



## Due South: The evolutionary history of Sub-Antarctic and Antarctic Tritoniidae nudibranchs

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### ABSTRACT

The Tritoniidae provides one of the most famous model species for neurophysiology and behaviour, yet a well-developed phylogenetic framework for this family is still incomplete. In this study, we explored the species-level taxonomy, phylogenetic relationships, and geographic distributions of the tritoniid nudibranchs. During numerous expeditions, specimens from southern South America, Sub-Antarctic Islands, and Antarctica were collected, documented alive, and fixed for anatomical descriptions and genetic sequencing. DNA from 167 specimens were extracted and sequenced for mitochondrial (COI, 16S) and nuclear (H3) markers. An additional 109 sequences of all available tritoniids plus additional outgroups were downloaded from GenBank for comparative purposes. Maximum Likelihood under the GHOST model of evolution and Bayesian inference using the GTR + GAMMA model produced congruent topologies from concatenated alignments. The results of ABGD, GMYC, bPTP, and mPTP species delimitation analyses suggest many separately evolving units that do not coincide with traditionally recognized species limits. Southern Ocean *Tritoniella* and *Tritonia* species split into several previously unrecognized species. This result is in accordance with the limited dispersal abilities of some southern tritoniids. Along with the most complete phylogeny of Tritoniidae to date, we also provided many taxonomic notes at the species and genus level. Tritoniidae species are yet another example of under-recognized diversity in the Southern Ocean.

### 1. Introduction

The family of marine slugs Tritoniidae Lamarck, 1809 received its name from Greek mythology, where Triton was the God of the sea. With over 80 species described (WoRMS Editorial Board, 2020), these nudibranchs are found in all oceans from shallow to deep-sea waters. One of its key species is *Tritonia diomedea* Bergh, 1894, currently accepted as *T. tetraquetra* (Pallas, 1788), a well-known model in neurophysiology and behavioural studies (e.g., Willows, 1976). Still, scarce phylogenetic hypotheses on this iconic family hamper our understanding of comparative biology, with molecular data on many representatives missing; this is especially true for the Southern Hemisphere (e.g., Schrödl, 2009) and Indo-Pacific regions (e.g., Gosliner et al., 2018).

Preliminary phylogenies on Tritoniidae identified the presence of polyphyletic genera although these studies lacked comprehensive taxon sampling (Hulett et al., 2015; Valdés et al., 2018). This has recently been confirmed by Korshunova & Martynov (2020). Among the valid genera in the family, molecular data is now available for the most common and widespread genera *Duvaucelia* Risso, 1826, *Marionia* Vayssière, 1877, *Tritonia* Cuvier, 1798, *Tritonicula* Korshunova & Martynov, 2020, and *Tritoniopsis* Eliot, 1905, although little is available from the low diversity genera *Marianina* Pruvot-Fol, 1931, commonly found in the tropical Indo-West Pacific (Gosliner et al., 2018), *Tochuina* Odhner, 1963, a widespread boreal taxon (Behrens and Hermosillo, 2005), and *Tritoniella* Eliot, 1907, endemic to the Southern Ocean (Wägele, 1989a). For two other elusive and monotypic genera, i.e. *Paratritonia* Baba, 1949, and

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**Table 1**  
Species sequenced including voucher numbers, sampling details, and GenBank accession numbers.

| Species                    | Voucher number        | Locality   | Collection date | Collecting gear | Lat_Lon                 | Depth (m) | COI      | 16S      | H3       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <i>Marionia cucullata</i>  | ZSM20141000           | Brazil: Rio de Janeiro, Baía de Guanabara          | 2-may.-07       | Bottom trawl    | 22.812697 S 43.153634 W | 10        | MW444217 | MW444395 | MW453540 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M12579A       | Antarctica: South Georgia                          | 25-sep.-11      | Blake trawl     | 53.892315 S 39.19146 W  | 310       | MW444218 | MW444396 | MW453541 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M12579B       | Antarctica: South Georgia                          | 25-sep.-11      | Blake trawl     | 53.892315 S 39.19146 W  | 310       | MW444219 | MW444397 | MW453542 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M12580        | Antarctica: Shag Rocks                             | 22-sep.-11      | Blake trawl     | 53.42398 S 42.017738 W  | 160       | MW444220 | MW444398 | MW453543 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M12581A       | Antarctica: Antarctic Peninsula, Bransfield Strait | 25-oct.-11      | Blake trawl     | 63.322833 S 59.851052 W | 199       | MW444221 | MW444399 | MW453544 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M12581C       | Antarctica: Antarctic Peninsula, Bransfield Strait | 25-oct.-11      | Blake trawl     | 63.322833 S 59.851052 W | 199       | MW444222 | MW444400 | MW453545 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M12585A       | Antarctica: South Sandwich                         | 4-oct.-11       | Blake trawl     | 56.70875 S 27.04858 W   | 116       | MW444223 | MW444401 | MW453546 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M12585B       | Antarctica: South Sandwich                         | 4-oct.-11       | Blake trawl     | 56.70875 S 27.04858 W   | 116       | MW444224 | MW444402 | MW453547 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M12592        | Antarctica: South Shetland Islands                 | 27-oct.-11      | Blake trawl     | 62.355853 S 60.730602 W | 165       | MW444225 | MW444403 | MW453548 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M12603        | Antarctica: Antarctic Peninsula, Bransfield Strait | 24-sep.-11      | Blake trawl     | 62.752845 S 57.321675 W | 292       | MW444226 | MW444404 | MW453549 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M12605        | Antarctica: Shag Rocks                             | 24-sep.-11      | Blake trawl     | 53.534252 S 41.633907 W | 133       | MW444227 | MW444405 | MW453550 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M12607        | Antarctica: Shag Rocks                             | 24-sep.-11      | Blake trawl     | 53.7211 S 41.462667 W   | 180       | MW444228 | MW444406 | MW453551 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M12611        | Antarctica: South Georgia                          | 29-sep.-11      | Blake trawl     | 55.038813 S 35.44801 W  | 125       | MW444229 | MW444407 | MW453552 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M12614        | Antarctica: Elephant Island                        | 22-oct.-11      | Blake trawl     | 61.160927 S 54.212093 W | 247       | MW444230 | MW444408 | MW453553 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M12618A       | Antarctica: Shag Rocks                             | 22-sep.-11      | Blake trawl     | 53.42398 S 42.017738 W  | 160       | MW444231 | MW444409 | MW453554 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M12618C       | Antarctica: Shag Rocks                             | 22-sep.-11      | Blake trawl     | 53.42398 S 42.017738 W  | 160       | MW444232 | MW444410 | MW453555 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M12637        | Antarctica: Discovery Bank                         | 14-oct.-11      | Blake trawl     | 60.124038 S 34.900757 W | 391       | MW444233 | MW444411 | MW453556 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M12938A       | Antarctica: Shag Rocks                             | 24-sep.-11      | Blake trawl     | 53.724733 S 41.462667 W | 180       | –        | MW444412 | MW453557 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M12938B       | Antarctica: Shag Rocks                             | 24-sep.-11      | Blake trawl     | 53.724733 S 41.462667 W | 180       | –        | MW444413 | MW453558 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M12956        | Antarctica: South Georgia                          | 25-sep.-11      | Blake trawl     | 53.938103 S 39.200615 W | 275       | –        | MW444414 | MW453559 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M13056        | Antarctica: Elephant Island                        | 19-mar.-12      | Blake trawl     | 61.334333 S 55.527333 W | 149       | MW444234 | MW444415 | MW453560 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M13481A       | Antarctica: Shag Rocks                             | 23-sep.-11      | Blake trawl     | 53.45317 S 42.057903 W  | 186       | MW444235 | MW444416 | MW453561 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M13481B       | Antarctica: Shag Rocks                             | 23-sep.-11      | Blake trawl     | 53.45317 S 42.057903 W  | 186       | MW444236 | MW444417 | MW453562 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M13806        | Antarctica: Discovery Bank                         | 15-oct.-11      | Blake trawl     | 60.125 S 34.895 W       | 402       | MW444237 | MW444418 | MW453563 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M12220 (NW26) | Antarctica: South Orkney Islands                   | 22-feb.-09      | Bottom trawl    | 61.20975 S 45.94017 W   | 240       | –        | MW546273 | MW544053 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | YPM IZ 070059 (NW27)  | Antarctica: South Orkney Islands                   | 9-feb.-09       | Bottom trawl    | 60.400807 S 46.646184 W | 140–153   | MW535727 | MW546274 | MW544054 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | YPM IZ 047930 (NW29)  | Antarctica: South Orkney Islands                   | 17-feb.-09      | Bottom trawl    | 60.791611 S 44.455300 W | 169–174   | MW535728 | MW546275 | MW544055 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M12219 (NW32) | Antarctica: South Orkney Islands                   | 22-feb.-09      | Bottom trawl    | 61.20975 S 45.94017 W   | 240       | –        | MW546276 | MW544056 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC M12218 (NW33) | Antarctica: South Orkney Islands                   | 22-feb.-09      | Bottom trawl    | 61.20975 S 45.94017 W   | 240       | MW535729 | MW546277 | MW544057 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC SG-4B-12      | Antarctica: South Georgia                          | 17-apr.-13      | Blake trawl     | 53.676833 S 37.246117 W | 137       | MW444238 | MW444419 | MW453564 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC SG5-13        | Antarctica: South Georgia                          | 18-apr.-13      | Blake trawl     | 54.289417 S 37.9168 W   | 170       | MW444239 | MW444420 | MW453565 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SIO-BIC SG5-14        | Antarctica: South Georgia                          | 18-apr.-13      | Blake trawl     | 54.2968 S 37.9045 W     | 157       | MW444240 | MW444421 | MW453566 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | SR-4-19               | Antarctica: Shag Rocks                             | 19-apr.-13      | Blake trawl     | 53.560867 S 41.65425 W  | 129       | MW444241 | MW444422 | MW453567 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | ZSM20012171           | Antarctica: Weddell Sea, Kapp Norvegia             | 6-apr.-00       | n.a.            | 71.125 S 11.463333 W    | 62        | MW444242 | MW444423 | MW453568 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | ZSM20012236           | Antarctica: Weddell Sea, Kapp Norvegia             | 6-apr.-00       | n.a.            | 71.125 S 11.463333 W    | 62        | MW444243 | MW444424 | MW453569 |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i> | ZSM20020876           | Antarctica: N Antarctic Peninsula                  | 16-jul.-02      | n.a.            |                         | 301       | MW444244 | MW444425 | MW453570 |

(continued on next page)

Table 1 (continued)

| Species                        | Voucher number | Locality                                       | Collection date | Collecting gear | Lat_Lon                 | Depth (m) | COI      | 16S      | H3       |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                                |                |  |                 |                 | 62.712333 S 55.369667 W |           |          |          |          |
| <i>Tritonia antarctica</i>     | ZSM20021038    | Antarctica: South Orkney Islands               | 1-aug.-02       | Agassiz trawl   | 60.9865 S 43.457001 W   | 402       | MW444245 | MW444426 | MW453571 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20050396    | Chile: Los Lagos, Huinay                       | 17-feb.-05      | SCUBA           | 42.379574 S 72.415795 W | 30        | MW444246 | MW444427 | MW453572 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20050582    | Chile: Los Lagos, Huinay                       | 17-feb.-05      | SCUBA           | 42.379574 S 72.415795 W | 30        | MW444247 | MW444428 | MW453573 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20060871    | Chile: Aysén, Farquhar Channel                 | 13-jun.-06      | SCUBA           | 48.577 S 74.3656 W      | 6         | MW444248 | MW444429 | MW453574 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20060918    | Chile: Aysén, Melinka                          | 13-jun.-06      | SCUBA           | 43.935001 S 73.818336 W | 30        | MW444249 | MW444430 | MW453575 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20061113    | Chile: Aysén, Messier Channel                  | 15-mar.-06      | SCUBA           | 47.979168 S 74.679726 W | 20        | MW444250 | MW444431 | MW453576 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20070360    | Chile: Magallanes, Channel Passage             | 29-mar.-07      | SCUBA           | 50.463612 S 75.128334 W | 10        | MW444251 | MW444432 | MW453577 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20070378    | Chile: Aysén, Fallos Channel, Bahía sin nombre | 14-mar.-06      | SCUBA           | 48.462502 S 75.051941 W | 10        | –        | MW444433 | MW453578 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20070446    | Chile: Los Lagos, Huinay                       | 2-mar.-07       | SCUBA           | 42.379574 S 72.415795 W | 18        | MW444252 | MW444434 | MW453579 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20080808    | Chile: Puerto Cisnes, Isla Faro                | 18-dec.-08      | SCUBA           | 44.696111 S 72.698889 W | 7         | MW444253 | MW444435 | MW453580 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-1  | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island             | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444254 | MW444436 | MW453581 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-3  | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island             | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444255 | MW444437 | MW453582 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-4  | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island             | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444256 | MW444438 | MW453583 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-5  | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island             | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444257 | MW444439 | MW453584 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-6  | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island             | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444258 | MW444440 | MW453585 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-7  | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island             | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444259 | MW444441 | MW453586 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-8  | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island             | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444260 | MW444442 | MW453587 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-9  | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island             | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444261 | MW444443 | MW453588 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-10 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island             | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444262 | MW444444 | MW453589 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-11 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island             | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444263 | MW444445 | MW453590 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-12 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island             | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444264 | MW444446 | MW453591 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-13 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island             | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444265 | MW444447 | MW453592 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-14 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island             | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444266 | MW444448 | MW453593 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-15 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island             | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444267 | MW444449 | MW453594 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-16 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island             | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444268 | MW444450 | MW453595 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-17 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island             | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444269 | MW444451 | MW453596 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-18 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island             | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444270 | MW444452 | MW453597 |

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Table 1 (continued)

| Species                        | Voucher number | Locality   | Collection date | Collecting gear | Lat_Lon                 | Depth (m) | COI      | 16S      | H3       |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-19 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island                           | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444271 | MW444453 | MW453598 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-20 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island                           | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444272 | MW444454 | MW453599 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-21 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island                           | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444273 | MW444455 | MW453600 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-22 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island                           | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444274 | MW444456 | MW453601 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-23 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island                           | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444275 | MW444457 | MW453602 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-24 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island                           | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444276 | MW444458 | MW453603 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-25 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island                           | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444277 | MW444459 | MW453604 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-26 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island                           | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444278 | MW444460 | MW453605 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-27 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island                           | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444279 | MW444461 | MW453606 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-28 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island                           | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444280 | MW444462 | MW453607 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-29 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island                           | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444281 | MW444463 | MW453608 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-30 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island                           | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444282 | MW444464 | MW453609 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-31 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island                           | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444283 | MW444465 | MW453610 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-32 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island                           | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444284 | MW444466 | MW453611 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-33 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island                           | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444285 | MW444467 | MW453612 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-34 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island                           | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444286 | MW444468 | MW453613 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090429-35 | Chile: Los Lagos, Lilihuapi Island                           | 23-jun.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.158697 S 72.59704 W  | 6         | MW444287 | MW444469 | MW453614 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090525    | Chile: Aysén, Melinka  | 13-jun.-06      | SCUBA           | 43.935001 S 73.818336 W | 30        | MW444288 | MW444470 | MW453615 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20090569    | Chile: Los Lagos, Cahuelmo, Huinay                           | 28-feb.-09      | SCUBA           | 42.3473 S 72.455481 W   | 30        | MW444289 | MW444471 | MW453616 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20110264    | Argentina: Tierra del Fuego, Beagle Channel, Islotes Gemelos | 16-jun.-11      | SCUBA           | 54.919417 S 67.363083 W | 22        | MW444290 | MW444472 | MW453617 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20110267    | Argentina: Tierra del Fuego, Beagle Channel, Islotes Gemelos | 17-jun.-11      | SCUBA           | 54.919417 S 67.363083 W | 13        | MW444291 | MW444473 | MW453618 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20110430    | Chile: Los Lagos, Caleta Gonzalo                             | 5-jul.-11       | SCUBA           | 42.546111 S 72.616944 W | 20        | MW444292 | MW444474 | MW453619 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20130448    | Chile: Magallanes, Fuerte Bulnes                             | 23-jan.-14      | SCUBA           | 53.65 S 70.933333 W     | 18        | MW444293 | –        | MW453620 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20130449    | Chile: Magallanes, Fuerte Bulnes                             | 23-jan.-14      | SCUBA           | 53.65 S 70.933333 W     | 18        | MW444294 | MW444475 | MW453621 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20130450    | Chile: Magallanes, Fuerte Bulnes                             | 23-jan.-14      | SCUBA           | 53.65 S 70.933333 W     | 18        | –        | MW444476 | MW453622 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20130451    | Chile: Magallanes, Fuerte Bulnes                             | 23-jan.-14      | SCUBA           | 53.65 S 70.933333 W     | 18        | MW444295 | MW444477 | MW453623 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20130453    | Chile: Magallanes, Fuerte Bulnes                             | 23-jan.-14      | SCUBA           | 53.65 S 70.933333 W     | 18        | –        | –        | MW453624 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20130479    | Chile: Magallanes, Corbeta Island                            | 23-jan.-14      | SCUBA           |                         | 16        | MW444296 | MW444478 | MW453625 |

(continued on next page)

Table 1 (continued)

| Species                        | Voucher number  | Locality                              | Collection date | Collecting gear | Lat_Lon                 | Depth (m) | COI      | 16S      | H3       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> |                 |                                       |                 |                 | 50.356302 S 75.333525 W |           |          |          |          |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20130480     | Chile: Magallanes, Cono Guarello      | 23-jan.-14      | SCUBA           | 50.379241 S 75.37901 W  | 14        | MW444297 | MW444479 | MW453626 |
| <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i> | ZSM20130482     | Chile: Magallanes, Cono Guarello      | 23-jan.-14      | SCUBA           | 50.379241 S 75.37901 W  | 15        | MW444298 | MW444480 | MW453627 |
| <i>Tritonia odhneri</i>        | ZSM20060892     | Chile: Aysén, Bernardo Fjord          | 13-jun.-06      | SCUBA           | 48.481968 S 74.095408 W | 15        | MW444299 | MW444481 | MW453628 |
| <i>Tritonia odhneri</i>        | ZSM20060926     | Chile: Aysén, Guaiteca Island         | 13-jun.-06      | SCUBA           | 43.882236 S 73.735583 W | 25        | –        | –        | MW453629 |
| <i>Tritonia odhneri</i>        | ZSM20060978     | Chile: Aysén, Isla Castillo           | 26-jun.-06      | SCUBA           | 45.316666 S 73.73333 W  | 35        | MW444300 | MW444482 | MW453630 |
| <i>Tritonia odhneri</i>        | ZSM20061109     | Chile: Magallanes, Copihue Channel    | 9-mar.-06       | SCUBA           | 50.339722 S 75.377502 W | 5         | MW444301 | –        | MW453631 |
| <i>Tritonia odhneri</i>        | ZSM20061116     | Chile: Aysén, Ofhidro Island          | 15-mar.-06      | SCUBA           | 48.164444 S 74.396667 W | 15        | MW444302 | MW444483 | MW453632 |
| <i>Tritonia odhneri</i>        | ZSM20061117     | Chile: Magallanes, Adalberto Channel  | 12-mar.-06      | SCUBA           | 48.608055 S 74.898888 W | 30        | MW444303 | MW444484 | MW453633 |
| <i>Tritonia odhneri</i>        | ZSM20070576     | Chile: Magallanes, Angostura Inglesa  | 16-apr.-07      | SCUBA           | 48.988335 S 74.418892 W | 25        | MW444304 | MW444485 | MW453634 |
| <i>Tritonia odhneri</i>        | ZSM20130477     | Chile: Magallanes, Cono Guarello      | 24-jan.-14      | SCUBA           | 50.379241 S 75.37901 W  | 10        | MW444305 | MW444486 | MW453635 |
| <i>Tritonia</i> sp. 1          | ZSM20070588     | Chile: Aysén, Isla Castillo           | 17-apr.-07      | SCUBA           | 45.316666 S 73.73333 W  | 28        | MW444306 | MW444487 | MW453636 |
| <i>Tritonia</i> sp. 2          | SIO-BIC M13413  | Falkland Islands: Burdwood Bank East  | 24-apr.-13      | Blake trawl     | 54.548667 S 56.734967 W | 109       | MW444307 | MW444488 | MW453637 |
| <i>Tritonia</i> sp. 3          | CZA-104         | Peru: Paracas, La Mina                | 1-jul.-09       | SCUBA           | 13.91205 S 76.317623 W  | 10        | MW444308 | MW444489 | MW453638 |
| <i>Tritonia</i> sp. 3          | CZA-175         | Peru: Piura, Foca Island              | 14-jun.-12      | SCUBA           | 5.21203 S 81.206262 W   | 10        | MW444309 | MW444490 | MW453639 |
| <i>Tritonia</i> sp. 3          | ZSM20100720     | Peru: Ancash, Santa Island            | 18-jan.-06      | SCUBA           | 9.028839 S 78.680507 W  | 10        | MW444310 | MW444491 | MW453640 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>          | SIO-BIC M12579C | Antarctica: South Georgia             | 25-sep.-11      | Blake trawl     | 53.892315 S 39.19146 W  | 310       | MW444311 | MW444492 | MW453641 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>          | SIO-BIC M13014  | Antarctica: Shag Rocks                | 22-sep.-11      | Blake trawl     | 53.42398 S 42.017738 W  | 160       | MW444312 | MW444493 | MW453642 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>          | SIO-BIC M13395  | Falkland Islands: South               | 3-may.-13       | Blake trawl     | 52.4789 S 60.4304 W     | 160       | MW444313 | MW444494 | MW453643 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>          | SIO-BIC M13399  | Antarctica: Shag Rocks                | 19-apr.-13      | Blake trawl     | 53.54945 S 41.65085 W   | 128       | MW444314 | MW444495 | MW453644 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>          | SIO-BIC M13404  | Antarctica: Shag Rocks                | 19-apr.-13      | Blake trawl     | 53.5585 S 41.654417 W   | 130       | MW444315 | MW444496 | MW453645 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>          | SIO-BIC M13414  | Antarctica: South Georgia             | 16-apr.-13      | Blake trawl     | 53.5876 S 37.299983 W   | 444       | MW444316 | MW444497 | MW453646 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>          | SIO-BIC M13420  | Falkland Islands: East                | 28-apr.-13      | Blake trawl     | 51.637767 S 57.4938 W   | 124       | MW444317 | MW444498 | MW453647 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>          | SIO-BIC M13453  | Falkland Islands: South               | 3-may.-13       | Blake trawl     | 52.4799 S 60.4147 W     | 154       | MW444318 | MW444499 | MW453648 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>          | SIO-BIC M13507  | Falkland Islands: Burdwood Bank East  | 24-apr.-13      | Blake trawl     | 54.559817 S 56.8297 W   | 90        | MW444319 | MW444500 | MW453649 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>          | SIO-BIC M13577  | Falkland Islands: East                | 28-apr.-13      | Blake trawl     | 51.6377 S 57.4938 W     | 123       | MW444320 | MW444501 | MW453650 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>          | SIO-BIC M13805  | Falkland Islands: Burdwood Bank South | 31-oct.-11      | Blake trawl     | 54.6715 S 61.2337 W     | 341       | MW444321 | MW444502 | MW453651 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>          | ZSM20020848     | Falkland Islands: Burdwood Bank South | 15-jul.-02      | Bottom trawl    | 54.520332 S 56.148834 W | 296       | MW444322 | MW444503 | MW453652 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>          | ZSM20020878     | Falkland Islands: Burdwood Bank South | 16-jul.-02      | Agassiz trawl   | 54.503666 S 56.136665 W | 292       | MW444323 | MW444504 | MW453653 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>          | ZSM20020887     | Falkland Islands: Burdwood Bank South | 17-jul.-02      | Bottom trawl    | 54.520332 S 56.148834 W | 296       | MW444324 | MW444505 | MW453654 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>          | ZSM20020931     | Falkland Islands: Burdwood Bank South | 22-jul.-02      | Bottom trawl    | 54.520332 S 56.148834 W | 296       | MW444325 | MW444506 | MW453655 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>          | ZSM20021040     | Falkland Islands: Burdwood Bank South | 1-aug.-02       | Agassiz trawl   | 54.503666 S 56.136665 W | 292       | MW444326 | MW444507 | MW453656 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>          | ZSM20021245     | Falkland Islands: Burdwood Bank South | 5-sep.-02       | Bottom trawl    | 54.520332 S 56.148834 W | 296       | MW444327 | MW444508 | MW453657 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>          | ZSM20021246     | Falkland Islands: Burdwood Bank South | 5-sep.-02       | Bottom trawl    | 54.520332 S 56.148834 W | 296       | MW444328 | MW444509 | MW453658 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>          | ZSM20021247     | Falkland Islands: Burdwood Bank South | 5-sep.-02       | Bottom trawl    | 54.520332 S 56.148834 W | 296       | MW444329 | MW444510 | MW453659 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>          | ZSM20070357     | Chile: Magallanes, Channel Passage    | 9-mar.-06       | SCUBA           | 50.463612 S 75.128334 W | 23        | MW444330 | MW444511 | MW453660 |

(continued on next page)

Table 1 (continued)

| Species                  | Voucher number  | Locality   | Collection date | Collecting gear | Lat_Lon                 | Depth (m) | COI      | 16S      | H3       |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>    | ZSM20090520     | Chile: Magallanes, Channel Passage                           | 29-mar.-07      | SCUBA           | 50.463612 S 75.128334 W | 20        | MW444331 | MW444512 | MW453661 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>    | ZSM20090524     | Chile: Aysén, Messier Channel                                | 15-mar.-06      | SCUBA           | 47.979168 S 74.679726 W | 20        | MW444332 | MW444513 | MW453662 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>    | ZSM20110266     | Argentina: Tierra del Fuego, Beagle Channel, Islotes Gemelos | 17-jun.-11      | SCUBA           | 54.919417 S 67.363083 W | 14        | MW444333 | MW444514 | MW453663 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>    | ZSM20110271     | Argentina: Tierra del Fuego, Beagle Channel, Islotes Gemelos | 17-jun.-11      | SCUBA           | 54.919417 S 67.363083 W | 13        | MW444334 | MW444515 | MW453664 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>    | ZSM20130484     | Chile: Cueva   | 24-jan.-14      | SCUBA           | unknown                 | 15        | MW444335 | MW444516 | MW453665 |
| <i>Tritonia vorax</i>    | ZSM20130783     | Chile: Isla Fitz Roy, Huinay Fiorden 21                      | 25-jan.-14      | SCUBA           | 45.83927 S 74.039811 W  | 20        | MW444336 | MW444517 | MW453666 |
| <i>Tritoniella belli</i> | ZSM20012172     | Antarctica: Weddell Sea, Kapp Norvegia                       | 2-apr.-00       | Bottom trawl    | 71.188333 S 12.256667 W | 318       | MW444337 | MW444518 | MW453667 |
| <i>Tritoniella belli</i> | ZSM20012249     | Antarctica: East Weddell Sea, Austasen                       | 7-apr.-00       | Bottom trawl    | 70.84 S 10.586667 W     | 266       | MW444338 | MW444519 | MW453668 |
| <i>Tritoniella belli</i> | ZSM20012253     | Antarctica: North of Kapp Norvegia                           | 6-apr.-00       | Bottom trawl    | 71.125167 S 11.451667 W | 137       | MW444339 | MW444520 | MW453669 |
| <i>Tritoniella belli</i> | ZSM20012255     | Antarctica: Weddell Sea, Kapp Norvegia                       | 9-apr.-00       | Bottom trawl    | 71.124167 S 11.460667 W | 80        | MW444340 | MW444521 | MW453670 |
| <i>Tritoniella belli</i> | ZSM20090521     | Antarctica: Weddell Sea, Kapp Norvegia                       | 9-apr.-00       | Bottom trawl    | 71.124167 S 11.460667 W | 80        | MW444341 | MW444522 | MW453671 |
| <i>Tritoniella belli</i> | ZSM20090522     | Antarctica: Weddell Sea, Kapp Norvegia                       | 9-apr.-00       | Bottom trawl    | 71.124167 S 11.460667 W | 80        | MW444342 | MW444523 | MW453672 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 1 | SIO-BIC M13502  | Falkland Islands: Burdwood Bank East, S Falkland Islands     | 26-apr.-13      | Blake trawl     | 54.466733 S 55.68085 W  | 572       | MW444343 | MW444524 | MW453673 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 2 | ZSM20141002     | Antarctica: South Shetland Islands, King George Island       | 19-feb.-10      | SCUBA           | 62.210306 S 58.913868 W | 40        | MW444344 | MW444525 | MW453674 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 3 | SIO-BIC M12606  | Antarctica: South Georgia                                    | 26-sep.-11      | Blake trawl     | 53.8069 S 37.217003 W   | 144       | MW444345 | MW444526 | MW453675 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 3 | SIO-BIC M12609  | Antarctica: Shag Rocks                                       | 23-sep.-11      | Blake trawl     | 53.45317 S 42.057903 W  | 186       | MW444346 | MW444527 | MW453676 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 3 | SIO-BIC M12618B | Antarctica: Shag Rocks                                       | 22-sep.-11      | Blake trawl     | 53.42398 S 42.017738 W  | 160       | MW444347 | MW444528 | MW453677 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 3 | SIO-BIC M12648  | Antarctica: South Georgia                                    | 26-sep.-11      | Blake trawl     | 53.8069 S 37.217003 W   | 144       | MW444348 | MW444529 | MW453678 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 3 | SIO-BIC M12939  | Antarctica: South Georgia                                    | 29-sep.-11      | Blake trawl     | 55.051528 S 35.395497 W | 119       | MW444349 | MW444530 | MW453679 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 3 | SIO-BIC M13488  | Antarctica: Shag Rocks                                       | 24-sep.-11      | Blake trawl     | 53.7211 S 41.462667 W   | 180       | MW444350 | MW444531 | MW453680 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 3 | SIO-BIC M13489  | Antarctica: Shag Rocks                                       | 24-sep.-11      | Blake trawl     | 53.534252 S 41.633907 W | 133       | MW444351 | MW444532 | MW453681 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 3 | SIO-BIC M13492  | Antarctica: Discovery Bank                                   | 15-oct.-11      | Blake trawl     | 60.145708 S 34.919935 W | 751       | MW444352 | MW444533 | MW453682 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 4 | SIO-BIC M12599  | Antarctica: South Orkney                                     | 20-oct.-11      | Blake trawl     | 60.550858 S 45.176113 W | 278       | MW444353 | MW444534 | MW453683 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 4 | ZSM20110202-02  | Antarctica: South Shetland Islands, King George Island       | 19-feb.-10      | SCUBA           | 62.210306 S 58.913868 W | 40        | MW444354 | MW444535 | MW453684 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 5 | SIO-BIC M12581B | Antarctica: Antarctic Peninsula, Bransfield Strait           | 25-oct.-11      | Blake trawl     | 63.322833 S 59.851052 W | 199       | MW444355 | MW444536 | MW453685 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 5 | SIO-BIC M12593  | Antarctica: Antarctic Peninsula, Bransfield Strait           | 24-oct.-11      | Blake trawl     | 62.86951 S 57.21682 W   | 247       | MW444356 | MW444537 | MW453686 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 5 | SIO-BIC M12608  | Antarctica: South Sandwich Islands                           | 6-oct.-11       | Blake trawl     | 58.384513 S 26.281305 W | 262       | MW444357 | MW444538 | MW453687 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 5 | SIO-BIC M12615  | Antarctica: Antarctic Peninsula, Bransfield Strait           | 24-sep.-11      | Blake trawl     | 62.752845 S 57.321675 W | 292       | MW444358 | MW444539 | MW453688 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 5 | SIO-BIC M12617A | Antarctica: N South Sandwich Islands                         | 25-oct.-11      | Blake trawl     | 58.3773 S 26.2824 W     | 420       | MW444359 | MW444540 | MW453689 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 5 | SIO-BIC M12617B | Antarctica: N South Sandwich Islands                         | 25-oct.-11      | Blake trawl     | 58.3773 S 26.2824 W     | 420       | MW444360 | MW444541 | MW453690 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 5 | SIO-BIC M12617C | Antarctica: N South Sandwich Islands                         | 25-oct.-11      | Blake trawl     | 58.3773 S 26.2824 W     | 420       | MW444361 | MW444542 | MW453691 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 5 | SIO-BIC M12965  | Antarctica: South Sandwich Islands                           | 7-oct.-11       | Blake trawl     | 59.393638 S 27.322693 W | 188       | MW444362 | MW444543 | MW453692 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 5 | SIO-BIC M13011  | Antarctica: South Sandwich Islands                           | 6-oct.-11       | Blake trawl     | 58.378473 S 26.283405 W | 260       | MW444363 | MW444544 | MW453693 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 5 | SIO-BIC (NW31)  | unknown  | unknown         | unknown         | unknown                 | unknown   | –        | MW546278 | MW544058 |

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Table 1 (continued)

| Species                  | Voucher number | Locality   | Collection date | Collecting gear | Lat_Lon                 | Depth (m) | COI      | 16S      | H3       |
|--------------------------|----------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 5 | ZSM20110202-01 | Antarctica: South Shetland Islands, King George Island | 19-feb.-10      | SCUBA           | 62.210306 S 58.913868 W | 40        | MW444364 | MW444545 | MW453694 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 5 | ZSM20110221-06 | Antarctica: South Shetland Islands, King George Island | 19-feb.-10      | SCUBA           | 62.210306 S 58.913868 W | 40        | MW444365 | MW444546 | MW453695 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 5 | ZSM20141003    | Antarctica: South Shetland Islands, King George Island | 19-feb.-10      | SCUBA           | 62.210306 S 58.913868 W | 40        | MW444366 | MW444547 | MW453696 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 5 | ZSM20141004    | Antarctica: South Shetland Islands, King George Island | 19-feb.-10      | SCUBA           | 62.210306 S 58.913868 W | 40        | MW444367 | MW444548 | MW453697 |
| <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 5 | ZSM20141005    | Antarctica: South Shetland Islands, King George Island | 19-feb.-10      | SCUBA           | 62.210306 S 58.913868 W | 40        | MW444368 | MW444549 | MW453698 |

*Tritonidoxa* Bergh, 1908, molecular data is still missing. Taxonomically speaking, the family has undergone important restructuring, with many genera having been synonymized. For instance, *Duvaucelia* Risso, 1826 has been resurrected and *Tritonicula* Korshunova & Martynov, 2020 newly erected in a recent phylogenetic analysis, thus dividing the genus *Tritonia* into three genera based on morphological and molecular evidence (Korshunova and Martynov, 2020). Still, much controversy exists especially regarding many of the abovementioned genera.

Southern Ocean tritoniids are large and commonly sampled, but the incomplete morphoanatomical descriptions (Eliot, 1907a; von Martens and Pfeffer, 1886), unknown ranges of morphological variation, apparently wide distributional ranges of currently valid species, and the lack of molecular data contribute to taxonomic uncertainty (Rossi et al., 2021; Schrödl, 2009; Wägele, 1995). Two tritoniid genera are currently reported from Antarctica. *Tritoniella* is limited to the Southern Ocean, with the northernmost record from Shag Rocks (Wägele, 1989a), not extending north of the Antarctic convergence (Schrödl, 1999). *Tritoniella belli* Eliot, 1907 was originally described from the Ross Sea and synonymized to the sympatric *T. sinuata* Eliot, 1907 (Wägele, 1989a). This species is a widespread, chemically-protected, and facultative corallivore with direct development (Bryan et al., 1998; Wägele, 1989b). The second common genus in the Southern Ocean is *Tritonia*. In a careful morphological revision, Wägele (1995) showed all *Tritonia* specimens known from Antarctic waters belong to only two species. The widespread, high-Antarctic *T. antarctica* Pfeffer in von Martens and Pfeffer, 1886, and the Sub-Antarctic *T. vorax* (Odhner, 1926). The latter species is only known from deep waters (100–360 m) of the Beagle Channel, the Burdwood Bank, and South Georgia, and so far has never been reported from locations further south of the Antarctic convergence (Schrödl, 1999). Large egg sizes and larval morphology of Antarctic specimens from the Ross Sea suggest *T. antarctica* produces crawl-away juveniles or larvae with a short dispersive period (Woods and Moran, 2008), a common feature for Antarctic nudibranchs (e.g., Moles et al., 2017a). Later, *Tritonia dantarti* Ballesteros & Avila, 2006 was described from Bouvet Island (Ballesteros and Avila, 2006) and its distinction from *T. antarctica* was confirmed in a recent molecular study (Rossi et al., 2021). Nonetheless, as suggested by Wägele (1995), Sub-Antarctic tritoniids are not identifiable without an exhaustive molecular and morphological revision of Tritoniidae of the temperate waters of South America.

From the Magellanic faunal Province (see Brattström and Johanssen, 1983), which includes coastal waters of South America south to 41°S (the wide Patagonian shelf and the Falkland Islands), a considerable number of tritoniid specimens have been collected during several international expeditions (Bergh, 1898, 1884; Eliot, 1907a; Marcus, 1959; Marcus and Marcus, 1969; Odhner, 1926). These were assigned to five nominal species of the genus *Tritonia*, including species from the three then synonymised genera *Duvaucelia*, *Candiella* Gray, 1850, and the dubious *Microlophus* Rochebrune & Mabile, 1891. *Tritonia challengeriana* Bergh, 1884 was regarded to be conspecific with *T. antarctica* by Odhner (1926) and Marcus (1959). More recently, the status of both species has been questioned, and still to be solved with the aids of molecular data (Rossi et al., 2021; Schrödl, 1996; Wägele, 1995). Also, specimens from the Falklands described as *T. challengeriana* by Eliot (1907b) appeared aberrant in shape (see Wägele, 1995). *Tritonia australis* (Bergh, 1898) seemed to be the most widespread Magellanic species with records from the Pacific Juan Fernández Islands (Bergh, 1898) and central Chile (Schrödl, 1996) over the Magellan Strait area (Marcus, 1959) to the northern Argentinian coast (Marcus and Marcus, 1969). It is, however, also the most puzzling species since it cannot be unambiguously characterized by the various descriptions. For instance, there are no clear differences to *T. challengeriana* besides the larger jaws and thus, it has been considered a junior synonym (Schrödl, 2003). Similarly, from the warm-temperate Atlantic, some poorly known tritoniids were reported by Odhner (1926) and Eveline Marcus (1983). Marcus described two new species, *Tritonia eriosi* and *Marionia tedi*, and



redescribed *Marionia cucullata* (Couthouy in Gould, 1952). The Uruguayan *T. eriosi* Marcus, 1983 is similar to *T. odhneri* Marcus, 1959 known from southern and central Chile (Marcus, 1959; Schrödl, 1996). Both areas are north of the widely accepted 41°S border of the Magellanic province and are characterized by a considerable faunal overlap of cold and warm temperate species (Schrödl, 2003, 1999, 1996).

All the species mentioned are in a state of extreme taxonomic confusion (see Schrödl, 2003, 1996; Wägele, 1995), which arose from (1) incomplete descriptions of (2) a few, preserved specimens, and (3) the apparent loss of type material. The inability to link names with living specimens and thus interpret intraspecific variation is a considerable obstacle, since Antarctic and Magellanic tritoniids are very similar to each other, especially when preserved (Wägele, 1995). During the last years, numerous tritoniid specimens have been observed, collected, and photographed alive, from the Chilean and Argentinian coasts, from Sub-Antarctic Islands, the Weddell Sea, and the Antarctic Peninsula. The present study aims are twofold: (1) to provide molecular data for a great number of southern tritoniids from this broad geographical range and (2) to ascertain the status of the current valid species and further delve into the potential of pseudocryptic speciation within the genera *Tritonia* and *Tritoniella*. The new data is included in a wider phylogenetic context of the family to provide some clarification at both the genus and species levels.

## 2. Material & methods

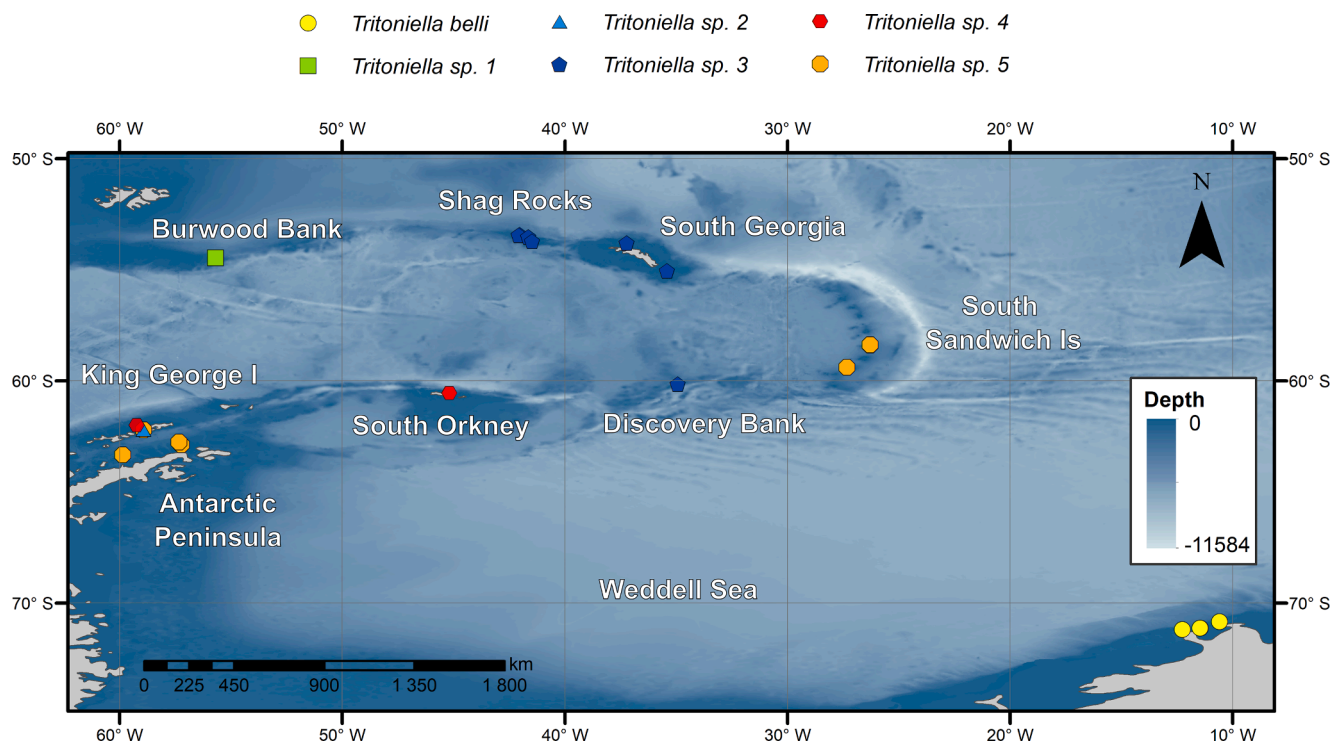
### 2.1. Taxa collection

Animals were collected during multiple campaigns covering a wide geographical range in the Atlantic sector of the Southern Ocean and the Scotia Sea either by dredging or trawling on board the RV Polarstern (AWI, Germany) and the RV Nathaniel B. Palmer (NSF, USA), by SCUBA diving in the Southern Chilean coast on board of the Yepayek (CONAF)

and by other independent dive expeditions (Table 1). Distribution maps colour-coded by species for both the Southern Hemisphere (SH) *Tritoniella* (Fig. 1) and *Tritonia* (Fig. 2) were designed in Arc-GIS 10.3 (Esri, Redlands, CA). When possible, specimens were photographed alive and preserved in either 75% or 96% EtOH for molecular purposes. Additionally, material of *Marionia cucullata* (Couthouy, 1852) from the type-locality, southeastern Brazil, and three specimens of *Tritonia* cf. *festiva* from the Peruvian coast were included to provide phylogenetic context. Voucher specimens were deposited at the Bavarian State Collection of Zoology (ZSM, Munich), the Benthic Invertebrate Collection at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego (SIO-BIC, La Jolla, CA, USA), and the Colección de Zoología Acuática (CZA) of the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Peru.

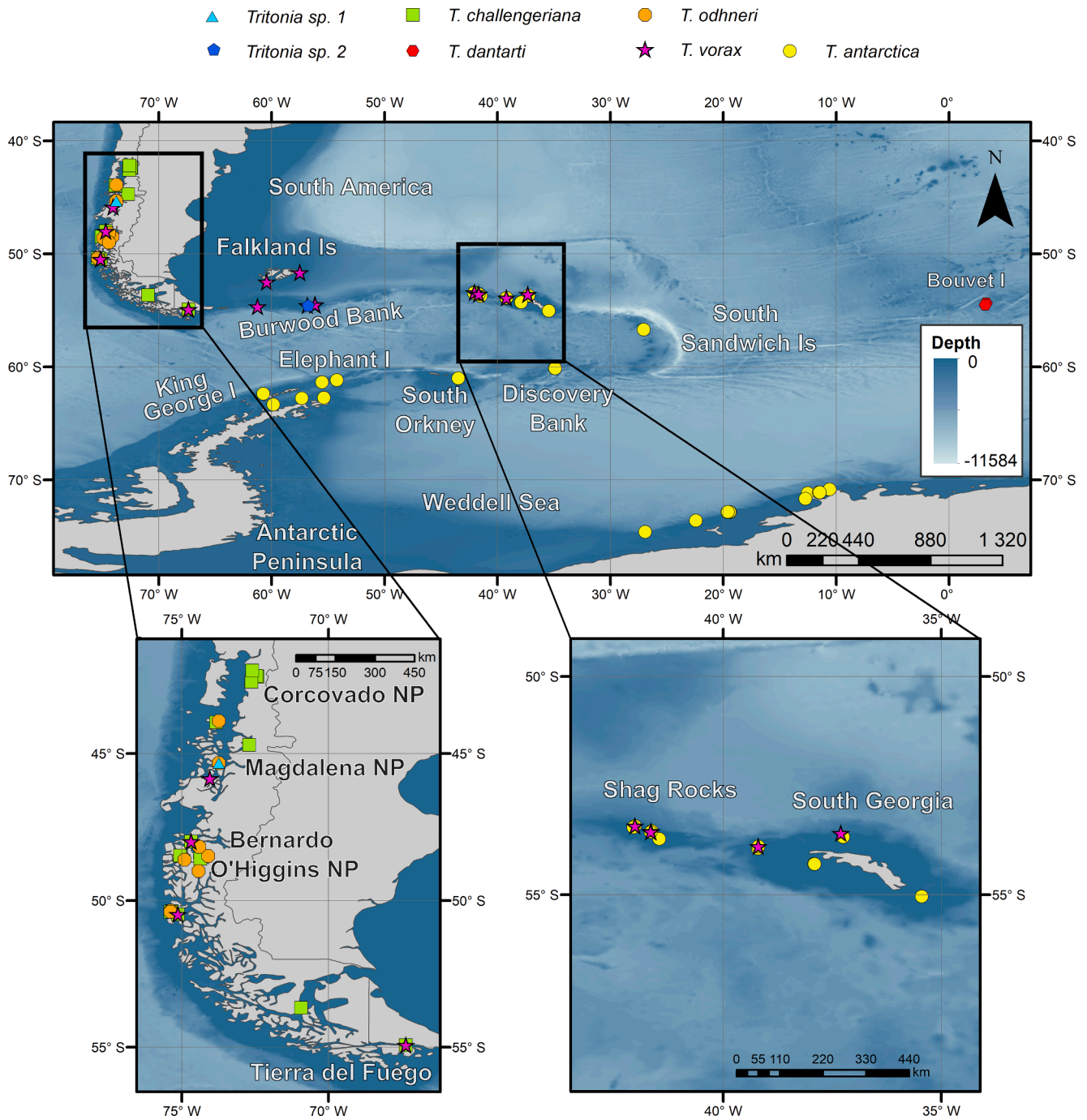
### 2.2. Molecular data collection

DNA was extracted from a piece of the foot using a combination of CTAB extraction and NucleoSpin Tissue Kit (Macherey-Nagel, Germany). For tissue lysis, samples in a CTAB-buffer/mercaptoethanol solution were kept at 56 °C overnight. For extraction, samples went through the following steps: (1) incubation at 37 °C with RNase A for 30 min, (2) wash up step with 400 µl Chloroform-Isoamyl alcohol solution twice, (3) addition of Sodium Acetate/96% EtOH and centrifuge in a NucleoSpin column, (4) final wash with 96% EtOH. Further process followed the NucleoSpin Tissue Kit manufacturer's protocol. The three standard molecular markers amplified were the mitochondrial Cytochrome *c* Oxidase subunit I (COI; ca. 658 bp), using the LCO1490 and HCO2198 primer pair (Folmer et al., 1994), and 16S rRNA (16S; ca. 485 bp), using the 16S-H and 16S-R primers (Simon et al., 1994), and the nuclear gene histone-3 (H3; ca. 330 bp), using H3AD5'3' and H3BD5'3' (Colgan et al., 1998). PCR protocols are listed in Jörger et al. (2010). Successful PCR products were cleaned up with DNA Clean & Concentrator TM (Zymo Research, CA, USA). Sanger sequencing was performed



**Fig. 1.** Distribution map from the Scotia Sea and the Weddell Sea of all *Tritoniella* species sequenced in this study colour-coded by species. Yellow circles – *Tritoniella belli* from the Weddell Sea (Ross Sea sequence data from GenBank not depicted); green square – *Tritoniella* sp. 1 from Burdwood Bank; light blue triangle – *Tritoniella* sp. 2 from King George Island; dark blue pentagons – *Tritoniella* sp. 3 from Shag Rocks, South Georgia, and Discovery Bank; red hexagons – *Tritoniella* sp. 4 from South Orkney and King George Island; orange octagons – *Tritoniella* sp. 5 from South Sandwich Islands, King George Island, and Bransfield Strait. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)





**Fig. 2.** Distribution map from South America, the Scotia Sea, and the Weddell Sea of the Southern Hemisphere *Tritonia* species sequenced in this study colour-coded by species. Light blue triangle – *Tritonia* sp. 1 from Isla Castillo in Chile; dark blue pentagons – *Tritonia* sp. 2 from Burdwood Bank; green square – *Tritonia challengeriana* from Chile and Tierra del Fuego; red hexagons – *Tritonia dantarti* from Bouvet Island; orange octagons – *Tritonia odhneri* from Chile; pink stars – *Tritonia vorax* from Chile, Tierra del Fuego, Falkland Islands, Burdwood Bank, Shag Rocks, and South Georgia; yellow circles – *Tritonia antarctica* from Shag Rocks, South Georgia, South Sandwich, South Orkney, South Shetland, Antarctic Peninsula, and the Weddell Sea (Ross Sea sequence data from GenBank not depicted). (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

by the Sequencing Service of the Department of Biology Genomic Service Unit (GSU) of the Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich. DNA aliquots are stored and publicly available through the DNA bank network (<http://www.dnabank-network.org>) or from the collection that houses the specimen. All sequences were deposited to GenBank at NCBI (see Table 1 for accession numbers). A total of 109 additional sequences from all available Tritoniidae (94) and additional outgroup taxa belonging to Cladobranchia and Doridina were downloaded from GenBank (see Table S1).

### 2.3. Phylogenetic analyses

Sequences were visualized, edited, and assembled in Geneious Prime® 2019.2.3 (Kearse et al., 2012) and contamination was assessed at NCBI through the BLAST algorithm (Altschul et al., 1997). Alignments were built in MAFFT v 7.450 (Katoh and Standley, 2013) using the G-INS-i (COI and H3) and L-INS-i (16S) algorithms. Each alignment was trimmed of primer regions and inspected visually for possible alignment errors. Additionally, poorly aligned positions and divergent regions

**Table 2**  
Jukes-Cantor (JC69) intra- and interspecific genetic *p*-distances based on COI for *Tritoniella* species.

|   |                          | 1         | 2         | 3         | 4        | 5     | 6     |
|---|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|
| 1 | <i>Tritoniella belli</i> | 0–2.2     |           |           |          |       |       |
| 2 | <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 1 | 15.1–15.7 | –         |           |          |       |       |
| 3 | <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 2 | 11.8–13.9 | 17.4      | –         |          |       |       |
| 4 | <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 3 | 7.3–9.1   | 16–16.7   | 12.1–13.7 | 0–2.7    |       |       |
| 5 | <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 4 | 4.8–6.3   | 15.5–17.2 | 12.1–12.4 | 8.2–10.9 | 3.3   |       |
| 6 | <i>Tritoniella</i> sp. 5 | 4.6–5.7   | 15.3–16.5 | 10.6–11.9 | 8.4–9.6  | 4.3–5 | 0–0.8 |

were trimmed in the 16S alignment using Gblocks v0.9b (Talavera and Castresana, 2007) under all relaxed parameters (retaining 91% of the original alignment). Phylogenetic analyses for each alignment as well as for the concatenated dataset were carried out online in CIPRES Science Gateway (Miller et al., 2015). A Maximum Likelihood (ML) approach implemented in IQ-TREE v 1.6.10 (Nguyen et al., 2015) used ModelFinder (Kalyaanamoorthy et al., 2017) to automatically select the best-fit partitioning scheme by merging partitions to reduce over-parameterization and increase model fit (TESTMERGE), also accounting for codon position for the protein-coding genes. Bootstrap support values (BS) were estimated via the ultrafast bootstrap algorithm with 1500 replicates (Minh et al., 2013). A Bayesian Inference (BI) approach was assessed with the partitioned concatenated alignment in MrBayes v 3.2.7 (Ronquist et al., 2011) under a GTRGAMMA model of evolution. We ran four parallel runs of four coupled Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) chains for 20 million generations each and sampled every 1000 generations. The first 25% of the trees were discarded as burn-in for each MCMC run before convergence. Convergence was achieved when the average standard deviation of split frequencies (ASDSF) reached < 0.02% for all parameters. Topological robustness was assessed using posterior probabilities (PP). Trees were visualized in FigTree v. 1.4.4 (Rambaut, 2014) and edited in Inkscape v. 1 (Inkscape Project, 2020).

2.4. Species delimitation tests (SDT)

A preliminary assessment of species diversity was evaluated through the Automatic Barcode Discovery (ABGD; Puillandre et al., 2012) for the individual Southern Hemisphere (SH) *Tritonia* and *Tritoniella* COI alignments, *p*-distance matrices are depicted in Table 2 and 3, respectively. ABGD analysis was run using the Jukes-Cantor (JC69) TS/TV distance matrix with default parameters ( $P_{min} = 0.001$ ,  $P_{max} = 0.1$ , 10 steps, 20 Nb bins, and relative gap width = 1.5). Species delimitation tests (SDT) based on ML trees for SH *Tritonia* and *Tritoniella* were performed via the webserver by both a Bayesian implementation of the Poisson tree processes model (bPTP; Zhang et al., 2013) at <https://species.h-its.org/> and the multi-rate Poisson tree processes under ML and MCMC (mPTP; Kapli et al., 2017) at <https://mptp.h-its.org/#/tree>. We also used the Generalized Mixed Yule Coalescent approach (GMYC; Fujisawa and Barraclough, 2013) on ultrametric trees of the individual alignments generated in BEAST v1.10.4 (Drummond and Rambaut, 2007) under the best-fit evolutionary model obtained in ModelFinder and with a relaxed lognormal clock and a rate of 1.0 during 10 million generations. TreeAnnotator was used to discard the initial 25% of trees as burn-in. To further corroborate species hypothesis all SDTs were

**Table 3**  
Jukes-Cantor (JC69) intra- and interspecific genetic *p*-distances based on COI for *Tritonia* species from the Southern Hemisphere.

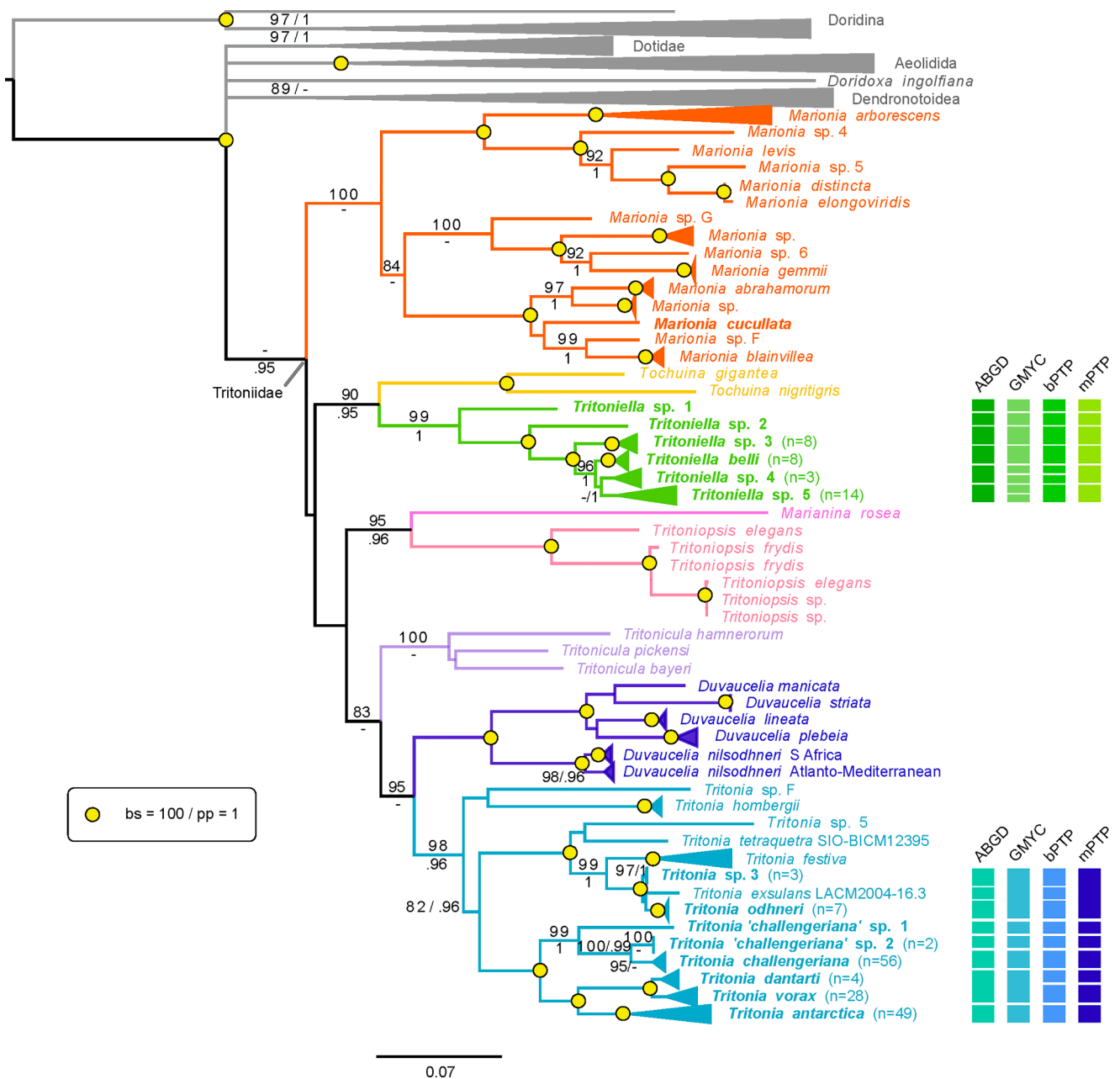
|   |  | 1         | 2         | 3         | 4         | 5         | 6         | 7         | 8     |
|---|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| 1 | <i>Tritonia</i> sp. 3                  | 0–0.3     |           |           |           |           |           |           |       |
| 2 | <i>Tritonia odhneri</i> ZSM            | 3.6–4.6   | 0–0.6     |           |           |           |           |           |       |
| 3 | <i>Tritonia 'challengeriana'</i> sp. 1 | 18–18.8   | 18–19.1   | –         |           |           |           |           |       |
| 4 | <i>Tritonia 'challengeriana'</i> sp. 2 | 20.1–20.9 | 19.3–21.5 | 14        | –         |           |           |           |       |
| 5 | <i>Tritonia challengeriana</i>         | 20.1–22.1 | 18.9–21.5 | 11.7–13.1 | 4.5–5.3   | 0–1.2     |           |           |       |
| 6 | <i>Tritonia dantarti</i>               | 16–21.8   | 17.5–24   | 15.9–17.2 | 14.3–15.5 | 12.5–17   | 0.3–1.2   |           |       |
| 7 | <i>Tritonia vorax</i>                  | 16.4–18.8 | 17.4–21.1 | 13.6–18   | 14.8–16.3 | 14.2–17.5 | 2.5–7.4   | 0–4       |       |
| 8 | <i>Tritonia antarctica</i>             | 18.4–22.1 | 19–23.8   | 15.4–17.6 | 14.6–16.6 | 14.4–20.9 | 12.3–16.5 | 11.4–25.4 | 0–9.5 |

likewise performed on the 16S alignment, these will be discussed when differing from the COI-based SDT. Haplotype networks were generated for COI sequences of Southern Ocean *Tritoniella* and *Tritonia* species using a statistical parsimony network algorithm (Clement et al., 2000) implemented in PopART (Leigh and Bryant, 2015).

3. Results

3.1. Phylogenetic relationships

A total of 167 samples of *Tritonia* (n = 133), *Tritoniella* (n = 33), and one of *Marionia cucullata* were successfully sequenced and included in the final dataset of 276 specimens. The best-fit model of evolution according to BIC for individual alignments was TVM + F + I + G4 for COI and 16S, and TIM + F + I + G4 for H3 (accounting for codon positions in protein-encoding genes). The final concatenated alignment contained 1473 bp and the best-merged model of evolution was GTR + F + I + G4. Gene trees overall recovered topologies compatible with the concatenated one, thus we only refer to the final concatenated analyses. Only the BI tree recovered the monophyly of Tritoniidae with high support (Fig. 3; BS = 44, PP = 0.95). The monophyly of most of the Tritoniidae genera was recovered in ML and BI (see Figures S1 and S2), namely *Duvaucelia* (BS = 100, PP = 1), *Marionia* (BS = 100, but not in BI), *Tritoniopsis* (BS = 100, PP = 1), *Tochuina* (BS = 100, PP = 1), *Tritonia* (BS = 98, PP = 0.96), *Tritonicula* (BS = 100, but not in BI), *Tritoniella* (BS = 99, PP = 1), and the relationship of the monotypic *Marianina* as sister taxon to *Tritoniopsis* (BS = 97, PP = 0.96). Type species of all genera are represented here except for *Tritoniopsis*. These include (type locality; sampling collection GenBank) *Duvaucelia manicata* (Deshayes, 1853) (both from the Western Mediterranean), *Marianina rosea* (Pruvot-Fol, 1930) (New Caledonia; Malaysia), *Marionia blainvillea* (Risso, 1818) (Marseille; Italian and Spanish coasts), *Tochuina gigantea* (Bergh, 1904) (Alaska; Washington State), *Tritonicula hamnerorum* (Gosliner and Ghiselin, 1987) (Gulf of Mexico; Bermuda), *Tritoniella belli* Eliot, 1907 (both from the Ross Sea). Within Tritoniidae, only the monotypic and elusive genera *Paratritonia* and *Tritonidoxa* were not included in our dataset. *Marionia* is monophyletic only in the ML and includes our newly sequenced *M. cucullata*, the type and additional species, and many unidentified ones available in GenBank. Also, we corroborate the recent results clustering *Tochuina nigritigris* (Valdés, Lundsten & Wilson, 2018) with *T. gigantea* (Korshunova and Martynov, 2020; Valdés et al., 2018). This is based on molecular data and shared morphological characters, i. e., absence of velar processes and presence of hundreds of tiny gills on the notal margins, characteristic features of the genus *Tochuina* (Marcus,



**Fig. 3.** Phylogeny of Tritoniidae based on the concatenated ML analysis rooted with species of Doridina depicted in grey. Additional outgroup taxa include Aeolidida, Dendronotoidea, and *Doridoxa* are also depicted in grey. Tritoniidae genera are independently coloured, branches with several replicates for each species hypothesis were collapsed for clarity, our sequenced species are highlighted in bold with the number of sequenced specimens shown in brackets. Node support values include bootstrap support (BS) and posterior probabilities (PP) values on the left/top and right/bottom sides, respectively. Maximum supported nodes for both analyses are depicted with a yellow circle. Species delimitation tests (ABGD, GMYC, bPTP, mPTP) for the Southern Hemisphere species of *Tritonia* and *Tritoniella* species depicted in bars on the right side. Scale bar indicates substitutions per site. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

1983).

### 3.2. Species discovery

A wide taxon sampling of specimens belonging to *Tritoniella*, from its entire distributional range, was available and demonstrated several undescribed new species, all restricted to Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic regions. Almost all SDT based on COI split the species complex of *Tritoniella belli* into six species hypotheses according to the following geographic regions (Fig. 3): (A) *Tritoniella* sp. 1 – a singleton found on Burdwood Bank East (south from the Falkland Islands) at 560 m depth, (B) *Tritoniella* sp. 2 – a singleton from King George Island at 30 m depth,

(C) *Tritoniella* sp. 3 – Shag Rocks, South Georgia, and Discovery Bank (north and east of Scotia Sea) from 119 to 751 m depth, (D) *Tritoniella belli* – Ross and Weddell seas from 80 to 318 m depth, (E) *Tritoniella* sp. 4 – the South Orkney Islands and King George Island, 20–278 m depth, and (F) *Tritoniella* sp. 5 – South Sandwich Islands, Bransfield Strait, and King George Island, 20–420 m depth. The SDT results based on 16S mainly recover four species and clustered the specimens distributed in higher latitudes belonging to *T. belli* with the species hypotheses sp. 4 and sp. 5.

Species previously ascribed to *Tritonia* now split into three genera. First, a small clade composed of the newly erected genus *Tritonicula* is comprised of *T. hamnerorum* and *T. bayeri* from the Caribbean Sea



(Goodheart et al., 2016), and *T. pickensi*, from Baja California (E.B.-R. Marcus and Marcus, 1967). This genus is the sister taxon to the remaining clades. A second clade is composed of species from the Mediterranean, Eastern Atlantic, and South Africa now under the genus *Duvaucelia* (*D. manicata*, *D. striata*, *D. lineata*, *D. plebeia*, and *D. nilsodhneri*), which is sister to a larger clade including Eastern Pacific and Southern Hemisphere species. Finally, the Eastern Pacific clade includes the currently recognized *Tritonia* species *T. exsulans*, *T. festiva*, *T. tetraquetra*, an undescribed Peruvian *Tritonia* sp. 3, and the Chilean-Argentinian *T. odhneri*. In the Southern Hemisphere clade, the South American *T. challengeriana* is a complex of three species sister to a clade formed by the Sub-Antarctic species *T. dantarti* plus *T. vorax* (BS = 100, PP = 1) and the Antarctic specimens of ‘*T. challengeriana*’ (BS = 100, PP = 1), which were once recognized as the distinctive species *T. antarctica* (Wägele, 1995), which is henceforth resurrected. Among these above-mentioned species, all SDT for both COI and 16S agree on the species composition of *T. odhneri* from Aysén and Magallanes channels in Southern Chile, 5–35 m depth, and the Peruvian *Tritonia* sp. 3 from 5 to 20 m depth. The same agreement occurs for *T. antarctica* from the Scotia Sea, Antarctic Peninsula, Ross, and Weddell Seas, 62–789 m depth (Rossi et al., 2021). We found evidence of the presence of at least three species within the complex *T. challengeriana*, (A) *Tritonia* sp. 1 – a singleton from Isla Castillo in Chile at 28 m depth, (B) *Tritonia* sp. 2 – two specimens from Burdwood Bank East at 109 m depth, and (C) *T. challengeriana* – numerous specimens along the Southern Chilean coast to Tierra del Fuego, 1–30 m depth. Incongruence among SDT based on COI or 16S was only found in the identity of *T. dantarti* (from Bouvet Island at 130 m depth), recognized as *T. vorax* in the 16S dataset present in Tierra del Fuego, Falkland Islands, Burdwood Bank, and South Georgia at 3–444 m depth.

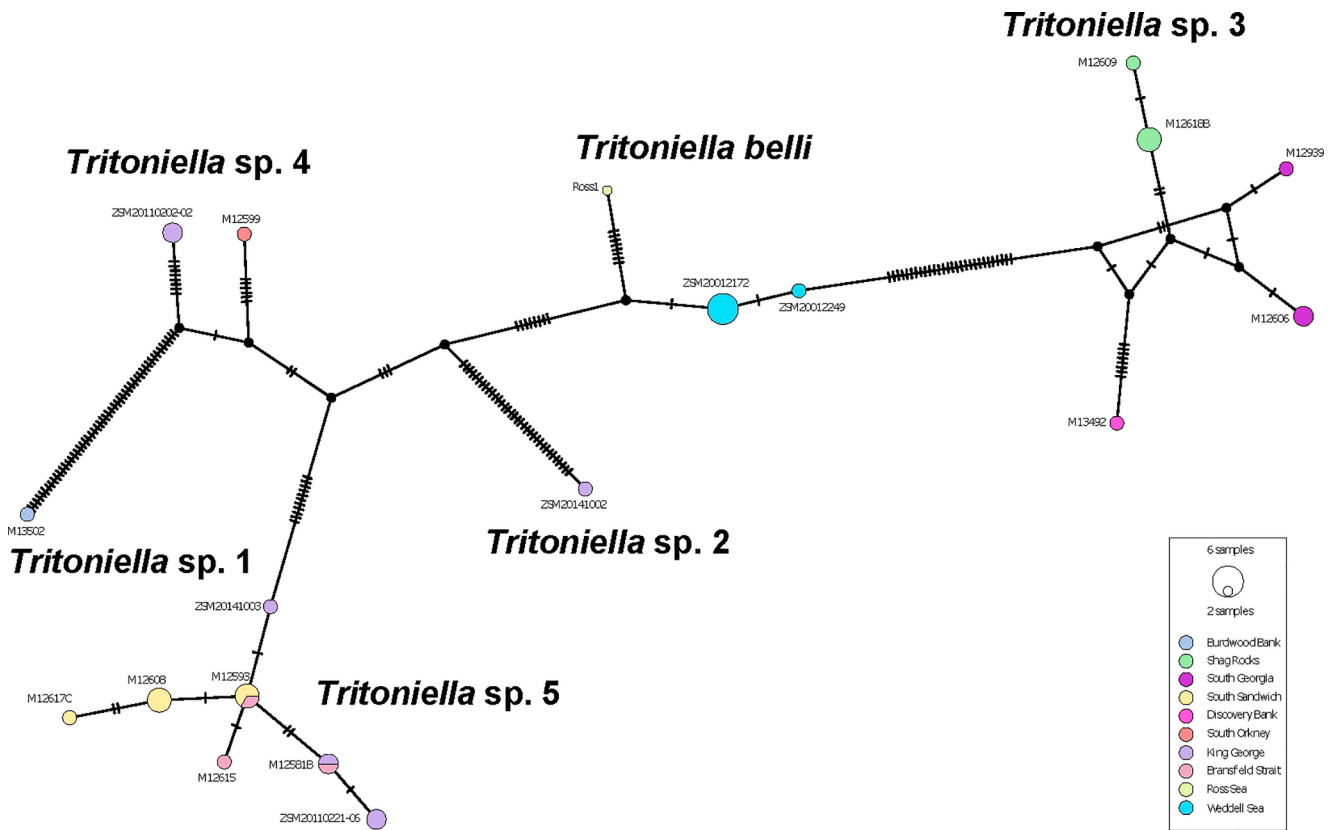
#### 4. Discussion

This study benefited from an unprecedented taxon representation of Tritoniidae species from remote areas in the Southern Ocean and nearby regions, including material from Sub-Antarctic Islands and South America. Overall, we recovered the monophyly of Tritoniidae only in the BI analysis and the monophyly of the genera represented within. The genus *Tritonia sensu lato* is rendered monophyletic once the latest taxonomic restructuring was applied (Korshunova and Martynov, 2020), i.e. the restatement of *Duvaucelia* and the newly erected genus *Tritonicula*, as well as the inclusion of *Tritonia nigrigris* into the genus *Tochuina*. *Tritonia sensu lato* included a well-supported clade with representatives from the Atlantic, Pacific, and Southern oceans and a clade mainly formed by both Central Eastern Pacific and Western Atlantic oceans (composed by *T. bayeri*, *T. hamnerorum*, *T. pickensi*). The latter group, together with *T. wellsi* Er. Marcus, 1961 and *T. khaleesi* Silva, Azevedo & Matthews-Cascon, 2014, is characterized by a rather slender body, a white diffuse net of white pigmentation on the notum, a narrow radula with few lateral teeth, and a fleshy extension on the rhinophoral sheath (Silva et al., 2014; Gosliner and Ghiselin, 1987; E. Marcus and Marcus, 1967). Previous work has also recovered the genus *Tritonia* as polyphyletic in phylogenies generated by different morphological data (Bertsch et al., 2009), Sanger sequencing (Hulett et al., 2015; Korshunova and Martynov, 2020; Valdés et al., 2018), and transcriptomes (Goodheart, 2017), when these species were included. Since the type of *Tritonia* belongs to the Pacific + Southern Ocean clade, the Central Western Atlantic and Eastern Pacific clade may be better characterized as a different genus, for which *Tritonicula* was recently erected (Korshunova and Martynov, 2020). Therefore, we propose *Tritonicula khaleesi* comb. nov. to reflect the current taxonomy and recommend including it in future molecular assessments (as also mentioned in Korshunova and Martynov, 2020). Likewise, our analyses also support the recent restatement of *Duvaucelia* to comprise the species present in a clade formed by Mediterranean and Eastern Atlantic representatives. The latter genus is defined by relatively small size, a non-bilobed, small

oral veil and a moderate number of lateral teeth (as also commented in Korshunova and Martynov, 2020). An interesting model system of speciation to study nudibranch evolution and distributional history within *Tritonia* is the complex of species composed of the orange *Tritonia* (*T. tetraquetra*, *T. odhneri*, *T. exsulans*). Chilean and Argentinian populations of the warm-temperate adapted *T. odhneri* may be geographically separated but still appear morphologically identical (Schrödl, 2009). *Tritonia odhneri* is considered here a single species with (probably unidirectional) gene flow around Cape Horn, or undergoing speciation, together with its northern Pacific twin species *T. tetraquetra* and *T. exsulans* and our undescribed *Tritonia* sp. 3 from Peru (which externally mostly resembles *T. festiva*). The similarly coloured species *Marionia cucullata* distributed from Florida to Brazil (Muniain, 1998) presents a characteristic notal reticulation and it was previously confused with *T. odhneri*, found in northern Argentina. The species was sequenced here and its distinct identity confirmed as not belonging to *Tritonia*, thus resulting in its absence from Magellanic waters. Still, a comparative revision of southern Atlantic *Marionia* species, especially *M. tedi*, is required. Remarkably, *Marionia* formed two sister groups, concordant with other studies (Almón et al., 2018; Silva et al., 2019), thus including the molecular data for the type species of *Marioniopsis* Odhner, 1934 and *Paratritonia* in a comparative morpho-anatomical analysis is urged.

Regarding the southern tritoniids, we provide evidence for 13 + species compared to five traditionally recognised ones. Analyses with broader taxon sampling reject the monophyly of *Tritoniella belli* and *Tritonia challengeriana*, demonstrating pseudocryptic speciation that has misled morphology-based taxonomy (Schrödl, 2009; Wägele, 1995, 1989a). Such radiations of Antarctic *Tritoniella* and Southern Ocean *Tritonia* species support the hypothesis of the Antarctic biodiversity pump (*sensu* Rogers, 2007), and sustains habitat fragmentation during glacial maxima as the driving force towards allopatric speciation. This pattern is particularly evidenced in species with intracapsular development (Bryan et al., 1998; Woods and Moran, 2008), as for the ubiquitous and sympatric nudibranch *Doris kerguelenensis sensu lato* (Bergh, 1884) (Moles et al., 2017a; Wilson et al., 2013, 2009) and other heterobranch relatives (Moles et al., 2021, 2019). Our phylogeny supports two independent invasions of tritoniids into cold Antarctic waters by the genera *Tritoniella* and *Tritonia*. *Tritoniella* is confirmed as a valid genus characterized by a conspicuous dorsal ridge and the presence of lateral flaps in the dorsum (instead of ramified gills as in *Tritonia*; Wägele, 1989a), for which we provide molecular evidence for many species hypotheses. These are also supported by our preliminary morpho-anatomical descriptions, although formal species descriptions will be presented elsewhere.

Interestingly, the sister taxon to *Tritoniella* is the deep-sea genus *Tochuina*, with three species now known from the North Pacific Ocean (Behrens and Hermosillo, 2005; Korshunova and Martynov, 2020; Valdés et al., 2018). Bipolar distributions have been described in many lineages of molluscs (Crame, 1993), including nudibranchs (Moles et al., 2017b). In cooler times through Earth’s history, a prior cosmopolitan species may have undergone vicariant isolation in high latitudes during interglacial periods (Allcock and Griffiths, 2015). Each of the resulting species may have ultimately become extinct or persisted and found refuge in deep waters at lower latitudes (Stepanjants et al., 2006). *Tochuina* + *Tritoniella* illustrate this pattern of distribution with lower latitude species commonly found in deeper waters than the high latitude ones, i.e. *Tochuina nigrigris* found at 1733 m depth 37°N of the Pacific Ocean (Valdés et al., 2018) and *Tritoniella* sp. 1 found at 570 m depth 54.5°S on Burdwood Bank herein. *Tritoniella belli* seems restricted to the Weddell and Ross Seas, a distribution probably explained due to the Weddell-Ross seaway during the Miocene (Linse et al., 2006), as described for Antarctic philliniidae heterobranchs (see Moles et al., 2021). The other *Tritoniella* species seem to be endemic to distant Sub-Antarctic Islands, although the abundance of singletons found in this study highlights the difficulties collecting in these remote localities. For



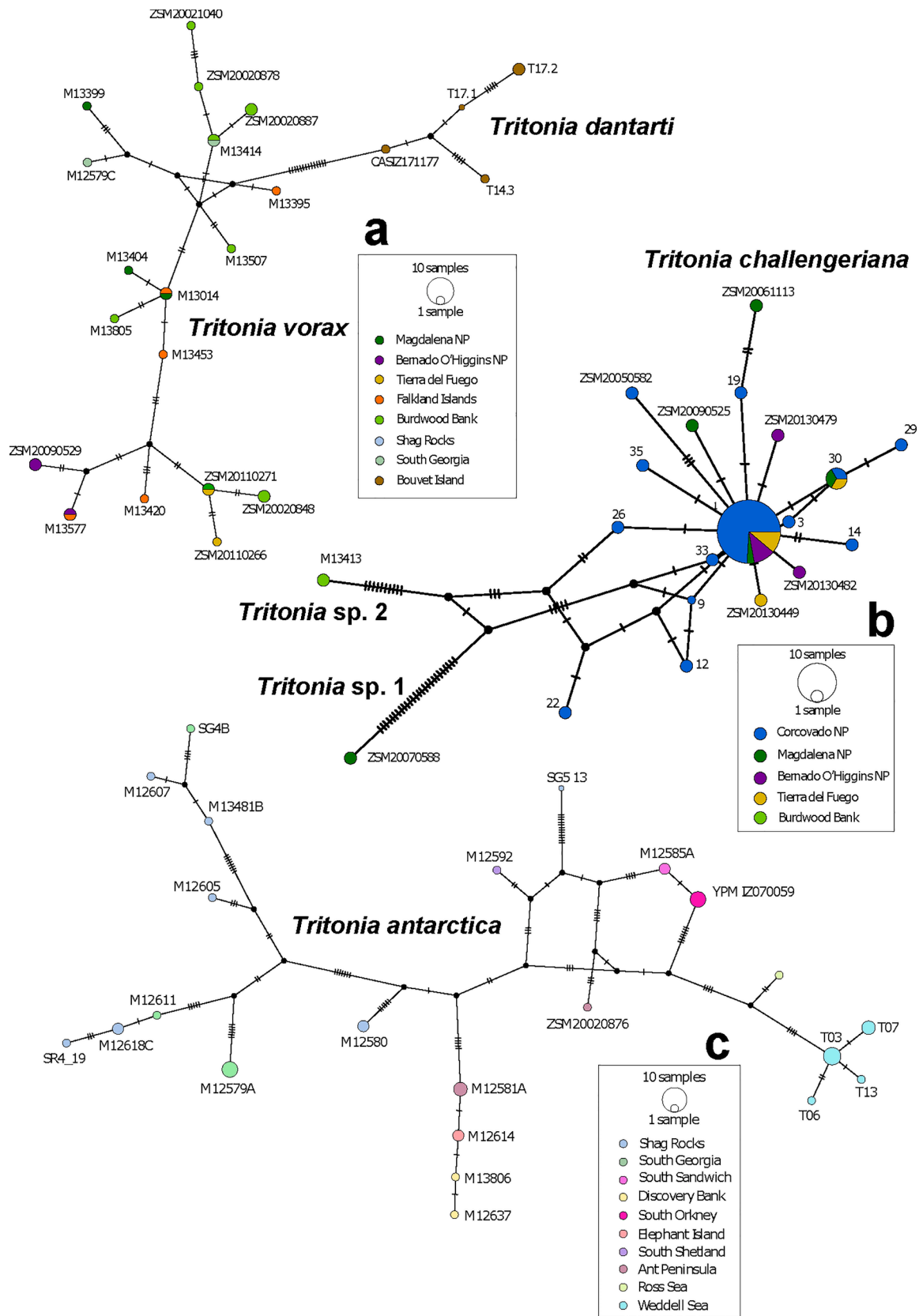
**Fig. 4.** Haplotype network reconstructed with PopART for the COI marker of species of *Tritoniella* from the Southern Hemisphere. Codes refer to voucher numbers from this study and two specimens of *T. belli* from the Ross Sea obtained from GenBank (Heimeier et al., 2010; Shields et al., 2009). Crossing lines between haplotypes indicate mutational steps.

instance, a well-sampled station in King George Island unravels three species living in sympatry in shallow waters. Some species are more widespread, e.g. *Tritoniella* sp. 5, which shows shared haplotypes between the Bransfield Strait and the South Sandwich Islands (see Fig. 4), a dispersal pattern probably favoured by the clockwise Weddell Gyre (Orsi et al., 1993). Overall, the species distribution and patchiness found here support the hypothesis of historic isolation and local radiation leading to speciation processes in *Tritoniella*.

Complex distribution patterns within Southern Ocean *Tritonia* species suggest a single invasion event of Antarctica from Sub-Antarctic regions with isolation leading to speciation and well-defined population structure (see Fig. 5). During repeated glaciation cycles, molluscs from Magellanic and Antarctic waters have been subjected to alternating periods of population decrease, fragmentation or extinction, and subsequent range expansion (González-Wevar et al., 2013; Strugnell et al., 2012; Wilson et al., 2013). Among those, *T. challengeriana*, which was once considered widespread, is now understood to be restricted to Chilean and Argentinian waters, with its southernmost record found in the Beagle Channel (Tierra del Fuego). Its closest relatives, which include *Tritonia* sp. 2, found in shallow waters in the Chilean locality of Aysén and *Tritonia* sp. 1, found at 110 m depth in the Burdwood Bank; both species are in the process of being described elsewhere. Whether the morphologically identical conspecifics *T. australis* or *T. (Microlophus) poirieri* are valid species will require additional taxonomical investigation, although are presently regarded as junior synonyms to *T. challengeriana* (Schrödl, 2003). The sister clade to the *T. challengeriana* species complex is composed of three species found in higher latitudes. *Tritonia vorax* is now found for the first time at shallow water depths in the Chilean fiords down to deeper waters on the Burdwood Bank and South Georgia thus importantly, crossing the Antarctic Convergence (Schrödl, 1999). This species is one of the easier species to discern due to

the extremely large pharynx and jaw size, and externally by the typical colour pattern (Schrödl, 2009; Wägele, 1995). The closest relative to *T. vorax* is *T. dantarti*, which seems restricted to remote Bouvet Island and also presents a heterogeneously coloured notum (Ballesteros and Avila, 2006). Nevertheless, colouration from translucent white to bright orange may be artefactual due to dietary pigments acquired by the southern *Tritonia* slugs (Rossi et al., 2021). Even if not all SDT clearly distinguish among both species, we consider both species valid due to most molecular results, morphological distinctiveness (especially fore-gut anatomy Rossi et al., 2021), and biogeography. Finally, *T. antarctica* is now considered a valid species with an apparent circumpolar distribution, but still encompassing much population structure. Although the Weddell and Ross Seas populations seem genetically more closely related to each other, additional structured populations are found across the Antarctic Peninsula and Scotia Arc. Ultimately, intraspecific variability described in morphological descriptions (Schrödl, 2003; Wägele, 1995) will now have to be reconsidered in light of the genetic structure here described. Among these characters, the living colouration, body size, notal structure, jaw size and structure, radula formula, the cuticular lining of the stomach, and the shape of the penial papilla will have to be taken into consideration.

In this study, we evaluated the evolutionary history of Southern Ocean and South American Tritoniidae with increased taxon sampling encompassing species of *Tritonia* and *Tritoniella*. Our phylogeny supports the current systematic knowledge on Tritoniidae by providing ample data from remote areas of the Southern Hemisphere. Phylogenetic analyses demonstrated the evolution of southern tritoniids is more complex than expected with 13 species discovered from the five traditional taxa. New species of *Tritonia* and *Tritoniella* are in process of being described elsewhere with a thorough taxonomical reassessment of type taxa and literature. Biodiversity and biogeographical patterns show a



**Fig. 5.** Haplotype network reconstructed with PopART for the COI marker of species of *Tritonia* from the Southern Hemisphere. Codes refer to voucher numbers from this study and specimens of *T. dantarti* from Bouvet Island and *T. antarctica* from the Weddell and Ross Seas obtained from GenBank (Pola and Gosliner, 2010; Rossi et al., 2021; Shields et al., 2009). Crossing lines between haplotypes indicate mutational steps.

more restricted distribution and endemism likely driven by specific historical and ecological processes. Our contribution highlights the necessity of inventory work, essential to monitor and evaluate the consequences of the rapid environmental change on sensitive Southern Ocean taxa. In light of this study, future works assessing the systematics, taxonomy, and ecology of these species are encouraged to better comprehend this lineage of sea slugs with many interesting lines of research such as chemical ecology, neurophysiology, and behaviour.

### CRedit authorship contribution statement

J.M. and M.S. work in the conceptualization. Y.H., V.P., M.S., and N.G.W. collected specimens. M.I.B. and V.P. performed lab work. J.M. and N.G.W. performed analyses. M.S. contributed to resources. J.M. wrote the original draft. J.M., V.P., N.G.W., and M.S. reviewed and edited the final version of the manuscript.

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### Appendix A. Supplementary material

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympv.2021.107209>.

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