



GASTROPODS FROM THE SOLIMÕES FORMATION (UPPER MIOCENE), ACRE BASIN, BRAZIL

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ABSTRACT – A taxonomic review of Miocene gastropods from the Solimões Formation, Acre Basin, Brazil, from specimens collected at Cachoeira do Bandeira, Oriente, and an outcrop named Spot 04, is here presented. Three ampullariid species (*Pomacea maculata*, *P. planorbula*, *Pomacea* sp.), one thiariid species (*Aylacostoma* sp.), and one cochliopid species (*Sioliella* sp.) are identified for these deposits. These gastropod are known to occur in freshwaters environments, thus consolidating the hypothesis of a non-influence of brackish water on the upper Miocene deposits of the Acre Basin. The previous identification of *P. maculata* and *Aylacostoma* sp. is changed here considering biometrical analyses and shell morphological descriptions. The first report of *Sioliella* in this basin increases the gastropod fauna known for these strata and expands the range of this genus.

Keywords: *Pomacea*, *Aylacostoma*, *Sioliella*, Ampullariidae, Thiaridae, Cochliopidae.

RESUMO – Aqui é apresentada uma revisão taxonômica de gastrópodes do Miocene da Formação Solimões, Bacia do Acre, Brasil, de espécimes coletados em Cachoeira do Bandeira, Oriente e de um afloramento chamado Ponto 04. Três espécies de ampularídeos (*Pomacea maculata*, *P. planorbula* e *Pomacea* sp.), uma espécie de Thiariidae (*Aylacostoma* sp.) e uma espécie de Cochliopidae (*Sioliella* sp.) são identificadas nesses depósitos e novas classificações são propostas. Esses grupos de gastrópodes são conhecidos por habitarem ambientes de água doce, reforçando a ausência de água salobra em depósitos do Miocene superior da Bacia do Acre. Identificações anteriores de *P. maculata* e *Aylacostoma* sp. são alteradas a partir de análises biométricas e descrições da morfologia da concha. A primeira ocorrência de *Sioliella* nesta bacia aduz implicações paleoecológicas de modo que amplia a fauna de gastrópodes conhecida nesses depósitos e aumenta o alcance deste gênero.

Palavras-chave: *Pomacea*, *Aylacostoma*, *Sioliella*, Ampullariidae, Thiaridae, Cochliopidae.

INTRODUCTION

Fossil gastropods are known in western Amazonia since the seminal studies of Conrad (1874), along with the subsequent revisions of Roxo (1924, 1937) and Maury (1937). Simpson (1961) and Santos & Castro (1967), and recently Nuttall (1990) and Wesselingh *et al.* (2006b) also described fossil mollusks from the upper Amazonas River related to the Pebas Formation, a Miocene large lake depositional environment (Wesselingh, 2006; 2008).

In contrast to the good number of papers about sedimentology (Gingras *et al.*, 2002; Hovikoski *et al.*, 2008; Gross *et al.*, 2011), palynology (Dino *et al.*, 2012; Silveira & Souza, 2017; da Silva-Caminha *et al.*, 2020), and geochemistry (Kronberg *et al.*, 1989; Vonhof *et al.*, 1998; Bissaro-Júnior *et al.*, 2019) of the Amazonian Miocene, there are few taxonomic surveys of mollusk fossils from the Solimões Formation in the Acre Basin.

To continue to study the fossil gastropods from western Amazonian Miocene is important because the depositional environment of the area is a matter of debate in the literature regarding intensity and duration of marine incursions (*e.g.* Frailey *et al.*, 1988; Hoorn, 1993; 1994; Räsänen *et al.*, 1995; Webb, 1995; Latrubesse *et al.*, 1997; 2007; Lovejoy *et al.*, 1998; Monsch, 1998; Gingras *et al.*, 2002; Wesselingh *et al.*, 2002; Vonhof *et al.*, 2003; Westaway, 2006; Hovikoski *et al.*, 2008; Gross *et al.*, 2015; Linhares *et al.*, 2017; Gross & Piller, 2020; Tcheumeleu *et al.*, 2020). Although these publications do not specifically deal with the Acre Basin, they are important papers that discuss the depositional environment of the area and contribute to a better description of the paleoenvironment. It is reasonable to say that during the western Amazonian Miocene there were some marine incursions that mixed with the predominant mega wetland environment, thus maintaining an occasionally brackish freshwater condition (Hoorn *et al.*, 2010; Gross *et al.*, 2011; 2013) and that the Andean orogeny influenced these landscapes variations (Shephard *et al.*, 2010; Sacek, 2014). In this way, this paper aims to increase the knowledge of fossil gastropods from the Solimões Formation, Acre Basin. Some gastropod species from Wesselingh *et al.* (2006b) are revised and new assignations are proposed, new gastropods are presented, and taxonomic and paleoenvironmental attributions are herein commented.

GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The Acre Basin is in western Amazonia, comprising an area of about 150.000 km² over the states of Acre and Amazonas in Brazil. The sedimentary sequences range from Paleozoic (Lower Devonian) to Cenozoic (Neogene) with 7,700 meters thickness distributed in depositional sequences (Feijó & Souza, 1994; Cunha, 2007; Milani *et al.*, 2007).

The first recorded and systematized study in the Acre Basin was carried out in the 1930s by researchers from the Departamento Nacional de Produção Mineral (DNPM), to investigate the possible occurrence of hydrocarbons in the border with Peru (Oliveira, 1994).

The thick sedimentary packages present in the Acre Basin are the result of the Hercynian and Andean orogenic events. Some lithostratigraphic units are identified exclusively in seismic studies, whereas outcrops and fossils are more common in higher units, especially in the Solimões Formation, dating from the Ypresian to the Neogene (da Silva *et al.*, 2003; Cunha, 2007).

The lithostratigraphic unit known today as Solimões Formation was firstly observed by Rego (1930), and formalized by Caputo *et al.* (1972). Its deposition is correlated with the Pebas (Peru and Colombia), Curaray (Ecuador) and Urumaco (Venezuela) formations (Wesselingh *et al.*, 2002; Guimarães, 2011). The Solimões Formation is described as containing a sequence of sandy and clayey rocks deposited by a fluvial and fluvial-lacustrine system, with facies associated with sandy bars and flood plains (da Silva *et al.*, 2003; Guimarães, 2011; Medeiros, 2017). It is a formation with a wide distribution in the Amazon region, as it is registered both in the Acre and the Solimões basins.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The fossiliferous material presented herein is composed of eleven specimens of gastropods collected in three outcrops (Figure 1). These fossils are deposited at the Laboratório de Pesquisas Paleontológicas (LPP) of the Universidade Federal do Acre (UFAC) under the identification acronym IF followed by a catalog number.

The Cachoeira do Bandeira outcrop is situated south of the state of Acre (AC), on the north bank of the Acre river, downstream from Assis, AC (10°56'22"S, 69°20'40"W), where a single specimen was collected. This outcrop was previously described by the RADAMBRASIL Project (1976) (Souza-Filho & Guilherme, 2015), where a variety of taxa were identified, like fishes (Aguilera *et al.*, 2008), birds (Alvarenga & Guilherme, 2003), and crocodiles (Aureliano *et al.*, 2015), configuring a region with good fossiliferous potential. It is associated with the South American Land Mammal Ages Huayquerian–Montehermosan (Alvarenga & Guilherme, 2003; Latrubesse *et al.*, 2010), thus having a late Miocene–early Pliocene age of approximately 6–9 Ma (Flynn & Swisher III, 1995).

The Oriente outcrop is in the north of the state, on the north bank of the Purus River, downstream from Manoel Urbano, AC (08°49'19"S, 69°13'44"W), where seven specimens were collected. According to Wesselingh *et al.* (2006b), the mollusks were collected in a paleosol level of alluvial sediments.

Finally, three specimens were collected by researchers from Universidade Estadual Paulista (UNESP), Universidade de São Paulo (USP), and UFAC in the location called Spot 04, which represents outcrops on the left bank downstream the Purus River, close to the city of Manoel Urbano (09°02'32"S, 69°34'47"W).

For the taxonomic classification of the fossils, the works of Perry (1810), Nuttall (1990), Bieler (1992), Simone & Mezzalira (1994), Cowie (1997), Cazzaniga (2002),

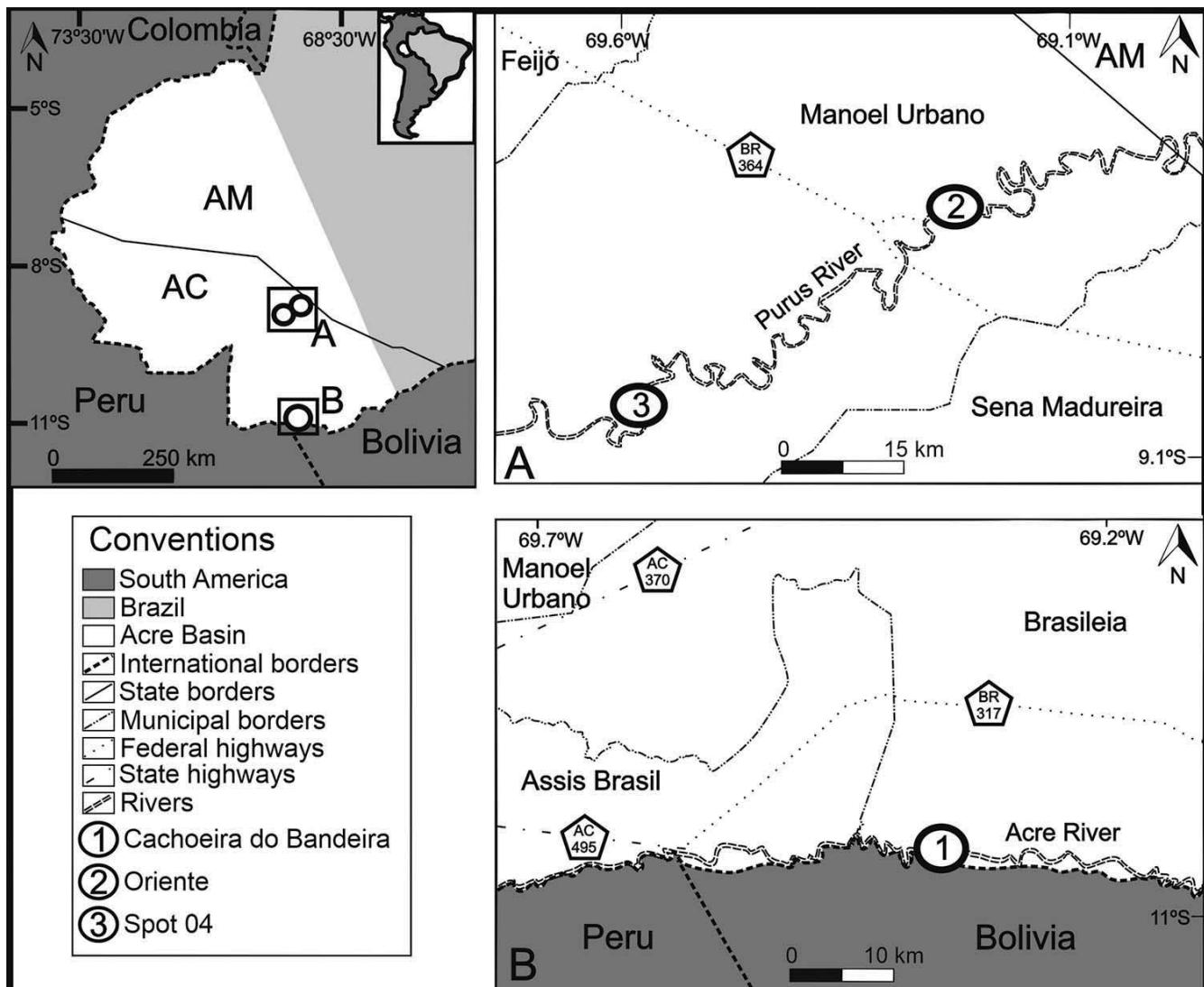


Figure 1. Fossiliferous collection sites, Solimões Formation, Acre Basin, Brazil.

Wesselingh *et al.* (2002), Cowie *et al.* (2004), Simone (2006, 2011), Wesselingh (2006), Wesselingh *et al.* (2006b), Hayes *et al.* (2012, 2015), and Pyron & Brown (2015) were taken into consideration. The suprageneric taxonomy follows Bouchet *et al.* (2017).

The biometric values (Figure 2) were established by measuring the total length (TL), represented by the distance between the apex of the shell and the most distal part of the aperture, the total width (TW), defined as the maximum dimension of the aperture perpendicular to the length line, the aperture length (AL), the aperture width (AW), the length of the last whorl (BWL), defined as the last whorl before the aperture, the penultimate whorl length (PWL), the spire length (SL), and the spire width (SW). When a measure could not be established in a shell by preservation factors, the respective value is not quoted in the dimensions. Such shell measurements were defined by Vogler *et al.* (2014) in specimens of *Aylacostoma*; however, the same dimensions were used here also for other species. The measurements are given in millimeters. The morphological aspects of the shells

were also considered. Such characteristics are related to the contours, type of aperture, and ornamentation.

SYSTEMATIC PALEONTOLOGY

Phylum MOLLUSCA Linnaeus, 1758

Class GASTROPODA Cuvier, 1795

Subclass CAENOGASTROPODA Cox, 1959

Grade ARCHITAENIOGLOSSA Haller, 1890

Superfamily AMPULLARIOIDEA Gray, 1924

Family AMPULLARIIDAE Gray, 1824

Pomacea Perry, 1810

Type species. *Pomacea maculata* Perry, 1810.

Diagnosis. Shell univalve, orbicular, spire short, round, and obtuse, mouth open and divided by a circular margin from the body, beak none (Perry, 1810).

Stratigraphic distribution. Cretaceous to Recent (Melchor *et al.*, 2002; Martín & Francesco, 2006; Novas *et al.*, 2019).

Pomacea maculata Perry, 1810
(Figures 3I–J)

- 1856 *Ampullaria amazonica* Reeve, pl. 12, fig. 55, p. 13.
1856 *Ampullaria haustrum* Reeve, pl. 5, fig. 23, p. 6.
1856 *Ampullaria imersa* Reeve, pl. 11, fig. 52, p. 12.
1856 *Ampullaria vermiformis* Reeve, pl. 12, fig. 54, p. 13.
1857 *Ampullaria castelnauii* Hupé, pl. 11, fig. 1, p. 65.
1872 *Ampullaria crosseana* Hidalgo, pl. 7, fig. 1, p. 142.
1889 *Ampullaria georgii* Williams, p. 49, no figs.

Material. IF-182.

Dimensions. TL 158.5; TW 121; AL 112.5; AW 72; BWL 107; PWL 38; SL 13.5; SW 55.5.

Locality. Cachoeira do Bandeira, Acre River, Acre State, Brazil.

Description. Shell globose. Spire short, less than a third the size of the last whorl, which is wider than it is tall. Last whorl with prominent shoulder and smooth ramp spires, impressed sutures. The shell is cracked. Aperture not preserved, only the outer lip.

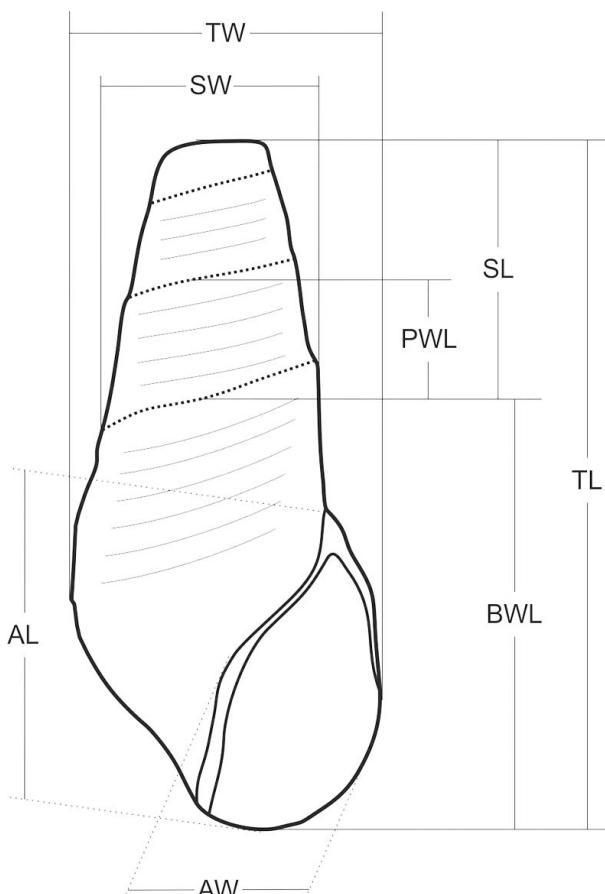


Figure 2. Shell measurements considered. Abbreviations: TL, total length; TW, total width; AL, aperture length; AW, aperture width; BWL, length of the last whorl; PWL, penultimate whorl length; SL, spire length; SW, spire width. After Vogler *et al.* (2014).

Remarks. This specimen was classified as ‘Ampullariidae sp. 1’ by Wesselingh *et al.* (2006b), being here restricted to *Pomacea maculata* due to the number of whorls (2) of the teleoconch, height of the spire, and suture of the aperture whorl. The genus *Ampullaria* Lamarck, 1799 was used in the literature to refer to *Pomacea* gastropods, but it is a junior objective synonym of *Pila* Röding, 1798 (Cowie, 1997). As a result, *A. amazonica*, *A. haustrum*, *A. imersa*, *A. vermiformis*, *A. castelnauii*, *A. crosseana*, and *A. georgii* were listed as synonyms of *P. maculata* by Hayes *et al.* (2012) mostly due to size, shape, and coloration similarities with *P. maculata*.

Pomacea planorbula (Philippi, 1852)
(Figures 3A–E)

Material. IF-349.

Dimensions. TL 23; TW 27; AL 14; AW 10; BWL 20; PWL 1.5; SL 3; SW 10.

Locality. Spot 04, Purus River, Acre State, Brazil.

Description. Ampullariid discoidal, wider than tall. Spire short, less than a third the size of the last whorl, which is wider than it is tall. Last whorl with a prominent shoulder. Discoidal shell and holostomatous aperture.

Remarks. Classified as *Pomacea planorbula* due to its discoidal shell, characteristics of the last whorl, type of spire and aperture.

Pomacea sp.
(Figures 3F–H)

Material. IF-298.

Dimensions. TL 45; TW 44; BWL 35; PWL 5; SL 5; SW 20.

Locality. Spot 04, Purus River, Acre State, Brazil.

Description. Ampullariid globose, slightly taller than wide. Spire short, less than a third the size of the last whorl, which is wider than it is tall. Last whorl with a prominent shoulder. The aperture is not preserved. The shell is cracked.

Remarks. The poor state of preservation of the shell limits a more specific classification.

Cohort SORBEONCONCHA Ponder & Lindberg, 1997
Subcohort CERITHIIMORPHA Golikov & Starobogatov, 1975

Superfamily CERITHIOIDEA Fleming, 1822
Family THIARIDAE Gill, 1871

Aylacostoma Spix, 1827

Type species. *Aylacostoma glabrum* Spix, 1827.

Diagnosis. Shell acicular, with pronounced ramp and shoulder developed on last whorl or so. Weak spiral sculpture, mainly of grooving tending to be concentrated on ramp. Collabral sculpture virtually absent. Aperture notched below. (Nuttall, 1990, p. 258).

Stratigraphic distribution. Upper Oligocene–lower Miocene to Recent (Wesselingh *et al.*, 2006a).

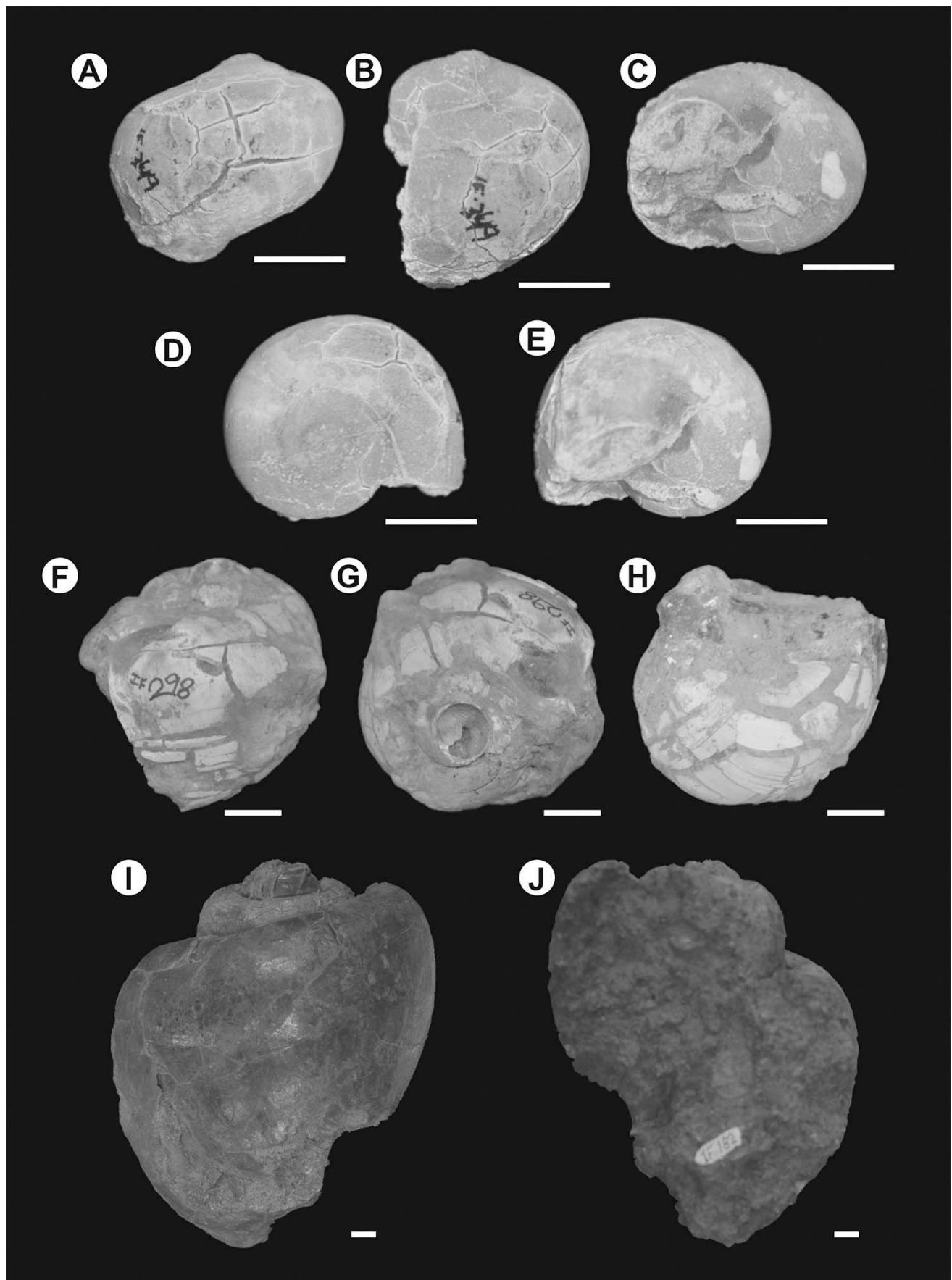


Figure 3. Miocene gastropods from the Solimões Formation, Acre Basin, Brazil. **A–E**, *Pomacea planorbula*; **F–H**, *Pomacea* sp.; **I–J**, *P. maculata*. Scale bars = 10 mm.

Aylacostoma sp.
(Figures 4A–G)

Material. IF-186, IF-187, IF-188, IF-189, IF-190, IF-191, IF-193.

Dimensions. *IF-186*: TL 18; TW 7; BWL 6; PWL 4; SL 12; SW 6. *IF-187*: TL 23; TW 9; BWL 7; PWL 4; SL 16; SW 7. *IF-188*: TL 20; TW 7; AL 5; AW 4; BWL 8; PWL 3; SL 12; SW 6. *IF-189*: TL 13; TW 7; AL 4; AW 5; BWL 7; PWL 2; SL 6; SW 5. *IF-190*: TL 12; TW 8; BWL 8; PWL 4; SL 4; SW 6. *IF-191*: TL 15; TW 7; AL 4; AW 3; BWL 7; PWL 3; SL 8; SW 5. *IF-193*: TL 14; TW 8; BWL 9; PWL 3; SL 5; SW 5.

Locality. Oriente, Purus River, Acre State, Brazil.

Description. Conical shell. The first whorls of the teleoconch are attached, with firmly printed sutures on the shell and aligned margins. The posterior region of the teleoconch has the most marked whorls, with a convex lateral curvature and with marginally marked sutures. The whorls gradually increase in length towards the aperture.

Remarks. Spix (in Wagner, 1827) described two species of *Aylacostoma*, *A. glabrum* and *A. tuberculatum*, but Wagner (1827) – who published this posthumous manuscript of Spix – changed them to *Melania scalaris* Wagner, 1827 and *Melania tuberculata* Wagner, 1827 (Cowie *et al.*, 2004). Etheridge (1879) presents species of *Melania* collected in Alto Amazonas and at Javari River, and Roxo (1924) records this genus in deposits from Alto Amazonas, also in the Javari River, in Três Unidos, and in Cachoeira das Fracoas. Santos & Castro (1967) registers *Aylacostoma* in Três Unidos. Finally, Wesselingh *et al.* (2006b) transferred all specimens referred by Roxo (1937) as *Hemisinus* to the Pachychilidae Troschel, 1857 genus *Sheppardiconcha*, based on morphological characters. Part of the material cited by Wesselingh *et al.* (2006b) as *Sheppardiconcha* is presented here as well (IF-186/IF-191) and new assignations are made.

In our opinion, the Thiaridae specimens presented here are restricted to *Aylacostoma* in its original sense, due to the characteristics of the shell, like smooth ornamentation, not strong enough to be *Sheppardiconcha*, lack of the protoconch, and sutures, features seen in all specimens presented here. The IF-186, IF-187, IF-188, IF-189, IF-190 and IF-191 specimens resemble *Aylacostoma tricarinata* Etheridge, 1879; however, they are classified here as *Aylacostoma* sp., as well as IF-193 specimen, due to the lack of good morphological characters, since all the studied individuals have abrasion marks throughout the spire and lack the protoconch. The aperture is incomplete or lost, leaving only the basal contour, making it impossible to evaluate the lips or the umbilicus.

Subcohort HYPSOGASTROPODA
Superfamily TRUNCATELLOIDEA Gray, 1840
Family COCHLIOPIDAE Tryon, 1866

Siolliella Haas, 1949

Type species. *Siolliella effusa* Haas, 1949.

Diagnosis. “Shell dextral, globose, smooth to carinate, apertural base with a kind of siphonal notch; umbilical ridge prominently developed in most species” (Wesselingh, 2000, p. 132).

Stratigraphic distribution. Miocene to Recent (Wesselingh *et al.*, 2006a).

Siolliella sp.
(Figure 4H)

Material. IF-201.

Dimensions. TL 11; TW 9; BWL 8; PWL 2; SL 3; SW 4.

Locality. Spot 04, Purus River, Acre State, Brazil.

Description. Shell thin, smooth, just over 10 mm in length, robust, and coiled. Rounded ramp and shoulder. The sutures are light and shallow. Rounded and convex whorls. Aperture not preserved.

Remarks. Cochliopidae is a diverse Truncatelloidea family on the Pebas System (Wesselingh, 2006) and was recently registered on the well 1 AS 34-AM (Guimarães *et al.*, 2018). Amazonian members of *Siolliella* were initially described as *Ebora* Conrad, 1871 (= *Eubora* Kadolsky, 1980) (Wesselingh, 2000). Haas (1949) included the species in his new genus *Siolliella*. Due to the small dimensions and the bad preservation of the shell, it is not feasible to reach a specific determination. The specimen resembles *Siolliella ovata* Wesselingh, 2000 due to the shape of the spire and the contour of the shoulder on the last whorl; but unfortunately, the aperture, which is a diagnostic character for this species, has not been preserved.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The gastropod genera and species presented herein corroborates a freshwater environment for the Acre Basin deposits and peripheral areas during the late Miocene (Santos & Castro, 1967; Vonhof *et al.*, 2003; Westaway, 2006; Latrubesse *et al.*, 2010; Cadena & Casado-Ferrer, 2019; Tcheumeleu *et al.*, 2020). It can be inferred that the Acre System (*sensu* Hoorn *et al.*, 2010) was established without major influences from brackish water.

The specimen IF-182 is classified as *Pomacea maculata*. The IF-186, IF-187, IF-188, IF-189, IF-190, and IF-191 specimens were included in *Aylacostoma* sp. modifying the prior classification done by Wesselingh *et al.* (2006b). An individual of *Siolliella* sp. was identified among the studied mollusks and represents the first record of the genus for the Acre Basin.

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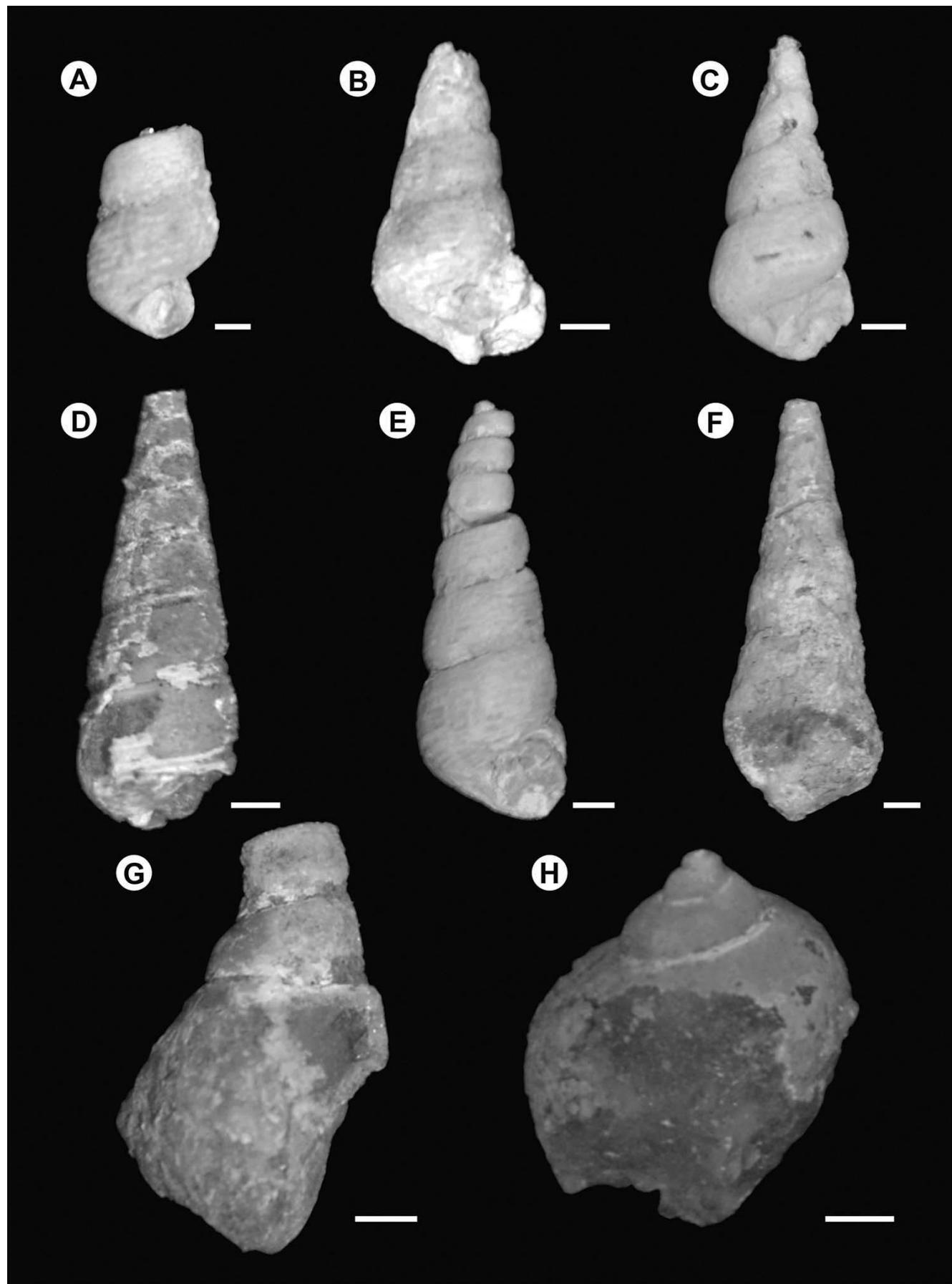


Figure 4. Miocene gastropods from the Solimões Formation, Acre Basin, Brazil. A–G, *Aylacostoma* sp.; H, *SiolIELLA* sp. Scale bars = 2 mm.

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