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**ON THE PRESENCE OF *MITRELLA PALLARYI* (DAUTZENBERG, 1927)
(MOLLUSCA: GASTROPODA) IN THE ARCHIPELAGO OF MADEIRA**

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SUMMARY: In the present note the author presents the first reference of the presence of *Mitrella pallaryi* (Dautzenberg, 1927) in Madeira. Other specimens belonging to *M. pallaryi* that have also been collected in Madeira were identified by previous authors as *M. scripta* (Linnaeus, 1758) thus the latter species becoming an unconfirmed presence in Madeiran waters.

SUMÁRIO: Na presente nota, o autor refere pela primeira vez a presença de *Mitrella pallaryi* (Dautzenberg, 1927) no arquipélago da Madeira. Outros espécimes pertencendo a *M. pallaryi* também colhidos na Madeira foram previamente identificados por outros autores como pertencendo a *M. scripta* (Linnaeus, 1758), ficando deste modo por confirmar a presença desta última espécie nas águas madeirenses.

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INTRODUCTION

During recent collections made in the Funchal Bay on the south coast of Madeira, we came across a species of a columbellid gastropod, *Mitrella pallaryi* (Dautzenberg, 1927) which had never been referred before to the seas round this island.

Prior records of other species belonging to the same genus from Madeira have included the following species:

Mitrella kraussii (SOWERBY, 1844):

WATSON (1897) p: 282; NOBRE (1937). p: 27

Mitrella minor (Sachi, 1830):

WATSON (1897) p: 282; NOBRE (1937) p: 27

Mitrella scripta (Linnaeus, 1758):

WATSON (1897) pp: 282-283; NOBRE (1937) pp: 27-28

MATERIAL

The material used in this note results from collections gathered with fish traps, as part of a research program to study benthic communities along a transect in the Funchal Bay (BISCOITO *et al.*, 1992). The following material was collected:

- 10 July 1991 at 200 m depth, Coord.: 32°37.50'N; 16°54.50'W: two live specimens deposited in the MMF(HN) collection Reg. N° 26135.

- 28 May 1992 at 100 m depth, Coord.: 32°37.80'N; 16°54.10'W: one live specimen deposited in the MMF(HN) collection Reg. N° 25379.

- 28 May 1992 at 200 m depth, Coord.: 32°37.50'N; 16°54.50'W: two specimens, deposited in the MMF(HN) collection Reg. N° 26136.

We also had the opportunity to study specimens from the Natural History Museum (London) collection that were collected in Madeira by WATSON BM(NH) Reg. N° 1911.10.26.12386-90 (5 specimens).

When studying the specimens deposited in the LMNH's collection, labelled and identified by R. B. WATSON as *Columbella scripta*, we noticed that these specimens clearly corresponded to *Mitrella pallaryi*. As all references of the presence of *M. scripta* in Madeira were based on WATSON'S statement we must consider at least as doubtful the presence of

this species in this archipelago. *M. scripta* is the most abundant and the best known species of this genus (van AARTSEN *et al.*, 1984), usually found in shallow waters in the Mediterranean and neighbouring Atlantic coasts (POPPE & GOTO, 1991). On the other hand, *M. pallaryi* has a much deeper habitat, between 40 and 200 meters (POPPE, 1991) (in accordance with our finds) and a more Atlantic distribution including the Canary Islands, the Azores, as well the westernmost parts of the Mediterranean.

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