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A new species of *Fusinus* (Gastropoda: Fasciolaridae) from West Africa

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Abstract: *Fusinus stanyi* sp. nov. from West Africa is described, and compared with *Fusinus zebrinus* Odhner, 1923.

Introduction: Belgian fishermen (during the 70s) and Russian vessels (during the late 80s and early 90s) operating offshore the West African coast, brought several rare or beautiful species to light: *Bolma jacquelineae* (Marche-Marchad, 1957), *Bolma johnstoni* (Odhner, 1923), *Marginella poppei* Boyer & Neefs, 1999, *Loxotaphrus deshayesi* (Duval, 1841), *Distorsio smithi* (von Maltzan, 1884), *Eglisia spirata* (Sowerby, 1825) to mention a few.

In the present paper, we add another species to this list: *Fusinus stanyi* sp. nov.

Systematics:

Family **Fasciolaridae** Rafinesque, 1815

Genus: ***Fusinus*** Rafinesque, 1815

Type species: *Murex colus* Linnaeus, 1758, a recent species from the Indo-West Pacific.

For a presentation of the known West African species we refer to Hadorn (1997), Hadorn (1998), Hadorn & Ryall (1999), Hadorn & Rolán (1999) and Gofas (2000).

Fusinus stanyi sp. nov.

Figs 1-6, 10

Type material: Holotype (38.4 mm), off Angola, trawled by Russian fishermen, 15-40 m deep, in Museu Municipal do Funchal (Historia Natural), Funchal, Madeira.

Paratype 1, 46.0 mm, off Ambriz, Angola, in coll. Roland De Prins nr. 2967, Belgium;

Paratype 2, 39.3 mm, off Moita Seca, Angola, trawled, 92 m, 1973, coll. Frank Nolf, Belgium.

Type locality: West Africa, off Angola, trawled by Russian fishermen, 15-40 m deep.

Range and habitat: Only known from Angola (15-40 m deep, holotype, off Ambriz, 120-130 m deep, and off Moita Seca, paratypes).

Description: Shell small for the genus, up to 46 mm in length, rather thin but solid, shape elongate fusoid with slender spire and short siphonal canal. Suture deep. Colour reddish brown on upper spire, gradually becoming paler, body whorl white with small reddish brown spots.

Protoconch consisting of $1 \frac{3}{4}$ whorls, tip flattened, surface glossy, covered with minute, shallow holes. First protoconch whorl white, gradually narrowing, with incised suture. Last half whorl pale brown, covered with 8 axial riblets. Transition to teleoconch marked by a fine incremental line.

About $6 \frac{1}{2}$ well convex teleoconch whorls. First teleoconch whorl with 5 rather strong, glossy spiral cords, interspaces narrow. Second whorl with 6 spiral cords, interspaces gradually increasing. Third whorl with 6 spiral cords, interspaces broad, with 1 fine intercalated secondary spiral cord. On fifth whorl, a fine tertiary spiral cord appears at both sides of the secondary cord. Penultimate whorl with 7 primary spiral cords, interspaces broad with 3 or 5 (secondary and tertiary) spiral cords of different strength. First teleoconch whorl with 12 rather strong axial ribs. Second whorl with 14, third whorl with 17 axial ribs. Interspaces narrow. Ribs gradually becoming smoother from fourth whorl onwards. Penultimate and body whorl with numerous, hard to recognize, low axials, occasionally with small brown spots when crossing spiral cords.

Aperture ovate. Outer lip thin, simple, edge sharp, with 23 fine lirae within. Columella gently curved, smooth, with thin callus. Paratype 1 with a small adapical columellar knob. Siphonal canal rather short, broad, widely open. Aperture and siphonal canal about $\frac{1}{2}$ of total shell length.

Operculum corneous, pale brown, half the size of aperture, nucleus terminal, pointed.

Periostracum thick, velvety, pale brown. Animal and radula unknown.

Comparison: *Fusinus stanyi* sp. nov. is characterized by the reddish brown apex with strong spiral cords and narrow interspaces, the convex whorls in combination with a pale body whorl with small reddish brown spots and broad spiral interspaces.

Fusinus zebrinus Odhner, 1923 (Figs 11-14) is similar in sculpture and pattern but can be distinguished by the slightly broader shape with shorter spire, the heavier shell, the weak subsutural concavity, the axial ribs which are broader and lower in number, the less constricted base and the usually darker pattern.

Etymology: *Fusinus stanyi* sp. nov. is named in honour of Stany Vanderhoydonck, a good friend of us, for his knowledge of invertebrate marine life, and for the many hours we have spent together discussing aesthetics and the visual beauty of shells.

Fusinus species

Figs 7-9

One specimen (33.3 mm), off Angola, trawled by Russian fishermen, 15-40 m deep, in coll. Frank Swinnen.

Remarks: This *Fusinus* species is almost identical to *Fusinus stanyi* sp. nov. in shape and sculpture, but differs slightly in protoconch morphology (smaller and with regular whorls), by having a finer and sharper spiral sculpture with broader interspaces and by the colour which is slightly paler at the spire and darker on the body whorl. Because of the little material available (1 specimen), a comparative study is beyond the possibilities, and the shell is not included in the type material above. Further study will show whether this shell is a form of *Fusinus stanyi* sp. nov.

The specimen figured as "*Fusinus* sp. 54 mm Angola" by Ardovalini & Cossignani (2004: 173, right upper corner) is much similar, but judging from the picture we cannot confirm its belonging to our *Fusinus* species or to *Fusinus stanyi* sp. nov.

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Plate 1 (right):

1-2: *Fusinus stanyi* sp. nov., holotype, 38.4 mm, off Angola, in Museu Municipal do Funchal (Historia Natural), Funchal, Madeira.

3-6: *Fusinus stanyi* sp. nov.

3-4, 10: paratype 1, 46.0 mm, off Ambriz, Angola, in coll. De Prins.

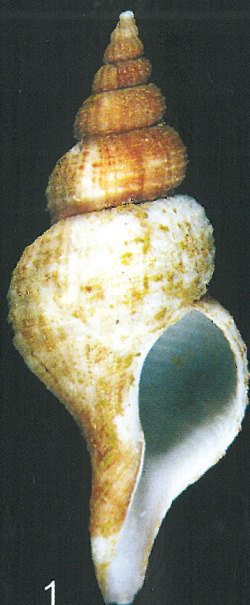
5-6: paratype 2, 39.3 mm, off Moita Seca, Angola, coll. Nolf.

Plate 2 (over):

7-9: *Fusinus* species, 33.3 mm, off Moita Seca, Angola, coll. Swinnen.

10: *Fusinus stanyi* sp. nov., paratype 1, 46.0 mm, off Ambriz, Angola, in coll. De Prins.

11-14: *Fusinus zebrinus* Odhner, 1923, 11-12: 24.9 mm, 13-14: 27.3 mm, off Praia Amelia, Angola, among rocks at 3 m, in coll. Johan Verstraeten, Belgium.





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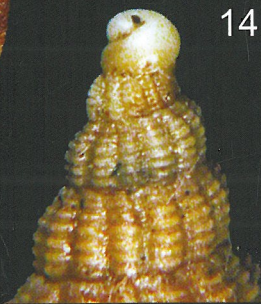
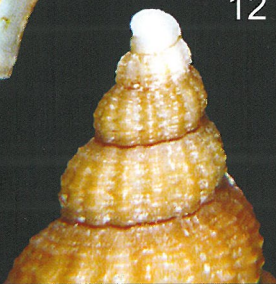


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