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Redescription of *Korotkevitschia pelagica* (Korotkevitsch, 1961) (Enopla: Hoplonemertea: Cratenemertea), a pelagic nemertean from Antarctica

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Abstract

The anatomy of the holotype of the Antarctic hoplonemertean, *Korotkevitschia pelagica*, is redescribed and illustrated. The systematic position of the species is discussed. A new, extended, diagnosis is provided for the epipelagic cratenemertid family Korotkevitschiidae, which includes the genera *Korotkevitschia* and *Achoronemertes* and an undescribed species, referred to as Atlantic H".

Key words: *Korotkevitschia pelagica;* Antarctic; Hoplonemertea; Korotkevitschiidae; morphology; systematics

Introduction

In 1961, Korotkevitsch described *Cratenemertes pelagicus* from Antarctic waters, collected from a depth of 0–200 m. Subsequently, Friedrich (1968) revised the genus *Cratenemertes* Friedrich, 1955 and established the genus *Korotkevitschia* for this species; however, he did not provide a formal generic diagnosis. Friedrich's definition of the genus was based on the following characters: separate mouth and rhynchostome, absence of intestinal caecum, eyes, cephalic glands and nephridia.

Crandall & Gibson (1998) redescribed a pelagic nemertean *Amphiporus scoresbyi* and placed it in the new genus *Achoronemertes.* According to these authors, *Achoronemertes* differs from *Korotkevitschia* by the esophagus and rhynchostome opening into an atrium, and the presence of intestinal caecum and excretory system. However, the original description of *Korotkevitschia pelagica* is incomplete and preliminary re-examination of the holotype revealed that this species has a well developed excretory system (Chernyshev, 2003). In this paper I provide a redescription of *Korotkevitschia pelagica* and discuss its systematic position.

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