

***Tanacetipathes* Opresko, 2001 (Cnidaria: Antipatharia: Myriopathidae) from Brazil, including two new species**

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Abstract

The study of material obtained through dredging from off Brazil, in stations between Salvador (13° S) and the Cape of Sao Tome (22° S), and through scuba diving at the Abrolhos Reefs (18° S) revealed six species of *Tanacetipathes* Opresko, 2001. Two of these represent new species: *T. longipinnula* and *T. thalassoros*. *Tanacetipathes barbadensis* (Brook, 1889), *T. hirta* (Gray, 1857), and *T. thamnea* (Warner, 1981) represent first records from the South Atlantic. *Tanacetipathes tanacetum* (Pourtales, 1880) has been previously recorded off Brazil and it is probably the commonest species off Southeastern Brazil. *Tanacetipathes paula* Perez et al., 2005, is here considered a synonym of *T. thamnea*. An identification key to *Tanacetipathes* species is included along with illustrations of colonies, and a map of the genus distribution off Brazil, between 13° and 22° S.

Key words: Cnidaria, Antipatharia, Myriopathidae, *Tanacetipathes*, new species, new record, identification key, Brazil

Introduction

The classification of the Antipatharia is difficult, since many species and genera were established from incomplete specimens and their taxonomic hierarchy is not well defined at the genus and family levels (Opresko, 2001a). At the end of the 19th century-beginning of the 20th century, many authors proposed classification schemes for this order, especially Brook (1889), Schultze (1896), and van Pesch (1914). Myriopathidae Opresko 2001 was established in a partial revision of the order (Opresko, 2001a) and it is composed of species previously classified in the Antipathidae Ehrenberg, 1834. Opresko (2001a) removed these species to a new family because they have polyps, tentacles, spines and corallum pinnulation with particular characteristics.