

Scientific note

First record of *Janthina janthina* (Linnaeus, 1758) on the continental coasts of Chile

(Mollusca, Gastropoda, Epitoniidae)

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Janthina species are striking pleustonic pelagic epitoniid snails that feed on cnidarians, mainly of the also pleustonic and pelagic *Velella velella* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Porpita porpita* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Physalia physalis* (Linnaeus, 1758). They are often found floating offshore in large groups and, under some weather conditions, can be washed ashore along with their prey. Of the five extant *Janthina* species currently known (Beu 2017), four of them have been previously recorded from Chilean waters: *Janthina exigua* Lamarck, 1816, *Janthina globosa* Swainson, 1822, *Janthina janthina* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Janthina umbilicata* d'Orbigny, 1841. *J. exigua* has been cited from Atacama, and from Hueicolla, Valdivia (40°08' S, 73°41' W) and Boca Sur, Concepción (36°49' S, 73°07' W) in southern Chile (Valdovinos 1987), and from latitudes 45 to 55 as *Janthina courcellii* Mabilbe & Rochebrune, 1891 (Valdovinos 1999); *J. globosa* has been cited at Papudo, central Chile (Ramírez 1980); while *Janthina janthina* and *Janthina umbilicata* have both been cited only from Easter Island (Osorio 2018).

In this paper we present the first record of *Janthina janthina* in continental Chile – the fourth species of *Janthina* represented on the coasts of Chile – based on a single shell collected washed ashore after a storm at Rocas Negras Beach, Caldera (27°01' S, 70°48' W, 25 m), northern Chile, in the same area as we previously reported the occurrence of *V. velella* (Araya & Aliaga 2018). *Janthina janthina* is a quite distinctive snail with a bright purple shell, clearly different from all other gastropods found in Chile; the present shell has a comparatively average size for the species, measuring up to

24 mm in width (Fig. 1A). It is probable that this species has a continuous distribution offshore along the coasts of the southeastern Pacific, from Ecuador south to Peru and now Chile. The absence of previous records of this cosmopolitan species in Chile may be explained by the barrier effect of the Humboldt current, which prevents the introduction of fauna from the Western Pacific to the Chilean coasts (with few exceptions, such as a chance dispersal of species as here reported).

References

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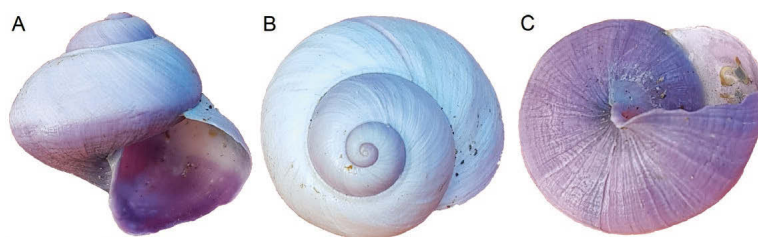


Fig. 1. Shell of *Janthina janthina* (Linnaeus, 1758) from Rocas Negras Beach, Caldera, northern Chile. **A.** Apertural view; **B.** apical view; **C.** adapical view. Scale bar is 10 mm.

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