

Some littoral sea spiders (Arthropoda: Pycnogonida) from Ecuador, with a new species of *Anoplodactylus* Wilson, 1878 (Phoxichilidiidae)

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Abstract

Five species of pycnogonid from shallow-water sampling of the hyperbenthos on some sandy beaches in Ecuador in 2001 and 2002 are discussed. Three of the species, *Tanystylum isthmiacum* Stock, 1955, *Anoropallene palpida* (Hilton, 1939) and *Anoplodactylus californicus* Hall, 1912, have been recorded previously from Ecuador waters; one species, *Ammothella symbia* Child, 1979, is newly recorded for Ecuador; one species of *Anoplodactylus* is described herein as new. The currently known pycnogonid fauna of Ecuador is listed.

Key words: Pycnogonids, South-East Pacific, Ecuador, *Ammothella*, *Tanystylum*, *Anoropallene*, *Anoplodactylus*

Introduction

During shallow-water sampling of the hyperbenthos on some sandy beaches in Ecuador in 2001 and 2002, during the VLIR-ESPOL Project of Escuela Superior Politecnica del Litoral-FIMCM, a number of specimens of sea-spiders (Pycnogonida) was collected. Voucher specimens, representing five species, were sent to The Natural History Museum, London, for identification. As this material included species new for Ecuador and, in one case, new to science, these voucher specimens are described below.

The pycnogonid fauna of Ecuador has received little study in the past. Child (1992a) recorded fifteen species from Ecuador waters, four new to science, two of which were found in the present material, while Stock (1975) recorded *Tanystylum isthmiacum* Stock, 1955, also recorded in the present collections. Two species discussed below were not pre-