

***STRIOCADULUS MAGDALENENSIS*, A NEW DEEP-SEA  
SCAPHOPOD (MOLLUSCA: SCAPHOPODA: GADILIDAE)  
FROM THE COLOMBIAN CARIBBEAN\***

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**ABSTRACT**

We describe a new bathyal species of scaphopod belonging to the genus *Striocadulus* Emerson based on conchological and radular characters. The specimens were collected at a depth of 404-412 m off Bocas de Ceniza (Colombian Caribbean). *Striocadulus magdalenensis* new species can be distinguished from its other congeners by differences in its apical section, and both number and extent of longitudinal striae. This is the first record of this genus in the Atlantic Ocean.

**KEY WORDS:** Mollusca, Bathyal, Taxonomy, Western Atlantic, Caribbean Sea.

**RESUMEN**

***Striocadulus magdalenensis* una nueva especie de escafópodo (Mollusca: Scaphopoda: Gadilidae) de aguas profundas del Caribe colombiano.** Se describe una nueva especie batial de escafópodo perteneciente al género *Striocadulus* Emerson basándose en características de la concha y la rádula. Los especímenes fueron colectados a 404-412 m de profundidad frente a Bocas de Ceniza (Caribe colombiano). *Striocadulus magdalenensis* spec. nov. se distingue de sus otros congéneres por diferencias en la sección apical y en el número y extensión de las estrías longitudinales. Este es el primer registro del género para el océano Atlántico.

**PALABRAS CLAVE:** Mollusca, Batial, Taxonomía, Atlántico occidental, Mar Caribe.

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## INTRODUCTION

Scaphopods are successful deep-sea organisms with over 500 extant species (Scarabino, 1994; Steiner and Linse, 2000; Reynolds and Steiner, 2008). Nearly 70 % of the known species are found below 500 m of depth, with a high percentage of them living below 3000 m, exclusively inhabiting bathyal and abyssal substrates (Scarabino, 1986).

Among the eight genera within Gadilidae (Steiner and Kabat, 2001), *Striocardulus* Emerson, 1962 is represented by very few species compared to other genera in the family. The genus is very distinct and is comprised by species living in moderately deep waters in tropical oceans that are characterized by having medium to large curved shells, sculptured with numerous longitudinal striae. According to Scarabino (1995) and Steiner and Kabat (2001, 2004), the genus currently consists of four living species with well delineated ranges. *Striocardulus albicomatus* (Dall, 1890) occurs along the west coast of North and Central America at depths of 41-730 m; *S. ludbrookii* Scarabino, 1995 is distributed in the northern Indian Ocean at 528-732 m; *S. pulcherrimus* (Boissevain, 1906) has been recorded from Indonesia at 530-694 m, and *S. sagei* Scarabino, 1995 from the Philippines and Indonesia at 640-800 m (Figure 1). Herein we describe a new species recently collected on soft substrates of the upper slope off the Colombian Caribbean coast in two deep-sea trawled samples taken by the R/V Ancón in 1998, during the cruise INVEMAR-MACROFAUNA I (Figure 1). Shells were examined, and photographed under Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) (Leica Stereoscan 440 W and Amray 1810 SEM's). Material examined was deposited at the Museo de Historia Natural Marina de Colombia (MHNMC), Santa Marta, Colombia.



**Figure 1.** Geographic distribution of the genera *Striocardulus* and *Sagamicadulus* around the world, following Scarabino (1995), Rios-Jara *et al.* (2003a) and Steiner and Kabat (2004).

## RESULTS

### Species description

Family Gadilidae Stoliczka, 1868

Genus *Striocardulus* Emerson, 1962: 478-479, pl. 80, fig. 1 a-d (as a subgenus of *Cadulus*).

**Type species:** *Cadulus albicomatus* Dall, 1890, by original designation. Recent, off Manta, Ecuador; eastern Pacific Ocean, 00°37'S - 81°00'W, 730 m. Syntype, USNM 87539.

**Known distribution:** Pacific and Indian oceans, Caribbean Sea, 41-800 m.

### *Striocardulus magdalenensis* new species (Figures 2-8, 16-17)

#### **Type locality:**

**Holotype:** Off Bocas de Ceniza, Colombia, 11°13'N, 74°39'W, 412-406 m of depth, INV MOL2829, Sta. E2 (2-X-1998), on muddy bottom.

**Paratypes:** Off Bocas de Ceniza, Colombia, 11°13'N, 74°39'W, 404-410 m of depth, two specimens, INV MOL2828, Sta. E1 (2-X-1998), on muddy bottom; off Bocas de Ceniza, Colombia, 11°13'N, 74°39'W, 412-406 m depth, one specimen, INV MOL2384, Sta. E2 (2-X-1998), on muddy bottom.

**Type Material:** Four specimens, collected alive. The measurements of the material are described in the Table 1.

**Distribution:** This species is known only from the type locality.

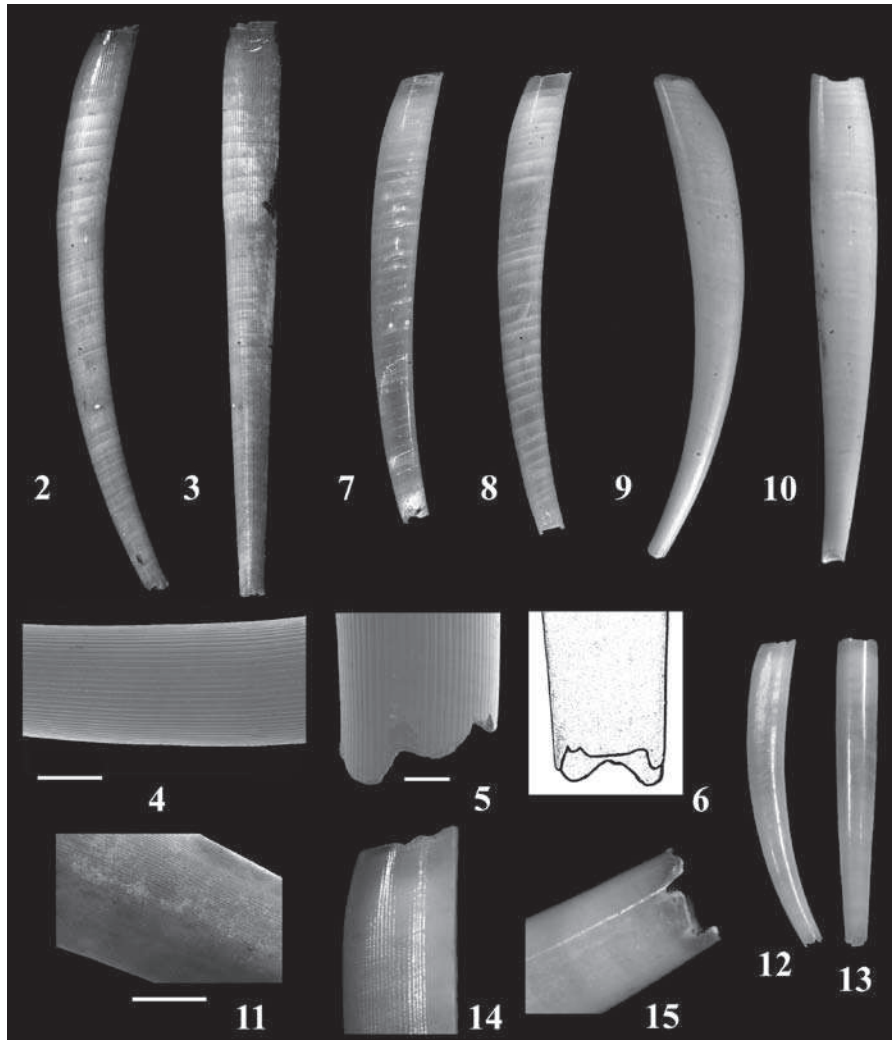
**Description:** Shell length up to 27 mm; white, bright, and translucent, with opaque white rings along the surface; ventral side slightly curved; maximum diameter 2.8 mm in anterior third proximal to the aperture. Anterior aperture subcircular in cross section, dorsoventrally compressed, 2.19 mm in height and 2.64 mm in width. Apical aperture semicircular, dorsoventrally compressed, 1.21 mm in height and 1.32 mm in width (Table 1); apex with traces of four lobes (Figure 6). The shell is longitudinally sculptured with 66 (Holotype) to 73 fine, flattened striae (Figures 4-5) of equal length and evenly spaced covering the entire surface. The radula typical of the genus consists of a square central rachidean tooth, with large lateral and long marginal teeth; shape and denticulation of the central, lateral, and marginal teeth are not visible (Figures 16-17).

**Etymology:** The species is named after the Magdalena River, in front of whose mouth the type locality is situated.

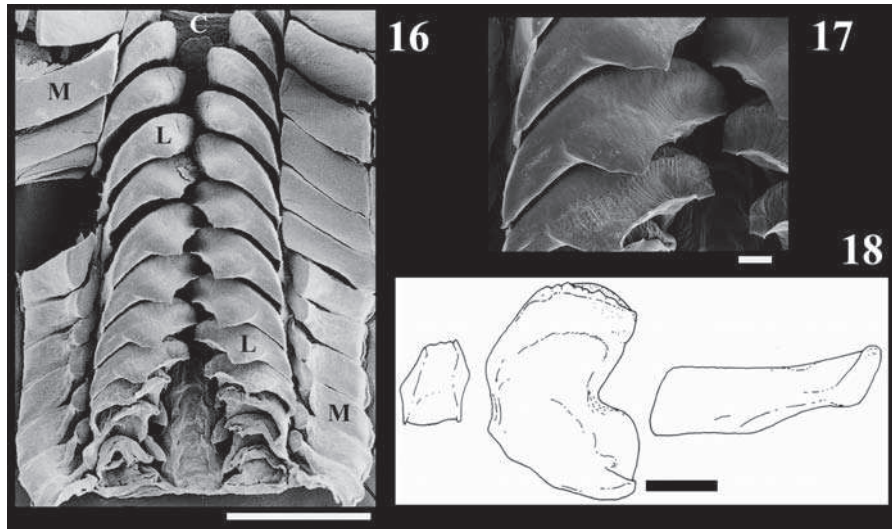
**Remarks:** This species shares common characteristics with the species of the



monotypic genus *Sagamicadulus*, *S. elegantissimus* (Sakurai and Shimazu, 1963: 250-251, text-fig. 1 Holotype; Hasegawa and Saito, 1995: 29, plate 6, fig. 1



**Figures 2-8.** *Striocardulus magdalenensis* new species. **2-3.** Holotype, INV MOL2829, lateral and dorsal views, anterior and apical sections, Tl 27.24 mm. **4.** Holotype, detail of longitudinal striae, scale bar 1 mm. **5.** Holotype, apex lateral view, it is the observed longitudinal striae covering the entire shell, scale bar 300  $\mu$ m. **6.** Holotype apex, ventral view (broken lobe), two laterals and one dorsal. **7.** Paratype INV MOL2384, lateral view, Tl 21.28 mm. **8.** Paratype, INV MOL2828, lateral view, Tl 21.74 mm. **9-11.** *Striocardulus albicomatus* (Dall, 1890). **9-10.** Syntype USNM 87539, lateral and ventral views, Tl 23 mm. **11.** Detail of longitudinal striae, scale bar 1 mm. **12-15.** *Sagamicadulus elegantissimus* (Sakurai and Shimazu, 1963). **12-13.** Holotype, NSMT-Mo 70249, lateral and dorsal views, Indo-Pacific, Japan, 15 mm. **14.** Detail striation near aperture. **15.** Detail smooth apex (broken), lateral view.



**Figures 16-17.** Radula of *Striocadulus magdalenensis*. **16.** General view of the Paratype INV MOL2384, scale bar 300  $\mu$ m. The teeth are labeled M= Marginals, L= laterals and C= Central rachidian tooth. **17.** Detail of the lateral teeth, scale bar 30  $\mu$ m. **18.** Radula *Striocadulus sagei*, modified from Scarabino (1995): figs 139 e, pag. 337 (central, lateral and marginal teeth views).

**Table 1.** Comparison between type material of *Striocadulus magdalenensis* new species. Shells were measured using a digital caliper Kanon EMS-6, according to parameters specified in Steiner and Linse (2000): L: length; Ha, Wa: height and width of anterior aperture; Max: maximum diameter; Hp, Wp: height and width of posterior aperture; Arc: maximum curvature; Darc: distance of the point of maximum curvature from the apex; Dmax: distance of maximum diameter from anterior aperture. The measurements are expressed in millimeters.

	Holotype INV MOL2829 Sta. E2	Paratype INV MOL2384 Sta. E2	Paratype INV MOL2828 Sta. E1	Paratype INV MOL2828 Sta. E1
L	27.21	20.98	21.09	27.31
Ha	2.19	1.92	2.01	2.20
Wa	2.64	2.35	2.42	2.57
Max	2.80	2.65	2.66	2.86
Hp	1.21	1.34	1.28	1.24
Wp	1.32	1.45	1.39	1.33
Arc	2.71	1.34	1.27	2.34
Darc	12.87	11.37	11.67	15.5
Dmax	3.28	4.18	4.36	5.73

Holotype), recorded off Hayama, Sagami Bay, Japan, at depths between 55 and 128 m (Figures 12-15). This smaller species reaches 15 mm in length (Holotype NSMT-Mo 70249) and its shell also exhibits longitudinal grooves, but they do not cover the entire surface (Figure 15). The shell is smooth posteriorly and longitudinally striated in median and anterior areas, with the striae extending to the aperture (Fig. 14); in *S. magdalenensis* striae are uniformly distributed over the surface. The apical orifice in *S. elegantissimus* is rounded in cross section and has three pairs of notches on its truncated margin (Figure 15), two pairs on the lateral surfaces and one pair on the dorso-ventral surfaces (Sakuari and Shimazu, 1963), whereas the semicircular apex of *S. magdalenensis* has traces of four lobes. The number and shape of the lobes in *S. magdalenensis* are not exactly described since all the examined specimens were not complete.

It is noteworthy that this diagnostic character differs somewhat from the shape and number of lobes assigned to other species of *Striocardulus* and could match better to the *Sagamicardulus* diagnosis. However, due to the extension of the longitudinal striae, the longer shell length, and the semicircular apex in cross section, we prefer to place it within the genus *Striocardulus*.

*Striocardulus magdalenensis* exhibits unique characteristics compared with the other members of the genus, especially in the sculpture and apex morphology. *Striocardulus sagei*, the largest species in the order Gadilida (Scarabino, 1995), found in Indonesia and Philippines, reaches 43 mm in length, exhibits a wide apex, and is slightly dorsoventrally compressed, with two wide lateral lobes (Scarabino, 1995). The anterior aperture is oblique and dorsoventrally compressed. The longitudinal sculpture consists of numerous fine, flattened riblets, which are narrowly spaced apart and crossed throughout by growth lines. Conversely, *S. ludbrooki* is smaller (up to 20 mm) and less sculptured than *S. sagei*, its apex is oval in cross section and dorsoventrally compressed with two wide, flat lobes (Scarabino, 1995); moreover, the sculpture of the longitudinal striae is most prominent along the anterior three quarters of the shell. Detailed information about the shell features of *S. pulcherrimus* from Indonesia was unfortunately not available; Scarabino (1995) just illustrates the general shape of the type material (16 mm in length), the apex structures and apical and oral sections.

In regard to the radula, although it was extracted and examined (Paratype INV MOL2384), no additional diagnostic characteristics could be determined (Figures 16-17); for details of the radula of *S. sagei*, see Scarabino (1995: figs 139 e, pag. 337, and fig. 172 c-d, pag. 367). Here we reproduce the type radula of the genus (Figure 18).