20 December 1982
PROC. BIOL. SOC. WASH.
95(4), 1982, pp. 639–641

PTERYNOTUS XENOS, A NEW SPECIES OF MURICID FROM OFF NORTHERN JAMAICA (MOLLUSCA: GASTROPODA)

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Abstract.—A new muricid, *Pterynotus xenos,* is described from 60 meters off Discovery Bay, Jamaica. The habitat of this new species is discussed, as are its relationships with closely related Recent and fossil species.

During the preparation of a review of the *Pterynotus* of the western Atlantic (Harasewych and Jensen 1979), the authors were aware of a report of *Pterynotus phaneus* Dall, 1889 [as *Pterynotus tristichus* Dall, 1889] occurring in 70 meters off Discovery Bay, Jamaica (Humfrey 1975:136, pl. 22, fig. 35). As this report was not consistent with previously recognized geographic and bathymetric ranges of this species, and since the illustration cast doubt on the identification, we felt it best not to include the record under *P. phaneus*.

Since that time, additional specimens from the same locality were brought to my attention by Dr. Emily H. Vokes. Examination of this material has shown that the specimens are not referable to *Pterynotus phaneus,* but represent a new species, which is described here.

Family Muricidae
Subfamily Muricinae
Genus *Pterynotus* Swainson, 1833

Pterynotus (Pterynotus) xenos, new species
Figs. 1–3

Description.—Shell small (to 7 mm), fusiform, moderately heavy for size; spire angle 37–42°; protoconch of one and one-quarter whorls, low, pitted, ending in a distinct, thin varix; teleoconch with 4 convex whorls; 3 thin, broad varices per whorl; first postnuclear whorl smooth between varices; second and third postnuclear whorls with 2 to 3 intervarical nodes of equal size; fourth postnuclear whorl with 2 intervarical nodes, which may be unequal in size; spiral sculpture of 5 to 7 major cords with numerous fine spiral threads throughout; laminae on ventral surfaces of varices very fine; aperture oval; inner lip smooth, attached posteriorly; outer lip smooth or with 4 denticles; siphonal canal of moderate length, open, straight, tip slightly recurved dorsally; shell color pale salmon; operculum, periostracum, and soft parts unknown.

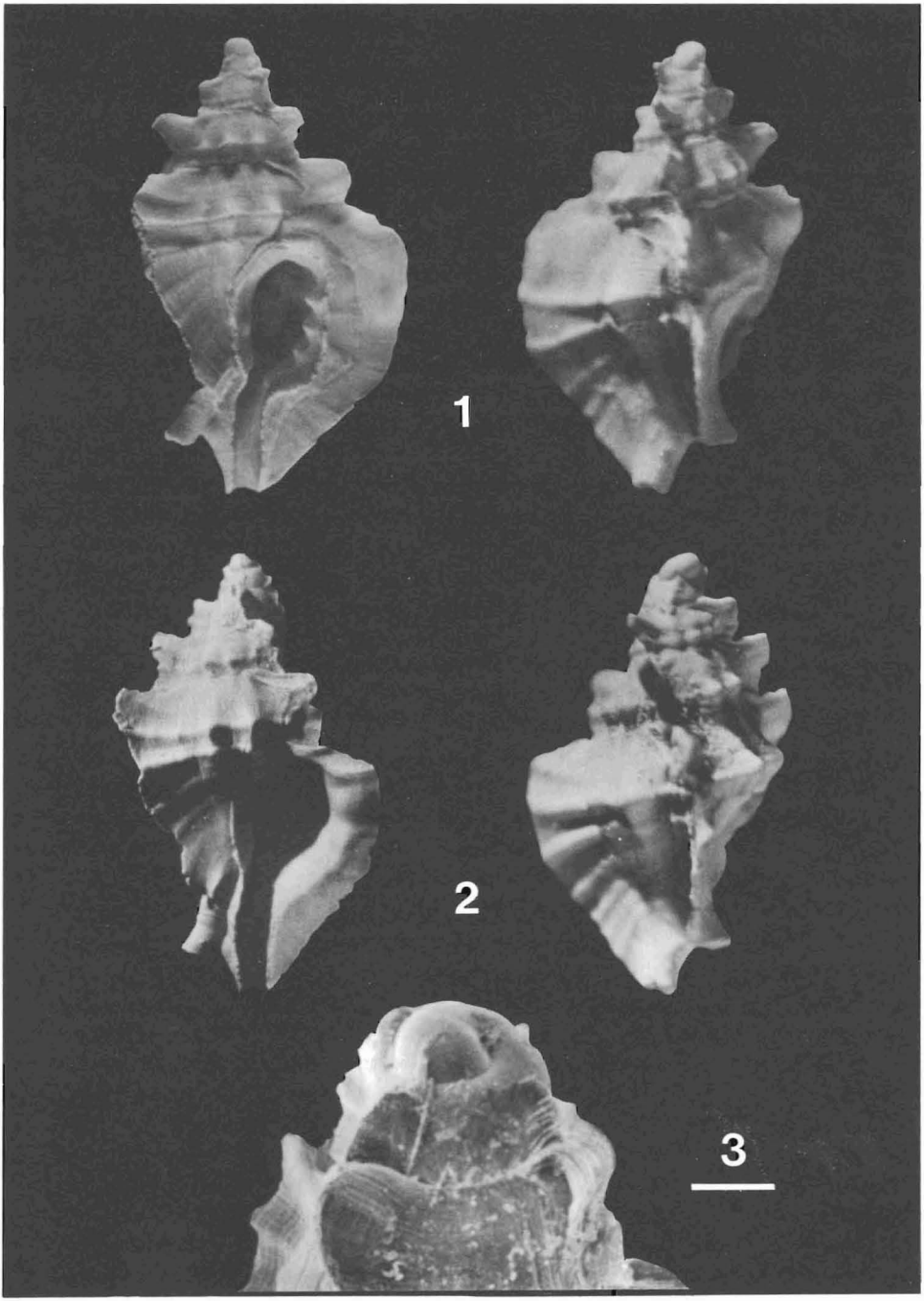
Type-specimens.—Holotype, USNM 703309, length 6.30 mm; Paratype 1, USNM 784590, length 6.15 mm; Paratype 2, USNM 784590, length 5.08 mm.

Type-locality.—Off Discovery Bay, Jamaica, 60 meters.

Range.—At present known only from the type-locality.

Material examined.—The 3 type-specimens.

Ecology.—Collected from corals on reef wall. Humfrey (1975) reported collecting 2 specimens from a blade of *Agaricia* coral at the type-locality.



Figs. 1–3. *Pterynotus* (*Pterynotus*) *xenos*: 1, Holotype, USNM 703309, (10.0×); 2, Paratype 1, USNM 784590, (10.0×); 3, protoconch of paratype 2, USNM 784590. Scale bar equals 250 μm.

Etymology.—From *xenos* Gr.—stranger. The name is proposed as a noun.

Remarks.—Although *Pterynotus xenos* superficially resembles, and has been confused with *P. phaneus*, it may readily be distinguished from the latter by its smaller, thicker shell, its thickened varices which are buttressed on the apertural side, its prominent spiral sculpture as well as by its salmon color. These two species are members of lineages that have been distinct since the Middle Miocene. *Pterynotus phaneus* traces its origin to the Helvetian *P. delaunayi* (Tournouër,1875). All known Recent species in this lineage are members of upper continental slope communities. *Pterynotus xenos* is most similar to *P. venustus* (Bellardi, 1872) from the Miocene of Italy, both in appearance and habitat. As more material becomes available, the nearest living relative of *P. xenos* will likely prove to be *P. tripterus* (Born, 1778) from the Indo-Pacific.

Chicoreus cosmani Abbott and Finlay, 1979, another recently described muricid from the reefs off Ocho Rios, Jamaica, is also more similar to *Chicoreus dujardini* (Tournouër, 1875) from the Helvetian of France than to any Recent species. In the light of recent discoveries of relict pockets throughout the Caribbean (Petuch 1981a, b), the offshore reef fauna of northern Jamaica would seem to merit further investigation because it seems to substantiate this trend.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Dr. Emily H. Vokes of Tulane University for making this material available for study. I also thank Dr. Vokes as well as Dr. Edward J. Petuch of Continental Shelf Associates, Jupiter, Florida, for critical review of the manuscript.

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