



Two new species of *Cerithiella* (Apogastropoda: Cerithiopsidae) for the continental slope of Pernambuco (northeast Brazil)

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Abstract

Two new species of *Cerithiella* Verrill, 1882 from the continental shelf of Pernambuco are described for northeast Brazil. *Cerithiella cepene* **n. sp.** and *C. pernambucoensis* **n. sp.** can be distinguished from *C. amblytera* (Watson, 1880) and *C. enodis* (Watson, 1880) based on conchological characters. *Cerithiella amblytera* and *C. enodis* are recorded for Brazil, but the soft parts are as yet unknown.

Key words: *Cerithiella*, Pernambuco, Brazil, continental slope, new species

Resumo

Duas espécies novas de *Cerithiella* Verrill, 1882 são descritas para o nordeste do Brasil, provenientes do talude continental de Pernambuco. *Cerithiella cepene* **n. sp.** e *C. pernambucoensis* **n. sp.** podem ser distinguidas de *C. amblytera* (Watson, 1880) e *C. enodis* (Watson, 1880), com base nos caracteres conchiliológicos. *Cerithiella amblytera* e *C. enodis* são registradas para o Brasil, porém as partes moles também são desconhecidas.

Palavras-chave: *Cerithiella*, Pernambuco, Brasil, talude continental, espécies novas

Introduction

The “Challenger” Expedition (1872–1876) was a benchmark in knowledge regarding deep-water marine malacofauna throughout the world, including Brazil, where the English sailing ship sampled an important area off the states of Pernambuco and Bahia. In the state of Pernambuco, a number of micromollusks were described as new by Watson (1886) and until then some genera were only known from this locality of the southeastern Atlantic.

During the prospecting work of the research vessel “Natureza” for REVIZEE Program (Live Resources of the Exclusive Economic Zone) in 2000, sediments from the continental slope of the northeast region of Brazil were obtained, revealing two new species of Cerithiopsidae in the genus *Cerithiella* Verrill, 1882. *Cerithiella amblytera* (Watson, 1880) and *C. enodis* (Watson, 1880) are among the Brazilian species endemic to the continental slope of Pernambuco (Barros *et al.* 2001; Bouchet & Warén 1993; Rios 1994; Watson 1880, 1886), with other records of this genus only in the south Atlantic in subantarctic waters (Strebel 1908) and off Argentina (Castellanos *et al.* 1987; Melvill & Standen 1912). Since the publication of *C. amblytera* and *C. enodis* in 1880, no other congener has yet been reported for Brazilian waters. *Cerithiella cepene* **n. sp.** and *C. pernambucoensis* **n. sp.** are described here based on shell morphology. They are sympatric to previously known spe-