

New records of bivalves from the Iraqi coast

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Abstract

Six marine bivalves species were recorded from the north west of the Arabian Gulf, Iraqi coast from 2020 to 2021. The species are *Acar plicata* (Dillwyn, 1817) (family Arcidae), *Sunetta effossa* (Hanley, 1843) (family Veneridae), *Scissileta tropica* (Melvill, 1897) (family Yoldiidae), *Protapes cor* (Sowerby, 1853) (family Veneridae), *Circentia callipyga* (Born, 1778) (family Veneridae) and *Acrosterigma lacunosa* (Reeve, 1845) (family Cardiidae). These records raise the number of marine bivalves known from the Iraqi coast to 38 species.

Key words: Persian-Arabian Gulf, records, Iraqi coast.

Introduction

Marine gastropods and bivalves are some of the most diverse invertebrate groups in nature, but in Iraq a better knowledge of their taxonomic composition is required. Although there are important studies on mollusks in the Iraqi marine coast (Ahmed, 1974; Al-Hassan and Al-Hasani, 1985; Yasser & Naser, 2021; Yasser *et al.*, 2022), many new records are being recorded from time to time.

Even if these nominal taxa represent individual species, the diversity is much lower than that found in neighbouring Kuwait, where Al-Kandari *et al.* (2020) identified 100 living species from 33 families. Al-Kandari & Oliver (in prep) taking into account species recorded as dead shells they illustrate 214 species. The current lists are also less diverse than those from the neighboring region of Iran, where Papahn and Ghajari (2018) list 57 nominal bivalve taxa.

Material and Methods

From 2020 to 2021, specimens of *A. plicata*, *S. effossa*, *S. tropica*, *P. cor*, *C. callipyga* and *A. lacunosa* were collected from various locations along the Iraqi coast to the north west of the Persian-Arabian Gulf by dredge, or picked up by hands from under rocks/stones, among intertidal vegetations. The specimens were YASSER ET AL.

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