

New taxonomical and biological observations on *Jujubinus seguenzae* (Gastropoda: Vetigastropoda: Trochidae)

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The family Trochidae, commonly known as top-snails or top-shells, has recently received a lot of attention, especially the representatives of the genus *Jujubinus*. Eighteen extant taxa of this genus occur in the Mediterranean. It is however still unclear whether some of these should be classified as separate species or subspecies. *Jujubinus seguenzae* Ghisotti & Melone, 1975 is among the taxa of uncertain classification. This taxon is endemic to the Strait of Messina, where it is likely to inhabit shallow waters, although only one living specimen has been documented. This species is currently considered a *nomen dubium* due to the scant information available in the literature and its morphological resemblance to *J. striatus* (L., 1758). Photographs of the type material of this latter species, in the Linnean collection, were examined. Although it was clear that this taxon includes more than one single species, none was attributable to *J. seguenzae*.

The study of numerous shells from private collections and the discovery of new material, amongst which was a single living specimen identifiable as *J. seguenzae* collected few kilometers South of the localities from which the species was previously known, was crucial to conduct a more accurate morphological study. Characteristics such as the protoconch shape, sculpturing and the anatomy and colour patterns of the external soft parts were noted. These results provided additional data on the geographical range of the species and its taxonomic status. Comparisons with shell and soft parts of congeners were also carried out. In particular, differences between *J. seguenzae* and the main ‘morphs’ of *J. striatus* were noted and the possibility that the latter taxon is re-defined on the basis of the original material will be discussed in this communication.

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