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The taxonomic status of the genus *Moseria* (Siphonophora, Physonectae)

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Abstract

The status of the two species presently included within the genus *Moseria* (Siphonophora, Physonectae), *M. convoluta* (Moser, 1925) and *M. similis* Margulis, 1977, is reviewed. Based on the availability of new material, described herein, both are considered valid. They can be distinguished by the morphology of their bracts, tentilla and palpons. Whether there are differences in the nectophores remains to be resolved.

As the generic name *Moseria* is pre-occupied for a ctenophore, a new generic name is required and *Resomia*, gen. nov., is proposed. The systematic position of this genus within the physonect siphonophores is discussed in light of recent molecular phylogeny studies (Dunn *et al*. 2005b).

Key words: Siphonophora, Physonectae, *Moseria*, *Resomia*, Systematics, Molecular Phylogeny

Introduction

Moser (1925) described a new species of physonect siphonophore, *Stephanomia convoluta*, collected at three sites in the region of Posadovsky Bay, Antarctica (c. 65°S, 89°E) during the Deutsche Südpolar Expedition. She described and figured the characteristic heart-shaped nectophores, the palpons, the gastrozooids, and the bracts, which had a transverse ridge delineating a distal facet on the upper side and a patch of nematocysts at the distal end of the bracteal canal. The structures of the nectophores and bracts were particularly distinctive in comparison with other physonect species known at the time. Moser also considered that the structure of the pneumatophore, which she believed was divided into three chambers, was a clear distinguishing character.

However, it was the unique structure of the tentillum (Moser 1925, Plate XXXII, fig. 4) (see Fig. 1) that was of particular interest. Her description of the tentillum is somewhat difficult to follow as she described its cnidoband (*ibid*, p. 433) as "in der Dorsoventralebene zu einer langen, flachen Spirale mit drei Windungen aufgerollt." The

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