

On two new species of *Halopteris* Allman, 1877 (Cnidaria: Hydrozoa) from Chile

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Abstract

Two new species of hydroids, *Halopteris enersis* sp.nov. and *Halopteris schucherti* sp.nov., from the Pacific coast of southern Chile are described and figured. Measurements and nematocyst data are provided for each species. Their morphological features are compared with those of other members of the genus, and comparative tables listing their peculiarities are presented.

Key words: Hydrozoa, Halopterididae, Halopteris, *Halopteris enersis*, *Halopteris schucherti*, new species, Chile

Introduction

The hydroid fauna of Chile is one of the most poorly documented in the world. It is essentially known from three reports, namely Jäderholm (1904), Hartlaub (1905) and Leloup (1974).

Recent explorations of the benthic fauna of south-Chilean fjords, made by the scientists of the Huinay Scientific Field Station, have provided a number of hydroid samples. During the identification of these samples, two species of the genus *Halopteris* were found that could not be allocated to any of known species of this genus and they are considered new to science. None of the papers of Jäderholm, Hartlaub and Leloup cited any hydroid referable to the genus *Halopteris*. Thus, the present paper is the first report of that genus from Chile.

Halopteris Allman, 1877 is a widespread hydroid genus, occurring in all world oceans, mainly within continental shelf depths. Some species are also found in bathyal environments (Vervoort 1966).

Schuchert (1997), in his review of the family Halopterididae, included 31 valid species in the genus *Halopteris*. Since then, two additional species have been described, i.e. *H.*