Class: Gastropoda

Fix names!

Order: Neogastropoda

Family: Volutidae

Genus: Athleta

*Athleta abyssicola*

Species: Athleta abyssicola  
  
FishBoard code: VOLBOS

Common name: Hatch shell whelk - pink foot

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| ~PHOTO\_0\_1~ | ~PHOTO\_0\_2~ |
| ~PHOTO\_0\_3~ | ~PHOTO\_0\_4~ |

Distinguishing features: : Cross hatching pattern often less distinct, appears worn down, although many do have clear hatching pattern. Colouration similar to A. abyssicola- mottled light brown with white flecks and often has darker blackish colouration on inner lip. A. lutosa mollusc foot is pink in colour, sometimes mottled with black. Fewer, less distinct plaits on aperture rim of inner lip and thinner outer lip margin than A. abyssicola. No operculum. Usually occur in shallower waters are often smaller and more squat than A. abyssicola. Shell characters as in A. abyssicola, but squatter in shape, with much less elongate body whorl, only 3-5 columella pleats and slightly shouldered whorls. Commonly trawled in 35-200m usually encased in a layer of stiff reddish-brown clay; the parietal callus is sometimes deposited on top of this coating.

Colour: Pale brown to yellow, sometimes pinkish, often with mottled colouration on shell.

Size: Average length 57 - 60 mm, average width 28 - 30 mm; Maximum length 90 mm.

Distribution: Continental shelf from Namibia to off Cape Point in water depths between 35 and 200 m.

Similar species: Athleta abyssicola (which has yellow/brown foot A. lutosa has pink foot)

References: Sea Shells of Southern Africa (Pg. 111, Pl. 26)