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ALLOCATION OF "*MARGINELLA*" *CORDEROI* CARCELLES, 1953 TO A NEW GENUS IN THE VOLUTE SUBFAMILY ODONTOCYMBIOLINAE (GASTROPODA)

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Marginella corderoi was described and illustrated by Carcelles (1953:10, pl. III, fig. 17, 18) as coming from places located in the South American Atlantic littoral, at the mouth of the Rio de la Plata. The description as well as the illustrations, left us with a certain doubt about the

correct allocation of the species in the genus *Marginella*.

Subsequently we examined the holotype (M.A.C.N. "Bernardino Rivadavia" N° 24194) coming to the conclusion that what we really had was a Volutidae, without being able, though, to

determine the genus for lack of knowledge of the soft parts. Rios (1970:112) also expressed his doubts about it, placing the generic name in quotation marks and stating that it did not look like a *Marginella*.

Recently we have obtained on the shore of the Brazilian State of Rio Grande Do Sul (33°17'S -50°34'W Operation CEDIP II, 10-20-72, in a thin muddy bottom) some specimens of the above mentioned species with its soft parts (Col. Malc. M.N.H.N. N° 8809). We then prepared the radula and verified that the species belonged to the subfamily Odontocymbiolinae (Clench & Turner, 1964: 170). The radula is formed by a single row of rachidian teeth and each one of them is made up of a basal plate forming a medium angle (Fig. 2) from which a long, narrow, curved, hook-shaped tricuspid emerges. This characteristic, the large protoconch and the proportionally short spire, allow us to place this species close to *Odontocymbiola* Clench & Turner, 1964.

Nevertheless, the details of the sculpture, axially ribbed, crossed by thinner spiral cords clearly separate it from this genus. However, this sculpture is a characteristic of *Miomelon philippiana* (Dall, 1890) type-species of the genus *Miomelon* (Dall, 1907:365). But the latter presents a high spire and very small protoconch with a rachidian tooth formed by a basal plate, roughly rectangular, and no angle in the middle portion (Pilsbry & Olsson 1954:pl. 27, fig. 10) (Stuardo &

Villarroel, 1974:145, fig. 17); these features do not agree with the species of Carcelles.

For the above reasons, we think that it would be convenient to establish a new genus for the species with the following diagnosis:

***Minicymbiola* gen. nov.**

Type-Species: *Marginella corderoi* Carcelles, 1953

Diagnosis: Shell small within the subfamily. The largest specimen we know is 28 mm in length (N° 11.430 of the Collection Museo Oceanográfico de Rio Grande, Brazil) and it was obtained in Uruguayan waters 35°05'S and 52°40'W, 117 m in depth. Spire short; protoconch moderately large and dome-shaped. Axial sculpture formed by rounded ribs crossed by thinner spiral cords. Radula with arched basal plate forming an angle at its middle part and bearing three long, narrow and curved cusps. Periostracum and operculum are absent.

Distribution: At present, represented only by the type-species which is found in the South American Atlantic from the State of Paraná, Brazil, in the North, (Rios, 1970:112) to the Provincia of Buenos Aires, República Argentina, in the South.

Remarks: The subfamily Odontocymbiolinae, Clench & Turner, 1964, contains five genera: *Odontocymbiola* Clench & Turner, 1964; *Miomelon* Dall, 1907; *Tractolira* Dall, 1896; *Volutoconus* Crosse, 1871; and now *Minicymbiola*. The only known living species of *Tractolira* are from Pacific waters, off Central America, in abyssal depths. The protoconch forms an apical spur that characterizes them easily.

Volutoconus has four species restricted to Australian waters. In this genus the protoconch bears an apical spur, and other features are present that allow us to separate it from the genera known to South American waters (Atlantic or Pacific). A second species, represented only by the holotype up to now, from a locality between the Malvinas Islands and Magallanes, *Miomelon scoresbyana* Powell, 1951, possibly should be removed from this genus when its radula is known and placed in *Minicymbiola*. Its short spire, stump-shaped apex, and its sculpture consisting of very weak axial lines of growth (Weaver & du Pont, 1970: pl. 56, E.F.) similar to

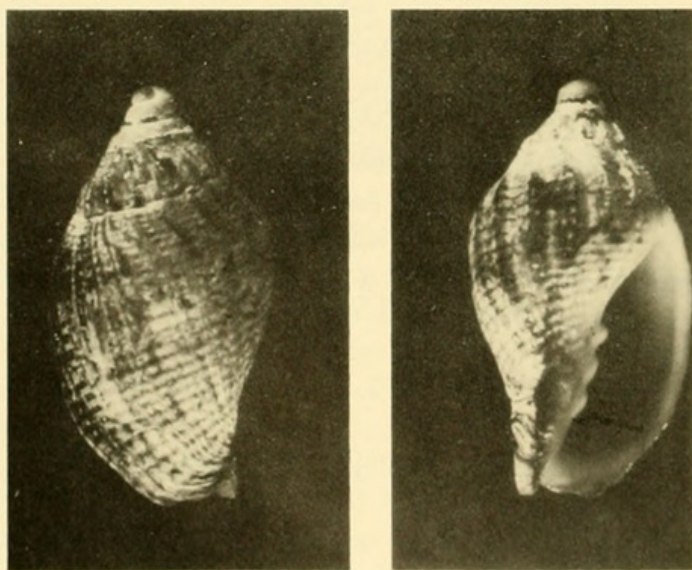


FIG. 1. *Minicymbiola* (new genus) *corderoi* (Carcelles, 1953). Type of the genus. Paratype specimen No. 3194, Malacological Collection, Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, Montevideo. 200 km west of Uruguay in 100 meters.

the ones found in *Odontocymbiola pescalía* Clench & Turner, 1964, or in young specimens of *Odontocymbiola magellanica* (Gmelin, 1791) indicate its affinity with *Odontocymbiola* and separate it from *Miomelon*.

Finally, we have the genus *Odontocymbiola* Clench & Turner, 1964, which contains four species living in South American Atlantic waters: *O. americana* (Reeve, 1856), *O. magellanica* (Gmelin, 1791), *O. pescalía* Clench & Turner, 1964 and *O. subnodosa* (Leach, 1814); the last one was included in the genus recently by Weaver & du Pont (1970:130) and by Castellanos (1970:2). The last three species present a characteristic unit that gives homogeneity to the group. This is not the case with *O. americana* (Reeve, 1856) also considered to be in the genus; but its smaller size, smooth exterior surface and rather sharp nodes separate it from the former ones. We should emphasize that Clench & Turner (1964:129) stated that the characteristics of the shell of *O. americana* (Reeve, 1856) are closest to the ones of *Aulicina vespertilio* (Linné, 1758) from the West Pacific, but the radulae are different, placing the species in different subfamilies.

In short, it appears to be logical to include the new genus *Minicymbiola* in the subfamily Odontocymbiolinae based on the radular characteristics. Also it appears as a very distinct genus easily separated from *Odontocymbiola* by its small size and conspicuous axial sculpture and its spire. It is easily distinguished from *Miomelon* by its short spire, large and stump-shaped apex and by the conformation of the basal plate of the rachidian tooth.

The name *Minicymbiola corderoi* (Carcelles, 1953) should not be confused with another volute, *Provocator corderoi* Carcelles, 1947, an entirely different species.

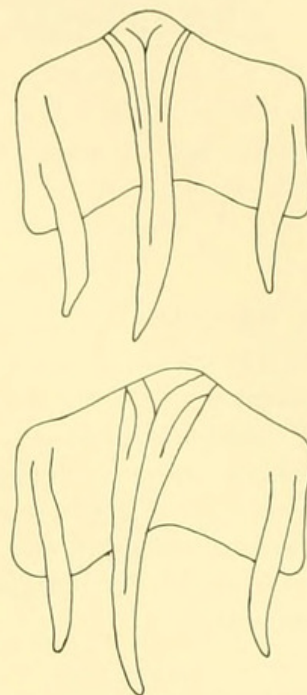


FIG. 2. Two rachidian radulae of *Minicymbiola corderoi* (Carcelles, 1953). from a specimen off Rio Grande Do Sul, Brasil.

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