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***Nassarina rietae*, a new species from the Canary Islands**
(GASTROPODA, PROSOBRANCHIA)

Willy SEGERS (1) & Frank SWINNEN (2)

(1) Pater Pirelaan 3, B-2630 Aartselaar, Belgium

(2) Lutlommel 10, B-3920 Lommel, Belgium

Key words: MOLLUSCA, GASTROPODA, COLUMBELLIDAE, *Nassarina*, taxonomy, Canary Islands.

Abstract: *Nassarina rietae* sp. nov., the first representative of the genus in European waters, is described and figured here from the Canary Islands. A comparison with *Nassarina bushii* (Dall, 1889), *Nassarina dubia* Olsson & Mc Ginty, 1958, *Nassarina monilifera* (Sowerby, 1844) and *Nassarina pygmaea* (C. B. Adams, 1850) is given.

Introduction: In September 2003, the second author got a sediment sample from the southern tip of La Palma, Canary Islands from a diver. After sorting it out, he found, besides the expected species three small, fresh dead specimens of an unknown species for the European waters. We classified it as a representative of the genus *Nassarina* Dall, 1889 and after further research it turned out to be a new species for science and is described as such below.

Abbreviations:

MMF: Museu Municipal do Funchal.

USNM: United States National Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC.

ZMA: Zoologisch Museum Amsterdam.

Nassarina rietae sp. nov.

(Figs. 1-2)

Description: The seemingly fullgrown shell of the new species is small, length 2.8-3.2mm; width 1.5-1.6mm; holotype L=3.20, W=1.60; somewhat glossy, spindle-shaped with a high protruding, smooth, shining white, paucispiral protoconch of about 1.25 to 1.5 whorls and about 3 very convex teleoconch whorls meeting at deep, somewhat channelled sutures. The sculpture of the body whorl consists of 12 strong, rounded ribs disappearing towards the base and 16 -18 equidistant spirals of which 4 - 5 above the mouth, nodulous at the crossings. Aperture elongate, a little contracted abapically, surrounded by a thin continuous margin except for the canal; about 2/5 of the total height with a varicous outer lip, on the inside slightly thickened in the middle and ornated with three to four denticles, the first one more prominent; inner lip smooth. Ground colour light tan, on the body whorl first six spirals white; the fifth spiral with brown dots on alternating ribs; the basal area somewhat darker tan with more brown dots and streaks.

Animal unknown.

Type material:

Holotype: MMF 35640, collected in September 2003, at 42m deep by a diver, Las Cabras, La Palma, Canary Islands.

Paratypes: 1sp, collection Segers; 1sp, collection Swinnen, both shells from the same locality as the holotype.

Discussion: *Nassarina rietae* sp. nov. is compared with four other species all having a paucispiral protoconch and originating from the Western Atlantic, the most plausible area for comparing considering the ocean currents.

Nassarina bushii (figs. 3-4) (Dall, 1889) has nearly the same convexity of the whorls and impressed sutures, but is much taller, about 9mm, has 6 teeth on the inside of the outer lip and only 10 axial ribs. Colouration: completely white.

Nassarina dubia (figs. 5-6) Olsson & Mc Ginty, 1958. The main differences are the blunt protoconch stained with brown, the somewhat shouldered outlook of its whorls due to the placement of the second spiral, the linear teeth far inside the outer lip and the false lirae on the inner lip. Colouration: white with a reddish brown band between the ribs on the periphery of the whorls.

Nassarina monilifera (figs. 7-8) (Sowerby, 1844) is taller, more elongated with more and less convex teleoconch whorls crenellations on the inner lip. Colouration: whitish to light tan with brown elongated spots on the axial ribs, randomly placed, except for a narrow band on the periphery of each whorl.

Nassarina pygmaea (figs. 9-10) (C. B. Adams, 1850). Close to the new species in length and number of whorls, but still differs from it in having only 3 rows of spirals, 16 axial ribs and less convex whorls. Colouration: whitish to light tan with a brown band (of dots) along the upper part of the whorls and below the middle of the last whorl.

Distribution: For the moment it is only known from La Palma, Canary Islands, the type locality.

Derivatio nominis: *N. rietae* is named after the second author's mother, Riet Borrenbergs.

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Summarizing translation into Dutch/ Samenvattende Nederlandse Vertaling

Een nieuwe soort van het genus *Nassarina* (Columbellidae) wordt, als eerste vertegenwoordiger in Europese wateren, beschreven van La Palma, Canarische Eilanden. *N. rietae* heeft een klein schelpje, H=3.2mm bij B=1.6mm, met een paucispirale protoconch, met zeer bolle windingen en diep uitgesneden suturen. In de mondopening zitten, aan de binnenzijde van de buitenlip, een viertal tanden. De kleur is gelig met bruine vlekkenrijen.

Het nieuwe soortje wordt ook vergeleken met *Nassarina bushii* (Dall, 1889), *Nassarina dubia* Olsson & Mc Ginty, 1958, *Nassarina monilifera* (Sowerby, 1844) en *Nassarina pygmaea* (C. B. Adams, 1850).

Plate:

1-2: *Nassarina rietae* sp. nov. Dorsal and ventral view.

Holotype. Las Cabras, La Palma, Canary Islands. 42m deep.

3-4: *Nassarina bushii* (Dall, 1889). Dorsal and ventral view.

Lectotype. Coll. USNM #94776

5-6: *Nassarina dubia* Olsson & Mc Ginty, 1958. Dorsal and ventral view.

Curaçao. Coll. ZMA.

7-8: *Nassarina monilifera* (Sowerby, 1844). Dorsal and ventral view.

Curaçao. Coll. ZMA

9-10: *Nassarina pygmaea* (C. B. Adams, 1850). Dorsal and ventral view.

Dominican Republic. Coll. ZMA.

