

Short Communication

***Brechites attrahens* (Lightfoot, 1786) (Mollusca: Bivalvia, Clavagellidae), a new record from the Gulf of Suez**

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ABSTRACT

The watering pot *Brechites attrahens* (Lightfoot, 1786) is recorded for first time from the Gulf of Suez (29° 40' N, 32° 15' E), with some details of its description.

KEYWORDS: Bivalvia, *Brechites attrahens*, Suez Gulf

INTRODUCTION

On July 24th, 1988 one complete specimen of the watering pot *Brechites attrahens* was collected by snorkelling in the subtidal region of the investigated area (the proposed area for the new harbour of the El-Sokhna, 29° 40' N, 32° 15' E). This specimen was described, measured and photographed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Description and comments

The Furbelowed watering-pot is long, fragile, tubular white shell (Fig. A) often covered with attached fine sand grains. The specimen collected is 21.3 cm long and 1.8 cm wide. The bottom end is closed with a convex, calcareous perforated disc (Fig. C) like a sieve (4.3 cm in diameter) that has short, open, biramus tubules (7 mm in length, 1 mm in width) arranged in a roughly concentric fashion.

The siphons emerge from the anterior aperture of the tubular structure, which in its terminal region has several (three) successive rows of leafed lamellae (Fig. B). The actual bivalve shell (Fig. D) is very small, and confined to two small gaping valves (3.8 mm long, 2.2 mm wide), positional dorsally, almost at the posterior end of the calcareous tube. The ligament of the valves is external, and the hinge lacks teeth; at least the inner part of the shell has a nacreous structure.

The body of this mollusc is much larger than the shell; the foot is short and stout, while the siphons are well developed. There are a pair of gills, each consisting of two series of lamellae extensively fused by interlamellar junctions (eulamellibranch).

Habit

The juvenile watering-pot starts life as small, normal bivalve shell (Smythe 1982), and then the valves flatten out and remain visible at one end along calcareous tube. The bottom of the tube is buried in the sand or mud. The base of the tube has many tiny holes, hence the name "watering-pot".

Habitat

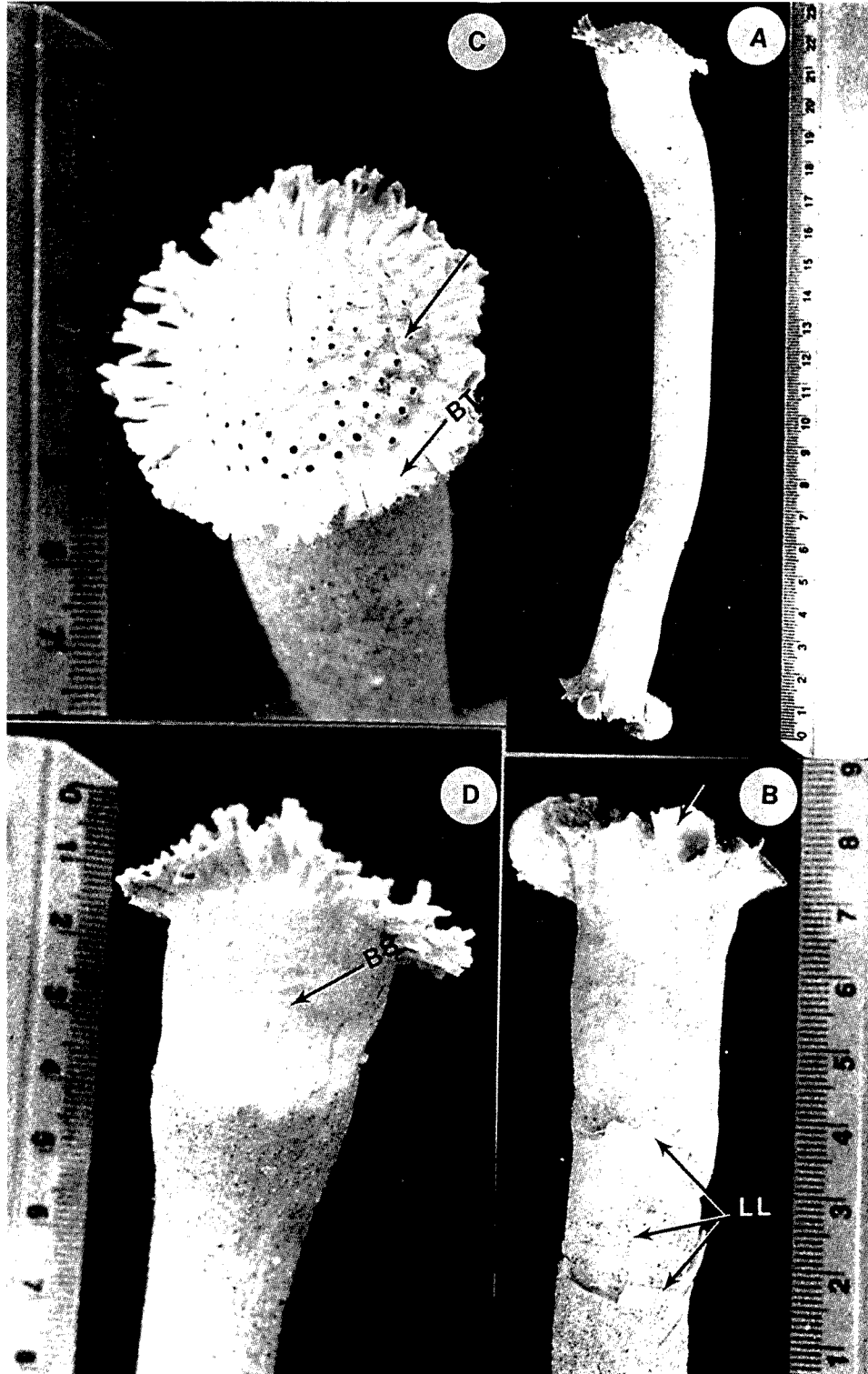
The collected specimen was found buried in a patch of the seagrass *Halodule uninervis* in the subtidal region, at a depth of 1 m. The substratum of this seagrass patch is mainly fine sand.

Distribution

The watering-pots (family: Clavagellidae) are found in the south eastern part of the Indo-pacific Province (Mondadori 1979), East Africa (Eisenberg 1981), Red Sea (Sharabati 1984), Australia (Oliver 1980; Eisenberg 1981), Arabian Gulf (Smythe 1982), Thailand (Eisenberg 1981) and Japan (Eisenberg 1981; Majima 1994). The species *Brechites attrahens* has been recorded in the Red Sea proper, but has not been reported hitherto either from the Gulf of Suez or the Gulf of Aqaba. The occurrence of this species in the Red Sea has been documented (Sharabati 1984; Schuhmacher & Hinterkircher 1996), but according to our experience this bivalve is very rare and seldom to be found as a complete specimen. The present record extends the distribution of this species to the Gulf of Suez.

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Figures A-D:

- A. *Brechites attrahens* (21.3cm) from the Gulf of Suez, Ein El-Sokhna.
- B. Anterior aperture of the tubular structure (arrowed), with several successive rows of leaf lamellae (arrowed LL) in its terminal region.
- C. The bottom end, closed with a convex calcareous perforated disc (arrowed), like a sieve that has short open biramous tubules (arrowed BT) arranged in a roughly concentric fashion.
- D. Bivalve shell (arrowed BS), which consists of very small, gaping valves.

الملخص العربي

بريشيتيس أريهينيس (لايتفوت، ١٧٨٦) (ذات المصرعين: كلافاجيليدى)، تسجيل جديد فى خليج السويس

على عبد الفتاح جاب الله

قسم علوم البحار - كلية العلوم - جامعة قناة السويس - الإسماعيلية - مصر

تم تسجيل ذات المصرعين "بريشيتيس أريهينيس" لأول مرة فى خليج السويس فى يوليو ١٩٩٨م، حيث تم جمع عينة واحدة منه بمرج العشب البحرى "هالوديول يونينرفس"، الذى ينمو فى المنطقة الرملية الشاطئية بساحل العين السخنة، ويعتبر هذا النوع إضافة جديدة للتنوع الحيوى البحرى لفونة خليج السويس حيث أن هذا النوع لم يسجل من قبل ويعتبر من الأنواع النادرة.