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**A new deep water species of *Mitrella* (Gastropoda:  
Neogastropoda: Columbelloidea) from Martinique**

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**Keywords:** GASTROPODA, NEOGASTROPODA, COLUMBELLIDAE, *Mitrella*, *Mitrella jahami*, Martinique, new species.

**Abstract:** *Mitrella jahami* sp. nov. from the Caribbean island Martinique is described and compared with *Mitrella tosatoi* Monsecour & Monsecour, 2006 its closest congener and at the same time the sole sympatric species within the genus.

**Introduction:** The deep-water species of *Mitrella* Risso, 1826 from the Caribbean area are poorly represented. The first deep-water *Mitrella* was only discovered in 2006 by D. Lamy and described as *M. tosatoi* Monsecour & Monsecour, 2006, based on a single specimen (now in MNHN). Since then, no further material had become available, until D. Lamy and P. de Jaham found 7 more specimens belonging to this genus: two of them are *Mitrella tosatoi*, the remaining 5 specimens clearly belong to a yet undescribed species. It is hereby introduced as *M. jahami* sp. nov.

**Abbreviations:**

MNHN: Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France

DL: Private collection Dominique Lamy, Guadeloupe, France

DM: Private collection David Monsecour, Aarschot, Belgium

KM: private collection Kevin Monsecour, Aarschot, Belgium

**Systematics:**

Family **COLUMBELLIDAE** Swainson, 1840

Subfamily *Atiliinae* Cossmann, 1901

Genus *Mitrella* Risso, 1826

Type species by subsequent designation (Cox, 1927): *Mitrella flaminea* Risso, 1826.

Recent, Mediterranean.

*Mitrella jahami* sp. nov.

Figs 1-8

**Type locality:** Martinique, NE Martinique, 11 miles off Pointe de la Caravelle, 250m deep in muddy sand.

**Type material:** Holotype, MNHN, length 18.1mm, width 8.8mm.

Paratype 1, MNHN, 17.9mm; Paratype 2, DL, 19.2mm; Paratype 3, KM, 17.6mm;

Paratype 4, DM, 16.4mm.

**Distribution:** Only known from the type locality.

**Description:** Shell rather large for the genus, adult size 16.4-18.1 mm; fusiform, bulbously elongate and slightly shouldered. Teleoconch consisting of about 7 slightly bulbous whorls, yet early teleoconch whorls decollate in all surveyed adult specimens. Protoconch only partly preserved in Paratype 2 (juvenile), but clearly multispiral, consisting of at least 2 whorls. Axial sculpture on 3-4 most adapical whorls consisting of clearly visible close-set ribs, abapically diminishing in strength. Further teleoconch whorls smooth. Spiral sculpture absent, except for the basal cords, ventrally ranging until mid-columellar height, where they become more obsolete. Suture not incised.

Outer lip clearly thickened, smooth, apart from continuations of the basal cords. Inner lip with 9-10 denticles along its entire length, with the most adapical and the most abapical ones clearly stronger developed. Columellar callus marked by a distinct rim, clearly thickened. Columella with 4-5 abapical denticles and 1 adapical denticle defining the canal constriction. Siphonal canal short, open, straight.

Shell colour: Teleoconch whorls creamy with a reddish brown pattern adorned with many creamy blotches. This pattern becomes darker just below the suture. Aperture and columella creamy.

Animal, operculum and periostacum unknown.

**Comparison:** *M. jahami* can only be compared with *M. tosatoi* because of their size and the presence of denticles on the columella: both features do not occur in any other known Caribbean *Mitrella*.

*M. jahami* mainly differs from *M. tosatoi* by means of the following characteristics:

Characteristic	<i>M. jahami</i>	<i>M. tosatoi</i>
Protoconch	multispiral	paucispiral
Teleoconch whorls	7 slightly shouldered	8 not shouldered
Axial sculpture	on 3-4 most adapical whorls	limited to 2 most adapical whorls
Inner lip	9-10 weaker denticles not extending into aperture	10 stronger denticles adapical 5 extending into aperture
Columellar denticles	4-5 abapical denticles 1 adapical denticle	1 central denticle 2 adapical denticles
Adult size	16-18 mm	about 26 mm

**Remark:** We refrain from placing *M. jahami* within a subgenus as the division into subgenera is not complete for the genus *Mitrella* and no available subgeneric name fits this species.

**Etymology:** The species is named after Patrice de Jaham, one of the fishermen who collected this species.

**Acknowledgements:** We would like to thank Dominique Lamy (Guadeloupe, France), for bringing this species to our attention and donating the type material.

**References:**

**Monsecour, K. & Monsecour, D.**, 2006. Two new deep water species of Columbellidae (Gastropoda: Neogastropoda) from the Caribbean. *GloriaMaris* 45(1-2): 1-6.

**Plate:**

**1-8:** *Mitrella jahami* sp.nov. Martinique.

1-3: holotype. 18.1mm. MNHN

4-6: paratype 1. 17,9mm. MNHN

7: paratype 2. 19,2mm. DL

8: paratype 3. 17,6mm. KM

**9-10:** *Mitrella tosatoi* Monsecour & Monsecour, 2006. Holotype. Martinique. 26.3mm. MNHN

