



Description of a new *Coronium* s.l. (Gastropoda: Muricidae: Trophoninae) from south-central Chile and a brief survey of the genus *Coronium* Simone, 1996

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Introduction

The genus *Coronium* Simone, 1996 currently includes five Recent species: *C. acanthodes* (Watson, 1882), the type species *C. coronatum* (Penna-Neme and Leme, 1978), *C. wilhelmense* (Ramírez-Bohme, 1981), *C. oblongum* Simone, 1996 and *C. elegans* Simone, 1996. All are known to live off South America, from Brazil to Chile. Simone (1996) included three species in *Coronium* (*C. coronatum*, *C. oblongum* and *C. elegans*). He also illustrated drawings of the protoconchs, opercula, radula and details of the animal. Although *C. acanthodes* was originally included in *Trophon* (Watson, 1882) and *C. coronatum* in *Columbarium* (Penna-Neme and Leme, 1978), the species are undoubtedly close to each other and belong to a common muricid genus as demonstrated by Pastorino & Penchaszadeh (2009). To our knowledge there are no fossil taxa known. With the exception of *C. wilhelmense* described from Chiloé Island, at 41°51'4" S, 74°30'5" W, included in *Coronium* by Houart & Sellanes (2006) and of *C. acanthodes* described from West Patagonia, at 50°8'30" S, 74°4' W, no other species of *Coronium* are known to be living off Chile.

Coronium wilhelmense was illustrated by Pastorino (2005) and *C. coronatum* by Pastorino *et al.* (2007). *Coronium coronatum* (Figs. 12–16) is a small shell with broad, conspicuous axial ribs and high, regular spiral cords, and few developed shoulder spines. *Coronium wilhelmense* has flat axial ribs with longer shoulder spines and lower, more irregular and more numerous spiral cords. *Coronium wilhelmense* has been reported in the Pacific Ocean off Southern Chile (~42°S) while related specimens were collected in the Atlantic Ocean South of Uruguay (~36°S) (coll. RH). Unfortunately, the holotype of *C. wilhelmense* is unavailable and could not be located so that the specimens from Uruguay could only be compared with the poor original illustration in Ramírez-Bohme (1981: fig. 1). In our opinion, specimens currently collected South of Uruguay are probably conspecific with *C. wilhelmense* or belong to another still undescribed species (Figs. 8–11, 18, 22–23).

After comparing two specimens collected in the vicinities of Mocha Island, south-central Chile (~38°S) with the original description and illustration of *C. wilhelmense* and other material, we here describe them as a new species. It is placed here dubiously in *Coronium* because the operculum and the penis do not fit perfectly in the genus. Moreover, the protoconch is essential to determine whether or not the species belongs in *Coronium*, but is missing in both specimens. No currently known genus seems to be appropriate to contain this new species. *Trophon* s.s. is broader, with a broader, roundly-ovate operculum with lateral nucleus on the lower right. On the other hand, the radula of the new species seems to fit within those of *Coronium* illustrated by Pastorino (2005), Pastorino *et al.* (2007) and Pastorino & Penchaszadeh (2009). A brief review of the actual state of knowledge of the genus *Coronium* Simone, 1996 is also included.