figs. 4–6 (as *Odostomia traslucens* (*sic*) in the figure captions); Castellanos et al., 1993: 21, fig. 28 (all *non* Strebel, 1908).

Odostomia sp. 1 – Di Luca & Zelaya, 2019: 65, fig. 5G.

Type locality: 54°19'59.64"S, 59°59'13.50"W, Burdwood Bank, 96 m.

Type material: Holotype (MACN-In 40702) and 5 paratypes from 54°15'S, 60°00'W, Burdwood Bank, 97–101 m (MACN-In 40702-1).

Etymology

The name refers to the conical shape of this species.

Additional material examined

Atlantic coast of Patagonia: 54°20'S, 64°28'W, 93 m (MACN-In 34045: 1 sh.).

Malvinas/Falkland Islands: (MLP-Ma 15106: 13 sh.); (MLP-Ma 15107: 2 sh.); 10–20 m (MLP-Ma 15108: 9 sh.).

Burdwood Bank: 54°25'45"S, 58°22'26"W, 135 m (MACN-In 43417: 1 sh.); 54°13'50.76"S, 60°49'00.96"W, 126 m (MACN-In 43418: 1 sh.).

Magellan Strait: 53°38'S, 72°22'W, Canal David, 40 m (MACN-In 43419: 1 sh.); 53°42'S, 72°21'W, Bahía Nash, 30 m (MACN-In 43420: 1 sh.).

Beagle Channel: 54°51'16.1"S, 68°02'08.9"W, Punta Segunda, 14 m (MACN-In 43421: 2 sh.).

Diagnosis

Shell conical, with whorls almost straight in outline; surface smooth in appearance, usually with one or two thin furrows near the sutures.

Description

Shell up to 3.4 mm L, 1.8 mm W, conical, thick, whitish, chalky. Protoconch (Fig. 4F, G) rotated with respect to longitudinal shell axis, partially sunken, of 1 to 1½ whorls, about 300 µm diameter; smooth; nucleus not visible. Teleoconch (Fig. 4A–E) with up to 4½ whorls, nearly straight in outline. Spire comprising up to 40% of total shell length. Suture deep. Shell surface smooth in appearance, with one or two, thin spiral striae per whorl usually near the sutures. Growth lines straight, prosocline. Base (Fig. 4H) usually evenly rounded, sometimes sub-angulated. Aperture pear-shaped; outer lip evenly curved, slightly expanded anteriorly. Columella curved, with a small fold, hardly visible in apertural view (Fig. 4H); callus anteriorly thickened. Umbilicus chink-like or completely closed.

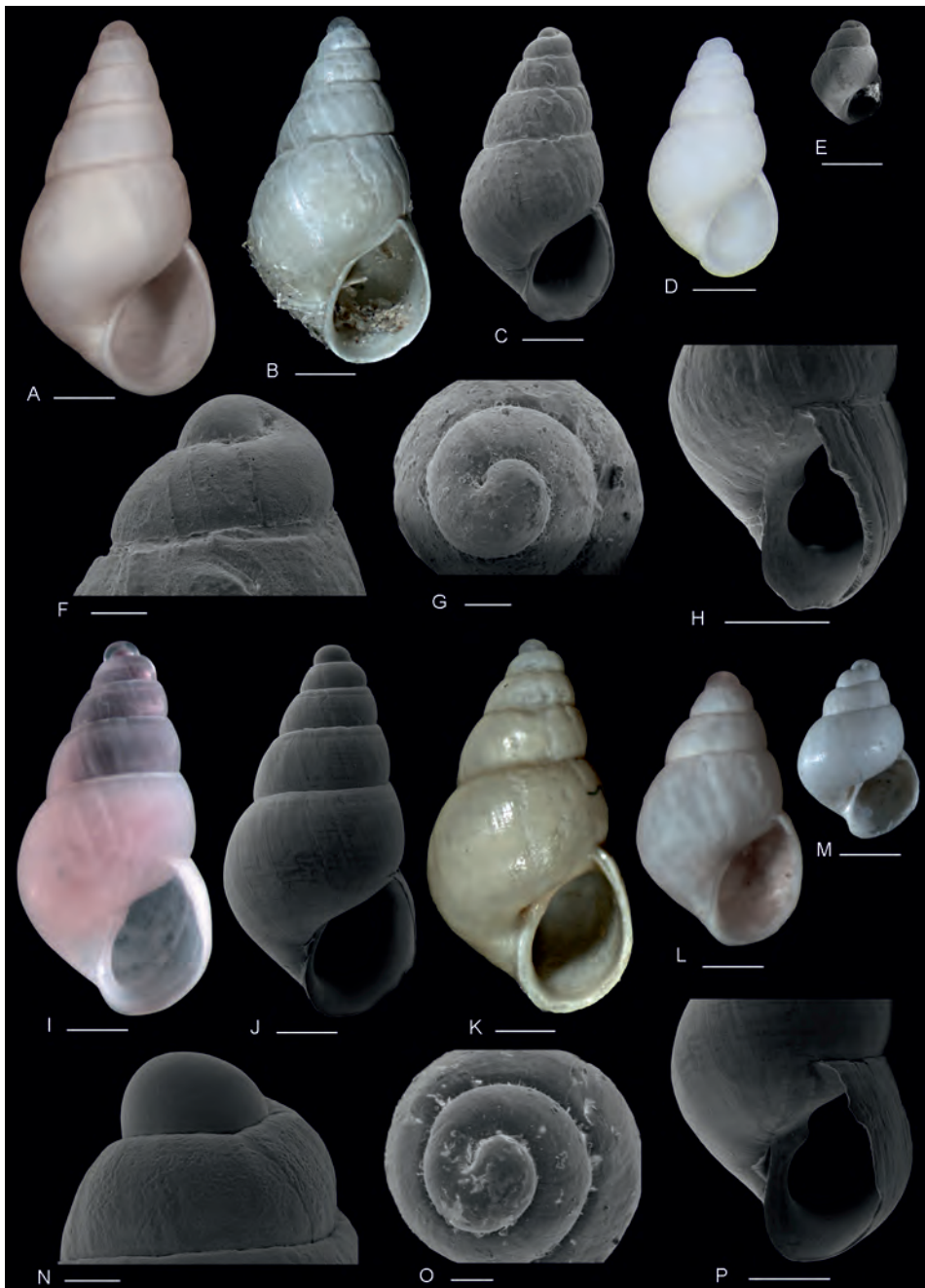


FIG. 4. *Brachystomia* spp. A–H. ***Brachystomia conica*** n. sp. A: Holotype (MACN-In 40702); B: Paratype (MACN-In 40702-1; specimen figured in Di Luca & Zelaya, 2019); C, F, H: Specimen from Beagle Channel (MACN-In 43421); D: Specimen from the Magellan Strait (43419); E, G: Specimen from Malvinas/Falkland Islands (MLP-Ma 15106). I–P. ***Brachystomia tenuilirata*** n. sp. I, J, N, P: Holotype (MACN-In 43422); K, L: Specimens from Burdwood Bank (K: MACN-In 40703, specimen figured in Di Luca & Zelaya, 2019; L: MACN-In 43425); M, O: Specimen from the Atlantic coast of Patagonia (MLP-Ma 15110). Scale bars: A–E, H–M, P = 500 μ m; F, G, N, O = 100 μ m.

Distribution

Malvinas/Falkland Islands, Burdwood Bank, Magellan Strait and Beagle Channel.

Remarks

Brachystomia conica n. sp. closely resembles *B. carrozai* (van Aartsen, 1987: fig. 30), from which it differs by having a higher protoconch and a lower number of microscopic spiral striae per whorl, which in addition are restricted to the subsutural area. *Brachystomia conica* also resembles *B. tenuilirata* n. sp. (see comparison below, under that species).

The specimens previously reported as *Odostomia* sp. by Castellanos (1982b) and as *O. translucens* by Castellanos & Landoni (1984) and Castellanos (1989) (MACN-In 34045) proved to correspond to this species.

***Brachystomia tenuilirata* n. sp.**

Fig. 4I–P

Odostomia sp. 1 – Gordillo et al., 2010: 171, fig. 3.8.

Odostomia sp. 2 – Zelaya & Gordillo, 2011: 14, fig. 3LL; Di Luca & Zelaya, 2019: 65, fig. 5H.

? *Toledonia parelata* Dell – Rosenfeld & Aldea, 2011: 133–136, figs. 1, 2; Ojeda et al., 2017: fig. 10G (both *non* Dell, 1990).

Type locality: 54°34'27.78"S, 60°23'18.48"W, Burdwood Bank, 91.2 m.

Type material: Holotype (MACN-In 43422) and 3 paratypes from the type locality (2 paratypes at MACN-In 43423; 1 paratypes at MLP-Ma 15109).

Etymology

The name refers to the microscopic spiral striae present along the shell surface of this species.

Additional material examined

Atlantic coast of Patagonia: [47°44'36"S, 65°50'22"W], Punta Foca, (MLP-Ma 15110: 1 sh.).

Burdwood Bank: 54°00'14.40"S, 61°04'45.72"W, 139 m (MACN-In 43424: 1 sh.); 54°15'S, 60°00'W, 97–101 m (MACN-In 40703: 1 an., 6 sh.); 54°29'44.52"S,

60°12'35.22"W, 95 m (MACN-In 43425: 1 sh.); 54°19'59.64"S, 59°59'13.50"W, 96 m (MACN-In 43426: 3 an., 4 sh.); 54°19'56.10"S, 59°58'54.48"W, 96 m (MACN-In 43427: 1 sh.); 54°16'40.32"S, 59°57'47.40"W, 96 m (MACN-In 43428: 8 sh.); 54°17'21.90"S, 59°43'17.10"W, 88.5 m (MACN-In 43429: 2 sh.); 54°28'50.04"S, 59°11'40.44"W, 122 m (MACN-In 43430: 1 sh.).

Magellan Strait: 53°42'S, 72°21'W, Bahía Nash, 30 m (MACN-In 43431: 1 sh.).

Diagnosis

Shell conical-ovate, with whorls convex in outline; surface smooth in appearance, but with numerous microscopic spiral striae along all teleoconch whorls.

Description

Shell up to 3.5 mm L, 2.0 mm W, conical-ovate, thin, whitish, translucent in living specimens. Protoconch (Fig. 4N, O) rotated with respect to longitudinal shell axis, partially sunken, of 1 to 1½ whorls, about 260 µm in diameter; smooth; nucleus not visible. Teleoconch (Fig. 4I–M) with up to 4¼ whorls, markedly convex in outline; last whorl inflated. Spire comprising up to 35% of total shell length. Suture deep. Shell surface smooth in appearance, but with a thin subsutural furrow and numerous spiral striae in all whorls, only visible under high magnification, hardly or not visible in eroded specimens. Growth lines straight, prosocline. Base rounded (Fig. 4P). Aperture subovate, outer lip evenly curved, slightly expanded anteriorly. Columella curved, with a small fold, hardly visible in apertural view (Fig. 4P); callus anteriorly thickened. Umbilicus chink-like or completely closed.

Distribution

Atlantic coast of Patagonia, Burdwood Bank and Magellan Strait.

Remarks

Brachystomia tenuilirata n. sp. closely resembles *B. scalaris* (MacGillivray, 1843) (figured by van Aartsen, 1987: fig. 22; Peñas et al., 1996: figs. 136, 137; Høisaeter, 2014: fig. 30), from which it differs by having a higher spire and a more elevated protoconch. *Brachystomia tenuilirata* n. sp. differs from *B.*

conica n. sp. by having more convex whorls, which result in a much wider shell, with a more inflated last whorl. Furthermore, **B. tenuilirata** has several spiral striae per whorl, while the spiral sculpture of **B. conica** is scarcer, and consists of only one or two spiral striae per whorl, usually restricted to the subsutural area. In addition, **B. conica** has a wider aperture than **B. tenuilirata**, which is pear-shaped instead of ovate.

Rosenfeld & Aldea (2011) identified as "*Toledonia parelata* Dell, 1990", specimens from the Magellan Strait and the Beagle Channel. The specimens they figured show shells with convex teleoconch whorls, inflated last whorl, heterostrophic protoconch, and with a distinct fold in the columella. All these characters strikingly differ from those present in the holotype of *T. parelata* (illustrated in Dell, 1990: fig. 470; photographs also available at the on-line collection of the USNM), which in addition has a much higher spire and a straight columella. Consequently, we understand that Rosenfeld & Aldea's (2011) records correspond to a misidentification. Alternatively, the morphological characters recognized in these specimens, together with the provenance of such material, suggest that these specimens could actually correspond to **B. tenuilirata** n. sp. In fact, the distinctive spiral sculpture of this species may be recognized in some better preserved parts of the shells shown by these authors. Rosenfeld & Aldea's (2011: fig. 2B) was subsequently reproduced by Ojeda et al. (2017: fig. 10G).

DISCUSSION

Before this study, knowledge on the diversity of Pyramidellidae in Magellanic waters appeared restricted to only one described species (*Turbonilla strebeli*), three undescribed reported taxa (Gordillo et al., 2010; Zelaya & Gordillo, 2011; Di Luca & Zelaya, 2019) and several misidentifications (see Introduction and Results sections for a detailed account of these taxa). As part of this study, eight species of Pyramidellidae, belonging to the genera *Turbonilla*, *Fargoa*, *Menestho* and *Brachystomia*, are recognized from the Magellanic Province.

Turbonilla appears represented in the Magellanic waters by three species: *T. strebeli*, **T. deseadensis** n. sp. and *T. cf. madrinensis*. The diversity of this genus in this area is considerably lower than that found in the adjacent Argentine Province, from where fifteen species

are known (Pimenta & Absalão, 2001, 2004; Güller & Zelaya, 2019). Only one of these taxa appears currently reported as occurring in the two provinces (*Turbonilla cf. madrinensis*), although the identity of this taxon deserves further study. *Turbonilla strebeli* (as *T. smithi*) was also previously mentioned as occurring in the Argentine Province, although Güller & Zelaya (2019) considered these records as doubtful. In fact, according to the present study, there are no documented records of this species north of 43°40'S. *Fargoa* appears represented in Magellanic waters by a single species: *F. pyramidalis*, which is also present in the Argentine Province. This species seems to be proper from the Argentinean waters, only reaching marginally the northernmost part of the Magellanic Province. *Brachystomia* is represented in Magellanic waters by two species: **B. conica** n. sp. and **B. tenuilirata** n. sp. To date, the genus *Brachystomia* had not been previously reported from the Magellanic or Argentine Provinces. However, four species of "*Odostomia*" reported from the latter area by Güller & Zelaya (2019) (sp. A, sp. B, sp. C and *Odostomia puelchana* Castellanos, 1982) lack the distinctive helicoidal protoconch reported for *Odostomia* (see, for instance: Fretter et al., 1986; Robba, 2013; Høisaeter, 2014; Landau & LaFollette, 2015), having instead a sunken protoconch. Whether these Argentinean species actually correspond to *Brachystomia* or to another (new) genus deserves further study (see below). Nevertheless, the combination of a high spire, a small columellar fold and an apparently smooth shell surface, distinguishes the Magellanic species of *Brachystomia* described herein from all the "*Odostomia*" species reported by Güller & Zelaya (2019). *Menestho* is represented in Magellanic waters by two species: **M. patagonica** n. sp. and **M. beaglensis** n. sp. This genus had not been previously reported either from the Argentine or Magellanic Provinces, although one of the new species here attributed to this genus had been previously reported as an undescribed, Magellanic species of "*Odostomia*" by Gordillo et al. (2010), Zelaya & Gordillo (2011), Di Luca & Zelaya (2019) and Güller & Zelaya (2019).

From the previous account, it is clear that the Magellanic Province has a low faunistic affinity of its pyramidellid fauna with the adjacent Argentine Province, as well as lower species richness. However, such as revealed by Güller & Zelaya (2019) for the Argentine Province, the new studies on the pyramidellid fauna from the

Magellanic Province (herein) reveal the little attention that this group of micromolluscs has received in the past in this area.

The classification of pyramidellids is today in a constant state of flux. Many genera still remain ill defined, based solely on morphological characters, which have already proved to be homoplastic in some taxa (e.g., Robertson, 1978; Wise, 1996). The studies on anatomy and molecular information in this family are still in its first steps. Consequently, many genera are being currently used in a wide sense worldwide. The taxa considered in the present study are not excluded from these limitations. In this regard, the genus *Turbonilla* is here used to reunite all turbonillid species, independent of their teleoconch sculpture, following the criterion used by several recent contributors on this family (e.g., van Aartsen, 1981; Freter et al., 1986; Peñas et al., 1996; Pimenta & Absalão, 2001, 2004; Lygre & Schander, 2010; Lygre et al., 2011; Güller & Zelaya, 2019). However, some other recent authors (e.g., Robba, 2013; Høisaeter, 2014; Landau & LaFollette, 2015) considered that differences in teleoconch sculpture actually justify the recognition of different (sub)genera, such as previously proposed in the early to mid-twentieth century (e.g., Dall & Barstch, 1904, 1907, 1909; Laws, 1937; Laseron, 1959). In this regard, for instance, Landau & LaFollette (2015) justify the distinction of *Turbonilla* and *Chemnitzia* d'Orbigny, 1840, based on the way the axial ribs and grooves end at the last whorl: fading towards the base vs. the abruptly ending at the periphery. However, as part of this study, we found that these two alternatives may be present in different specimens of *T. deseaden-sis*. This finding reveals the weakness of this character for distinguishing *Turbonilla* and *Chemnitzia*, a conclusion in agreement with that considered by Robba (2013). To the previous, it should be added that *Turbonilla costulata* Risso, 1826 (the type species of *Turbonilla*) and *Melania campanellae* Philippi, 1836 (the type species of *Chemnitzia*) are imperfectly known, and that both species have been frequently confused in the literature (Landau & LaFollette, 2015; LaFollette, pers. comm., July 2020). Due to the above, we were unable to find clear diagnostic characters to distinguish *Chemnitzia* from *Turbonilla*. On the other hand, Robba (2013) considered *Bartschella* Iredale, 1916, and *Pyrgiscus* Philippi, 1841, as distinct from *Turbonilla*, mainly based on the presence

of axial and spiral teleoconch sculpture. Such difference was also used by Høisaeter (2014) and Landau & LaFollette (2015) to justify their usage of *Pyrgiscus*. Based on molecular evidence (16S mtDNA sequences), Schander et al. (2003) found that *Pyrgiscus rufa* and *P. crenata* (two species with reticulate sculpture) represent a clade that falls apart from *Turbonilla lactea* (with only axial sculpture). The two species of *Pyrgiscus* considered in Schander et al.'s (2003) analysis have strong axial sculpture and the spiral sculpture not crossing the axial ribs, a condition that clearly differs from that present in *Turbonilla* cf. *madrinensis*, where both axial and spiral elements are extremely thin and nearly of the same strength, and the spiral cords cross the axial ribs originating small granules at their intersection. In this regard, the sculpture of *Turbonilla* cf. *madrinensis* closely resembles that of *Chemnitzia* (*Dunkeria*) *subangulata* Carpenter, 1857, the type species of *Bartschella*. However, the significance of this difference in shell sculpture with respect to the type species of *Turbonilla*, as well as other nominal turbonillid taxa having axial and spiral sculpture (such as *Pyrgiscus*), deserves further studies. The previous uncertainties preclude us from assigning our material to a genus other than *Turbonilla* s.l.

Similarly, *Brachystomia* is here used following the morphological characters regarded as diagnostic for that genus by Høisaeter (2014), namely, the presence of a small, *Odostomia*-like shell, with sunken protoconch, and the teleoconch lacking macroscopic sculpture. However, all the northern hemisphere *Brachystomia* species considered by Høisaeter (2014) show more deeply sunken protoconchs than the two Magellanic species described herein. The significance of this difference cannot be determined in the current state of knowledge of the group. Høisaeter (2014) found that *Odostomia lukisi* Jeffreys, 1859, a species usually reported under *Brachystomia* due to its protoconch morphology and teleoconch sculpture (e.g., Fretter et al., 1986; Graham, 1988; Høisaeter, 1989), shows several anatomical differences with *B. scalaris*, the type species of *Brachystomia*. These differences were interpreted by Høisaeter (2014: 25) as enough to justify the placement of this species in a different, new genus; although such genus was never formally described or characterized.

Another similar limitation seems to occur in the usage of *Menestho*. According to Warén

(1974, 1991) and Nekhaev (2017) the type material of the type species of *Menestho* is currently lost. The original description of that species is poor in details and lacks an illustration. All this has contributed to the fact that this genus has been used to refer to several different groups of pyramidellids (Warén, 1991), and that some apparently true *Menestho* species have been attributed to other genera. Dall & Bartsch (1904, 1907, 1909) defined *Menestho* as having the teleoconch sculptured with relatively strong spiral cords, and the growth lines usually forming axial ribblets in the interspaces of that cords. These general characteristics are well recognizable in the shells of *M. albula* (type species of the genus), figured by Warén (1991: fig. 27F) and Nekhaev (2017: figs. 1B, 2C, D, J, K), which include among them, specimens used by Mörch himself (the author who proposed *Menestho*). Nekhaev (2017: fig. 2H) showed that the protoconch of *M. albula* is partially sunken and microscopically sculptured with spiral threads. The author also showed that the axial ribblets may be variably developed among different specimens of *M. albula* (see Nekhaev, 2017: fig. 2J vs. K). All these characters are coincident with those present in *Menestho beaglensis* n. sp. and *M. patagonica* n. sp. However, Nekhaev (2017) explicitly mentioned the lack of teeth or folds in the columella in *Menestho*, while in the two Magellanic species here attributed to this genus there is a columellar element. Such element is usually extremely small, and represented only by a gentle swelling, being so internal that it is not visible in apertural view, and only recognizable when specimens are viewed obliquely (figs. 2I, T). However, in some specimens of *Menestho patagonica* (such as that showed by Di Luca & Zelaya, 2019: fig. 5I), this element is considerably more conspicuous and well recognizable in apertural view. This fact suggests that the development of this columellar element also shows intraspecific variability. Whether the considerable development of this columellar element in *Menestho chilensis* represents an extreme in the development of such structure or a distinctive character supporting a distinctive (new) genus, cannot be determined in the current state of knowledge of the group. Due to this, we decided to retain tentatively that species in *Menestho*, following the original usage by Dall & Bartsch (1909).

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