

NEW AND SOUTHERNMOST RECORD OF *Adelomelon* *barattinii* (NEOGASTROPODA: VOLUTIDAE)

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RESUMEN

Nuevo y más austral registro de *Adelomelon barattinii* (Neogastropoda: Volutidae). *Adelomelon barattinii* Klappenbach & Ureta, 1966 es probablemente la especie más rara de Volutidae encontrada en la plataforma continental del Atlántico Sudoccidental. Muy pocos especímenes han sido hallados luego de la descripción de la especie. En este trabajo se reporta el hallazgo de un nuevo ejemplar en aguas argentinas y se analizan los datos disponibles acerca de esta especie. Se enfatiza la necesidad de una revisión acerca del estatus taxonómico de esta especie.

PALABRAS CLAVE: *Adelomelon barattinii*, Volutidae, Atlántico sudoccidental.

The genus *Adelomelon* includes four recent species (Scarabino *et al.*, 2004): *Adelomelon ancilla* (Lightfoot, 1786), *Adelomelon beckii* (Broderip, 1836), *Adelomelon riosi* Clench & Turner 1964, and *Adelomelon barattinii* Klappenbach & Ureta, 1966 as well as several Tertiary species, two of which were recently described (Scarabino *et al.*, 2004). Since the description of *A. barattinii*, very few specimens have been reported from the Uruguayan shelf. The type locality mentioned by Klappenbach & Ureta (1966) was off Río de la Plata, 15 miles south of Isla de Lobos, Uruguay, in 80 m depth. However, the location reported for the holotype by these authors (Fig. 1) seems to be incorrect, due to the ecologic and faunistic characteristics of the area (Carranza *et al.*, in prep.). In this context, Scarabino (2004: 320) corrected it to "Uruguayan continental shelf, 80-200 m". Based on the type locality and Kaiser's (1977) reference, geographic range for *A. barattinii* can be established between 54°54' to 52°30' W and 35°18' S and its bathymetric distribution from 80 to 200 m. Though maximum reported size is 127 mm, larger specimens (up to 173 mm) are known from private malacological collections.

A. barattinii has been regarded as a valid species (Klappenbach & Ureta, 1966; Kaiser, 1977; Figueiras & Sicardi, 1973; Scarabino, 2004; Scarabino *et al.*, 2004; Weaver & du Pont, 1970; Poppe & Goto, 1992) or as a synonym of *A. ancilla* (Abbot & Dance, 1983; Ríos, 1994; Online Biodiversity Database, 2005). No living specimens have been collected, and the existing shells are commonly eroded or encrusted by epibiota (*Balanus*,

serpulid polychaetes, etc.). Soft parts have never been examined, and because of this its specific assignments can not be established undoubtedly based on anatomical characters.

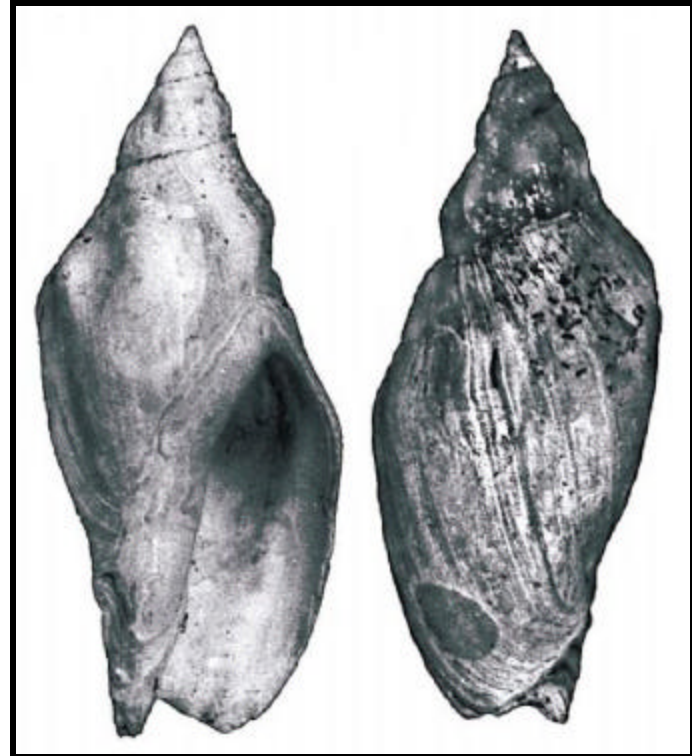


Figure 1. *Adelomelon barattinii* Klappenbach and Ureta, 1966, holotype MNHNM 1314, Uruguayan continental shelf, 80–200 m, 110 mm length.



Figure 2. *Adelomelon barattini* trawled in Argentinean continental shelf, 39°16' S, 58°17' W, 74 m, 156 mm length. MNHNM 15402.

The specimen examined (Fig. 2) was collected by the author in November 2004, during an onboard research in a 70 m length commercial fishing vessel targeting the hake *Merluccius hubbsii* Marini, 1933. Collection site was at 39°16' S, 58°17' W in 74 m depth (Fig. 3), where sea surface water temperature was 16°C. The associated benthic fauna included the typical muddy bottoms mollusks *Psychrochlamys patagonica* (King & Broderip, 1832), *Fusitriton magellanicus* (Röding, 1798), *A. ancilla* and *Odontocymbiola magellanica* (Gmelin, 1791), along with several species of echinoderms (brittle stars, sea cucumbers, sea urchins, starfishes) and crabs of the genus *Lithodes*. The collected shell was inhabited by a hermit crab, measures 156 mm in length and is encrusted by serpulid worms and barnacles. During the 37 days of the cruise, involving more than 100 trawling

operations, this has been the only specimen seen. The specimen is deposited at Museo Nacional de Historia Natural y Antropología (MNHNM 15402).

The present is the southernmost and westernmost record of *A. barattini* and its first mention for the Argentinean shelf. It also constitutes the shallower record for this species, but as it is a dead shell, probably transported by currents, ecological considerations cannot be carried out. The observed distribution suggests a high degree of endemism for *A. barattini*, which is restricted to a narrow latitudinal range, one of the smaller ranges known for any volutid species. Taking into account the small number of specimens reported up to date and that only dead shells are known, its status as a living species is, at least, doubtful. In this context, a revision of the taxonomic status of this form is necessary. However, volutid type of development (e.g. direct development with sessile egg capsules) may restrict species dispersal and generate small isolated populations that may be difficult to detect.

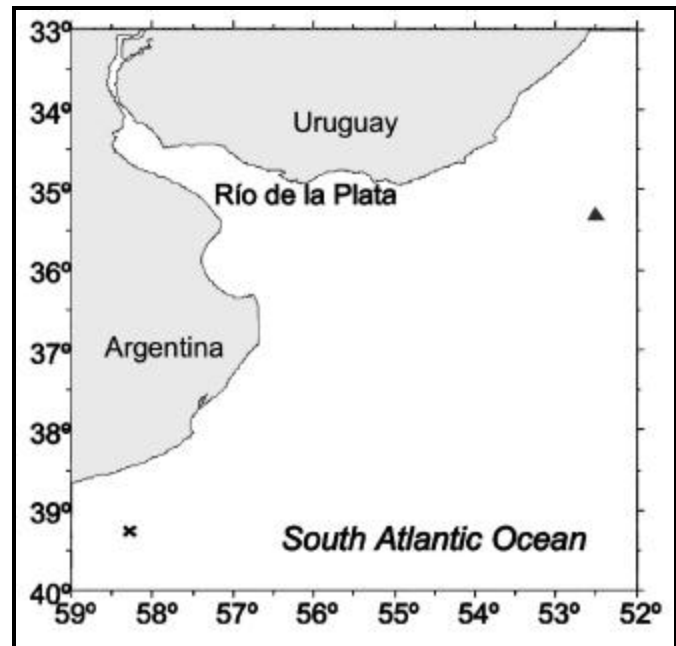


Figure 3. Collection site of *Adelomelon barattini* trawled in Argentinean continental shelf (x) and previous records (▲).

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