Functional hermaphrodite gonad in Fissurella crassa (Mollusca: Fissurellidae) Hermafroditismo funcional de la gónada de Fissurella crassa (Mollusca: Fissurellidae)

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The coast of the Southeastern Pacific is the habitat for 13 species of described keyhole limpets of the subgenus Fissurella Brugière. In these species sexual dimorphism does not exist, the animals are dioicos, the sex is recognized exploring directly or indirectly the gonads and they do not have processes of sexual reversion. The presence of an organism Fissurella crassa with portions of ovary and testicle with ability to generate ova and sperms, demonstrates the potential that Fissurella's organisms possess to develop functional hermaphroditism. Nevertheless, the present find does not allow to infer if the trigger agent of the synchronous functional development of the hermaphrodite gonad is a factor endogenous and/or associated with any exogenous environmental event.