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## A benthic mollusks checklist from laguna Cuyutlán, Colima, Mexico

### Listado de moluscos bénticos de la laguna de Cuyutlán, Colima, México

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**Abstract.** A malacological list of Laguna Cuyutlán in the state of Colima, Mexico and its surrounding area is provided. The list includes all species collected during the spring and fall of 1986. Inside the lagoon 54 species that belong to 38 genera, 26 families, and two classes were identified. In the sea surrounding the lagoon, 70 species were found that belong to 52 genera, 32 families, and 3 classes. The maximum number of species was found in the adjacent marine zone. In the surrounding sea, were found Gastropoda, Pelecypoda, and Scaphopoda classes. Inside the lagoon only Gastropoda and Pelecypoda classes were found.

**Key words:** Benthic mollusks, Laguna Cuyutlán Colima, Marine Ecology.

**Resumen.** En este trabajo se proporciona la lista malacológica de la Laguna de Cuyutlán, Colima, México y zona marina adyacente. La lista incluye las especies recolectadas durante las estaciones de primavera y otoño de 1986. En la laguna se identificaron 54 especies, pertenecientes a 2 Clases, 26 familias y 38 géneros. En el mar se encontraron 70 especies, pertenecientes a 3 Clases, 32 familias y 52 géneros. El mayor número de especies se presentó en la zona marina adyacente. En donde fueron encontradas las clases Gastropoda, Pelecypoda, y Scaphopoda. Dentro de la Laguna, solamente las clases Gastropoda y Pelecypoda, fueron halladas.

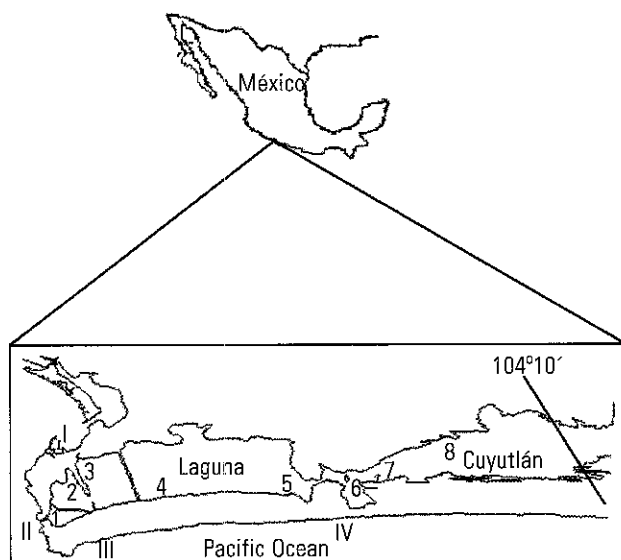
**Palabras clave:** Moluscos bénticos, laguna Cuyutlán, Colima, ecología marina.

It is well known that coastal lagoon contain considerable fishery resources (Hildebrand, 1946; Günther, 1969; Stuardo and Villarroel, 1976). For this reason, benthic resources, such as mollusks, are one of the most important groups to be surveyed prior to any proposal for a rational management inside lagoons (Yañez-Arancibia and Nugent, 1975).

The sessile characteristics of the benthic communities and its resilience cause such communities to be good ecological indicators of potential modifications by external influences. Benthic organisms are usually selected for this kind of studies because of their abundance, diversity, and trophic importance (Cobo, 1978).

Taxonomic lists are an important perspective on the biodiversity composition of a specific area. Taxonomic lists show a primary element for environmental assessments, as well as the basis for studies addressing the requirement of establishing rules for the rational use of natural resources (Cruz-Agüero, *et al.*, 1994).

There are very few studies on Laguna Cuyutlán (Cobo, 1978; Treviño and González, 1984; Ascencio, 1985). There is no study dealing with the Cuyutlán benthic communities, and there is not any taxonomic list of mollusks. For this reason, the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México developed an environmental impact assessment study in the Laguna Cuyutlán in 1986.



1. Location of the sampling zone and sampling locations in Laguna Cuyutlán, Colima, Mexico. Lagoon stations (arabic numbers, 1-8). Sea stations (roman numbers, I-IV).

During this study, samples were taken from the benthic part of the lagoon and surrounding areas. The malacological list of the lagoon and marine environments are presented here.

Laguna Cuyutlán, situation is along the Pacific coast of the state of Colima, Mexico, between 18°56' and 19°03' N and 104°00' and 104°19' W. The lagoon is part of a coastal lowland between Bahía Manzanillo and Río Armería. The lagoon area is 7, 200 ha (Contreras, 1985; Fig. 1). Inside the lagoon, were established 8 sampling locations and 4 were established in the surrounding sea (Fig. 1). Sampling locations were selected where potential damages produced by proposed hydraulic activities in the lagoon. Two boats were used for sampling. Inside the lagoon, a 3-m flat-bottomed boat with a 7-hp motor was used. In the sea, a 7-m boat was used, with two 135-hp motors.

A "Van Veen" 1-l dredge was used for sampling. From each sampling location, were obtained 3-l samples, because, as a point study, this quantity is enough to determine the specific richness (Soto, pers. com.). Sampled material was placed in plastic bags. After each sample was sifted with a 0.5-mm sieve to separate the mollusks. Organisms were placed in glass jars filled with 10% formaldehyde. Each organism was identified and quantified in the laboratory with a stereoscopic microscope. For taxonomic identification, specimens were compared with photographs and schemes contained in the following books: Morris (1966), Keen (1971), Keen and Coan (1974), Abbott (1974), Lindner (1983), and Fisher *et al.* (1995). Shells were for the identification to the species level, when possible. The reference collection of this sampling has been deposited in the Instituto de Ingeniería, U.N.A.M.

For the inner part of the lagoon, were identified 54 species, belonging to 2 classes, 26 families, and 38 genera (Table 1). In the sea, were found 70 species that belong to 3 classes, 32 families, and 52 genera (Table 2). *Acteocina smirna* (Dall, 1919), *A. angustior*

Table 1. List of species found inside the lagoon.

PHYLUM MOLLUSCA	FAMILY ASSIMINEIDAE
CLASS PELECYPODA	<i>Assiminea californica</i> (Tryon, 1865)
SUBCLASS PALAEOGASTROPODA	<i>Assiminea</i> sp. 1
ORDER NUCULOIDA	FAMILY CAECIDAE
FAMILY NUCULIDAE	<i>Elephantulum insculptum</i> (Carpenter, 1857)
<i>Nucula chrysocome</i> (Dall, 1908)	<i>Elephantulum heptagonum</i> (Carpenter, 1857)
SUBCLASS PTERIOMORPHIA	FAMILY TURRITELLIDAE
ORDER ARCOIDA	Subfamilia Turritellinae
FAMILY ARCIDAE	<i>Turritella</i> sp. 1
Subfamilia Arcinae	FAMILY EPITONIIDAE
<i>Acar</i> sp. 1	<i>Acirsa menesthoides</i> (Carpenter, 1864)
ORDER MYTILOIDA	<i>Epitonium emydonesus</i> (Dall, 1919)
FAMILY MYTILIDAE	FAMILY NATICIDAE
Subfamilia Mytilinae	<i>Polinices</i> sp. 1
<i>Mytella strigata</i> (Hanley, 1843)	<i>Natica unifasciata</i> (Lamarck, 1822)
SUBCLASS HETERODONTA	FAMILY CYMATIIDAE
ORDER VENEROIDA	<i>Cymatium weigmanni</i> (Anton, 1839)
FAMILY VENERIDAE	FAMILY CAPULIDAE
Subfamilia Chioninae	<i>Capulus sericeus</i> (J. y R. Burch, 1961)
<i>Protothaca metodon</i> (Pilsbry y Lowe, 1932)	FAMILY CERITHIIDAE
<i>Chione squamosa</i> (Carpenter, 1857)	Subfamilia Cerithiopsinae
<i>Chione</i> sp. 1	<i>Cerithiopsis halia</i> (Bartsch, 1911)
Subfamilia Meretricinae	<i>Bittium</i> sp. 1
<i>Tivela</i> sp. 1	Subfamilia Cerithiopsis
Subfamilia Venerinae	<i>Alabina effusa</i> (Carpenter, 1857)
<i>Ventricolaria isocardia</i> (Verrill, 1870)	FAMILY POTAMIIDAE
<i>Ventricolaria</i> sp. 1	<i>Cerithidea albonodosa</i> (Gould y Carpenter, 1857)
<i>Ventricolaria</i> sp. 2	ORDER NEOGASTROPODA
FAMILY PETRICOLIDAE	FAMILY COLUMBELLIDAE
<i>Petricola</i> sp. 1	<i>Anachis rugosa</i> (Sowerby, 1832)
FAMILY SOLECURTIDAE	<i>Anachis nigrofusca</i> (Carpenter, 1852)
<i>Tagelus longisinuatus</i> (Pilsbry y Lowe, 1932)	<i>Cosmoconcha rehderi</i> (Hertlein y Strong, 1951)
<i>Tagelus peruvianus</i> (Pilsbry y Olsson, 1941)	FAMILY TURRIDAE
FAMILY TELLINIDAE	Subfamilia Crassispirinae
<i>Tellina simulans</i> (C.B. Adams, 1852)	<i>Crassispira</i> sp. 1
<i>Tellina pristiphora</i> (Dall, 1900)	ORDER ENTOMOTAENIATA
<i>Tellina</i> sp. 1	FAMILY PYRAMIDELLIDAE
FAMILY CARDIIDAE	<i>Odostomia convexa</i> (Carpenter, 1857)
<i>Fragum fragum</i> (Rodan, 1798)	<i>Odostomia</i> sp. 1
FAMILY CHAMIDAE	<i>Turbonilla sanctorum</i> (Dall y Bartsch, 1909)
<i>Chama corallina</i> (Olsson, 1971)	<i>Turbonilla nicholsi</i> (Dall y Bartsch, 1909)
CLASS GASTROPODA	ORDER CEPHALASPIDEA
SUBCLASS PROSOBRANCHIA	FAMILY SCAPHANDRIDAE
ORDER ARCHEOGASTROPODA	<i>Acteocina smirna</i> (Dall, 1919)
FAMILY PHENACOLEPADIDAE	<i>Acteocina carinata</i> (Carpenter, 1857)
<i>Phenacolepas osculans</i> (C.B. Adams, 1852)	<i>Acteocina angustior</i> (Baker y Hanna, 1927)
FAMILY NERITIDAE	<i>Acteocina infrequens</i> (C.B. Adams, 1852)
<i>Neritina latissima</i> (Broderip, 1833)	<i>Acteocina</i> sp. 1
<i>Nerita</i> sp. 1	<i>Cylindrina inca</i> (Dall, 1908)
ORDER MESOGASTROPODA	FAMILY ATYIDAE
FAMILY RISSOELLIDAE	<i>Atys chimera</i> (Baker y Hanna, 1927)
<i>Rissoella bifasciata</i> (Carpenter, 1857)	<i>Haminoea angelensis</i> (Baker y Hanna, 1927)
<i>Rissoella</i> sp. 1	

Table 2. List of species found in the surrounding sea area.

PHYLUM MOLLUSCA	-FAMILY LUCINIDAE	-FAMILY VITRINELLIDAE
CLASS PELECYPODA	Subfamily Lucininae	Subfamily Vitrinellinae
SUBCLASS PTERIOMORPHIA	<i>Ctena clarionensis</i> (Hertlein y Strong, 1946)	<i>Parviturboides monile</i> (Carpenter, 1857)
ORDER ARCOIDA	ORDER MYOIDA	FAMILY FICIDAE
FAMILY ARCIDAE	SUBORDER MYINA	<i>Ficus ventricosa</i> (Sowerby, 1825)
Subfamily Arcinae	FAMILY CORBULIDAE	ORDER NEOGASTROPODA
<i>Anadara</i> sp. 1	<i>Corbula</i> sp. 1	FAMILY COLUMBELLIDAE
ORDER MYTILOIDA	CLASS SCAPHOPODA	<i>Anachis rugosa</i> (Sowerby, 18320)
SUPERFAMILY MYTILACEA	ORDEN DENTALIOIDA	<i>Anachis</i> sp. 1
FAMILY MYTILIDAE	FAMILY DENTALLIDAE	<i>Mitrella harfordi</i> (Strong y Hertlein, 1937)
Subfamily Mytilinae	<i>Dentallium agassizi</i> (Pilsbry y Sharp, 1897)	FAMILY BUCCINIDAE
<i>Mytella strigata</i> (Hanley, 1843)	<i>Dentallium hancocki</i> (Emerson, 1956)	<i>Cantharus berryi</i> (McLean, 1970)
<i>Brachidontes</i> sp. 1	CLASS GASTROPODA	FAMILY NASSARIIDAE
<i>Chromytilus palliopunctatus</i> (Carpenter, 1857)	SUBCLASS PROSOBRANCHIA	<i>Nassarius</i> sp. 1
ORDER PTERIOIDA	ORDEN ARCHAEOGASTROPODA	FAMILY MITRIDAE
FAMILY PECTINIDAE	FAMILY FISSURELLIDAE	Subfamily Imbricariinae
<i>Argopecten circularis</i> (Sowerby, 1835)	Subfamily Fissurellidinae	<i>Subcancilla</i> sp. 1
SUBCLASS HETERODONTA	<i>Diodora pusilla</i> (Berry, 1959)	Subfamily Vexillinae
ORDER VENEROIDA	<i>Diodora</i> sp. 1	<i>Thala gratiosa</i> (Reeve, 1845)
FAMILY VENERIDAE	FAMILY ACMAEIDAE	FAMILY TEREBRIDAE
Subfamily Chioninae	<i>Notoacmea fascicularis</i> (Menke, 1851)	<i>Terebra brandi</i> (Bratcher y Burch, 1970)
<i>Protothaca asperrima</i> (Sowerby, 1835)	<i>Acmaea</i> sp. 1	<i>Terebra bridgesi</i> (Dall, 1908)
Subfamily Meretricinae	ORDER MESOGASTROPODA	<i>Terebra</i> sp. 1
<i>Tivela</i> sp. 1	FAMILY ASSIMINEIDAE	FAMILY TURRIDAE
Subfamily Chioninae	<i>Assimineea californica</i> (Tryon, 1865)	Subfamily Borsoniinae
<i>Chione subimbricata</i> (Sowerby, 1835)	FAMILY CAECIDAE	<i>Borsonella</i> sp. 1
<i>Chione squamosa</i> (Carpenter, 1857)	<i>Elephantulum insculptum</i> (Carpenter, 1857)	Subfamily Crassispirinae
Subfamily Venerinae	<i>Caecum</i> sp. 1	<i>Crassispira</i> sp. 1
<i>Ventricolaria</i> sp. 1	<i>Fartulum bakeri</i> (Bartsch, 1920)	SUBCLASS OPISTHOBRANCHIA
<i>Ventricolaria</i> sp. 2	FAMILY EPITONIIDAE	ORDER ENTOMOTAENIATA
FAMILY DONACIDAE	<i>Epitonium tinctorium</i> (Dall, 1919)	FAMILY PYRAMIDELLIDAE
<i>Donax</i> sp. 1	<i>Epitonium willetti</i> (Strong y Hertlein, 1937)	<i>Odostomia</i> sp. 1
Subfamily Pitarinae	<i>Epitonium oerstedianum</i> (Hertlein y Strong, 1951)	<i>Turbonilla sanctorum</i> (Dall y Bartsch, 1909)
<i>Pitar alternatus</i> (Broderip, 1835)	<i>Epitonium</i> sp. 1	<i>Turbonilla</i> sp. 1
<i>Pitar</i> sp. 1	FAMILY NATICIDAE	ORDER CEPHALASPIDEA
FAMILY SOLECURTIDAE	<i>Natica colima</i> (Strong y Hertlein, 1937)	FAMILY SCAPHANDRIDAE
<i>Tagelus longisinuatus</i> (Pilsbry y Lowe, 1932)	<i>Natica</i> sp. 1	<i>Acteocina smirna</i> (Dall, 1919)
<i>Tagelus</i> sp. 1	FAMILY CALYPTRAEIDAE	<i>Acteocina angustior</i> (Baker y Hanna, 1927)
FAMILY TELLINIDAE	<i>Crepidula</i> sp. 1	FAMILY ATYIDAE
<i>Tellina</i> sp. 1	<i>Crucibulum</i> sp. 1	<i>Haminoea</i> sp. 1
<i>Strigilla</i> sp. 1	<i>Calyptraea</i> sp. 1	FAMILY BULLIDAE
FAMILY CARDIIDAE	FAMILY CERITHIIDAE	<i>Bulla</i> sp. 1
<i>Fragum thurstoni</i> (Rodan, 1798)	Subfamily Cerithiopsinae	FAMILY ACTEONIDAE
<i>Fragum</i> sp. 1	<i>Seila assimilata</i> (C.B. Adams, 1852)	<i>Acteon</i> sp. 1
Subfamily Laevicardiinae	Subfamily Triphorinae	CLASS SCAPHOPODA
<i>Laevicardium elenenses</i> (Sowerby, 1840)	<i>Triphora hannai</i> (Baker, 1926)	ORDEN DENTALIOIDA
Subfamily Trachycardiinae	Subfamily Cerithiopsinae	FAMILY DENTALLIDAE
<i>Trachycardium senticosum</i> (Sowerby, 1833)	<i>Alabina effusa</i> (Carpenter, 1857)	<i>Dentallium agassizi</i> (Pilsbry y Sharp, 1897)
<i>Trachycardium</i> sp. 1	<i>Alabina</i> sp. 1	<i>Dentallium hancocki</i> (Emerson, 1956)

(Baker and Hanna, 1927), *Assimineia californica* (Tryon, 1865), *Elephantulum insculptum* (Carpenter, 1857), *Alabina effusa* (Carpenter, 1852), *Mytella strigata* (Hanley, 1843), *Chione squamosa* (Carpenter, 1857) and *Tagelus longisinuatus* (Pilsbry and Looma, 1932) were species founded inside and outside the lagoon.

Mexico is a country, with a high biodiversity richness in plant and animal species because of an overlap of the Nearctic and Neotropical biogeographic regions (Wilson, 1988; Reguero-Reza and García-Cubas, 1993). Mexico is one of the five nations with the greatest species richness (Navarro and Llorente, 1991; Reguero-Reza and García Cubas, 1993).

Results from the sampling project confirm such a great species richness in both marine and lagoon environments (Morris, 1966; Keen, 1971; Keen and Coan, 1974; Abbott, 1974; Lindner, 1993). However, neritic species are more abundant in the surrounding sea than inside the lagoon, not only in species, but also in classes Gastropoda, Pelecypoda, and Scaphopoda. Inside the lagoon, only were found Gastropoda and Pelecypoda classes. According to Morton (1971), the mollusks group can be defined as a *phylum* characterized with great diversity and adaptative plasticity (Reguero-Reza and García-Cubas, 1993).

Of the species found in the lagoon and the sea, the only marine-euryhaline species is *Tagelus longisinuatus*. However, Stuardo and Villarroel (1976) report such species as endemic inhabitants of estuaries, inlets, and coastal lagoons. It is more appropriate to include such species in the estuarine component. Stuardo and Villarroel (1976) consider *Mytella strigata* exclusively as part of the estuarine component. However, *M. strigata* was found inside and outside the lagoon.

The results of this study will be a key element for future environmental impact assessments prepared for this region.

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