

Pelagic ctenophores from the São Sebastião Channel, southeastern Brazil

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Abstract

The ctenophore fauna of Brazilian coast is poorly known. Only one planktonic species, *Mnemiopsis leidyi*, was previously recorded for the southeastern coast. The present study describes and gives some biological notes of this and four other species (*Beroe ovata*, *Bolinopsis vitrea*, *Leucothea multicornis*, and *Ocyropsis crystallina*) that occur in the area, two of which (*B. vitrea* and *L. multicornis*) are new records for the subtropical southwestern Atlantic.

Key words: Ctenophora, comb-jelly, cydippid, zooplankton, southern Atlantic

Introduction

The ctenophores are poorly studied in Brazilian waters. According to Mianzan (1999), seventeen species (or morphotypes) of ctenophores are found in the Southwestern Atlantic, six of these [*Hormiphora plumosa* L. Agassiz, 1860, *Leucothea* sp., *Eurhamphaea vexilligera* Gegenbaur, 1856, *Ocyropsis crystallina* (Rang, 1828), *Ocyropsis maculata* (Rang, 1828), and *Velamen parallelum* (Fol, 1869)] occurring off the northern and northeastern Brazilian coast, and three others [*Lampea panzerina* (Chun, 1879), *Mnemiopsis mccradyi* Mayer, 1900b, and *Beroe cucumis* Fabricius, 1780] occurring along the southeastern and southern Brazilian coast. Two other species, *Cestum veneris* Lesueur, 1813 and *Beroe ovata* (Chamisso & Eysenhardt, 1821), were recorded in several disjunct localities along the Brazilian coast (Mianzan 1999). For the southeastern coast of Brazil, only two species were previously recorded. The first, *Mnemiopsis leidyi* A. Agassiz, 1865, is a planktonic species assigned to the São Paulo coast as *M. mccradyi* by Petrechen (1946) and probably