DIPLODON PATAGONICUS (BIVALVIA: HYRIIDAE): TO BE OR NOT TO BE

DIPLODON PATAGONICUS (BIVALVIA: HYRIIDAE): *SER O NO SER*

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RESUMEN

Se entregan antecedentes que establecen que *Diplodon patagonicus* (D'Orbigny 1835) señalado como especie presente en la región Neotropical-Patagonia por Graf & Cummins (2007) corresponde a *Diplodon chilensis patagonicus* (D'Orbigny 1846) (*sensu* Haas 1969).

PALABRAS CLAVES: *Diplodon chilensis patagonicus*, almeja de agua dulce, Taxonomía, Región Neotropical-Patagonia.

In the last years we have made efforts to elucidate aspects of Hyriidae taxonomy in Chile (Parada & Peredo 2002, 2006) and to inform the national and international scientific community with the aim to arrange the taxonomy of this group and give clearness in this respect to those interested on this topic.

The purpose of this communication is to correct a data reported in the article by Graf & Cummings (2007). The mentioned article is "Systematics and Global diversity of freshwater mussel species (Bivalvia:Unionoida)" published on Journal of Molluscan Studies 73:291-314 (2007). The article represents a significative contribution to the knowledge on the geographic distribution of the Unionoida species in the planet geographic regions. Nevertheless, the article erroneously reports about the presence of *Diplodon patagonicus* (D'Orbigny 1835) Tribe Rhipidodontini, Staborogotov, 1970 in the Neotropical-Patagonia region.

D'Orbigny (1846) describes *Unio patagonica* during his expedition to South America, from specimens collected in the bank of the Rfo Negro in the Argentinean Patagonia, being this place the type locality. The specimens are deposited according to Bonetto (1973) in the British Museum. Studies

carried out by Haas (1969) state that *Unio patagonica* (D'Orbigny 1846) is synonym of *D. chilensis* (Gray 1828). Haas (*op cit.*) determined two subspecies for *D. chilensis*: *D. ch. chilensis* which inhabits more septentrional waters from Chile and Argentina and *D. ch. patagonicus* which inhabits the southern area.

To the present, reports by Bonetto (1973) and Parada & Peredo (2002, 2006) (the second one, cited by Graff & Cumming 2007) have dilucidated the synonymy of *D. chilensis* and the nonexistence of *D. patagonicus* in Chile and Argentina in opposition to the report of Graff & Cumming (2007).

New reports on freshwater mollusc of Argentina pointed out the existence of 11 species of *Diplodon* Spix, 1827 genus. Three of them belonging to the subgenus *Rhipidodonta* and 8 to the subgenus *Diplodon*. In the latter is included *D.(D.) chilensis* and does not include *D. patagonicus* as a species present in Argentina (Rumi *et al.* 2008). In Chile, Parada & Peredo (2002) report the existence of *D. chilensis*, with 26 synonymies. Letelier & Ramos (2006) and Parada *et al.* (2007) report the present distribution range for this species from Limarí river (30°28'S; 71°05'W) to the lake Diana (51°50'13"S; 72°9'35"W), both limits corresponding to *D. chilensis chilensis*.

Respect to *D. ch. patagonicus*, Parada & Peredo (2002, 2006) report that there no records of its presence since Haas report (1969) in Chile, neither are in the Chilean Natural History Museum (Letelier & Ramos 2006).

Rumi *et al.* (2008) report the presence of *D. chilensis* in the Argentinean areas of Mendoza, Neuquén, Río Negro and Chubut, but do not report subspecies. From afore mentioned, it can be concluded that *D. patagonicus* does not constitute a species, but a subspecies of *D. chilensis* (Gray 1828) even though there are no reports of it since the last decades.

ACKNOELEDGMENTS

Thanks are due to Dirección General de Investigación y Postgrado from UCT for financial support which has allowed to gain knowledge on Hyriidae.

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Recibido: 15.08.08
Aceptado:08.10.08