

Terebellidae (Polychaeta) from the Mexican Caribbean with description of four new species

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Abstract

Twenty species of Terebellidae Grube, 1850 were recorded and characterized from the Mexican Caribbean, four were newly described: *Polycirrus holthei* sp. nov., *Loimia salazari* sp. nov., *Neoamphitrite glasbyi* sp. nov., and *Terebellobranhia mchughae* sp. nov. The other species recorded were *Lysilla* sp., *Amphitritides bruneocomata* (Ehlers, 1887), *Eupolymnia crassicornis* (Schmarda, 1861), *Eupolymnia nebulosa* (Montagu, 1818), *Loimia medusa* (Savigny, 1818), *Loimia minuta* Treadwell, 1929, *Nicolea modesta* Verrill, 1900, *Paraeupolymnia carus* Young & Kritzler, 1987, *Pista palmata* (Verrill, 1873), *Pista cf. quadrilobata* (Augener, 1918), *Spinospaera carrerai* Londoño-Mesa, 2003, *Spinospaera hutchingsae* Londoño-Mesa, 2003, *Streblosoma hartmanae* Kritzler, 1971, *Terebella verrilli* Holthe, 1986, and *Thelepus setosus* (de Quatrefages, 1865). Materials from the Mexican Caribbean are compared with populations from the Grand Caribbean Region and elsewhere, and with descriptions available in the literature. A taxonomic key for the terebellids recorded from the Grand Caribbean Region is provided.

Key words: Grand Caribbean, Mexican Caribbean, Polychaetes, Taxonomic key, Terebellids

Introduction

Terebellids are common worms in marine bottoms, mostly in shallow waters, they build tubes on or inside the sediment or in crevices of hard bottoms (Hutchings, 2000; Rouse, 2001). Terebellidae is divided into three subfamilies based on the combination of morphological characters including the presence or absence of branchiae, their structure and the arrangement and shape of neuropodial uncini: Terebellinae Malmgren, 1866, Polycirrinae Malmgren, 1866, and Thelepodinae Hessle, 1917 (Holthe, 1986a); a fourth subfamily, Artacaminae Malmgren, 1866, was placed within the Terebellinae by McHugh (1995) on the basis of a cladistic analysis. Trichobranchids were erected as a subfamily