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**Serpulids (Annelida: Polychaeta) from the Eastern Pacific,  
including a brief mention of Hawaiian serpulids**

J. ROLANDO BASTIDA-ZAVALA



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### Table of contents

Abstract .....	4
Resumen .....	4
Introduction .....	4
Material and methods .....	5
Results .....	8
Key to Eastern Pacific species of serpulids sensu stricto, including Hawaii .....	8
Systematics .....	12
Family Serpulidae Rafinesque, 1815 .....	12
Genus <i>Apomatus</i> Benedict, 1887 .....	12
Genus <i>Bathyvermilia</i> Zibrowius, 1973 .....	14
Genus <i>Crucigera</i> Benedict, 1887 .....	16
Genus <i>Ficopomatus</i> Southern, 1921 .....	19
Genus <i>Hyalopomatus</i> Marenzeller, 1878 .....	21
Genus <i>Hydroides</i> Gunnerus, 1768 .....	22
Genus <i>Laminatubus</i> ten Hove & Zibrowius, 1986 .....	30
Genus <i>Placostegus</i> Philippi, 1844 .....	30
Genus <i>Pomatoceros</i> Philippi, 1844 .....	31
Genus <i>Pomatoleios</i> Pixell, 1913 .....	33
Genus <i>Pomatostegus</i> Schmarda, 1861 .....	34
Genus <i>Protis</i> Ehlers, 1887 .....	34
Genus <i>Protula</i> Risso, 1826 .....	35
Genus <i>Pseudochitinopoma</i> Zibrowius, 1969 .....	38
Genus <i>Pseudovermilia</i> Bush, 1907 .....	39
Genus <i>Pyrgopolon</i> de Montfort, 1808 4.....	42
Genus <i>Salmacina</i> Claparède, 1870 .....	43
Genus <i>Semivermilia</i> ten Hove, 1975 .....	45
Genus <i>Serpula</i> Linnaeus, 1767 .....	45
Genus <i>Spirobranchus</i> de Blainville, 1818 .....	48
Genus <i>Vermiliopsis</i> de Blainville, 1818 .....	53
Concluding remarks .....	53
Acknowledgements .....	54
References .....	55
Appendix 1. Checklist of serpulids s.s. from the Eastern Pacific .....	60

## Abstract

Serpulids are an important component of benthic hard-bottom communities, including fouling communities developing on natural and artificial substrates. This paper provides an overview of the serpulid fauna in the Eastern Pacific, including a brief mention of Hawaiian species. Fifty-eight serpulid species belonging to 21 genera were recorded in this area. Approximately 2,300 specimens were examined and 41 species were identified from the Eastern Pacific (Alaska to Chile) and Hawaii. Several specimens were recently collected, mainly in localities from the Pacific coast of Mexico and other localities from Panama and Hawaii; type material and additional specimens were revised in museum collections. The most diverse genus was, by far, *Hydroides* (21 species, 36.2%), followed by *Protula* and *Spirobranchus* (four species each one, 6.9%). A new species, *Bathyvermilia kupriyanovae* n. sp., is described from deep waters off California and three species, *Pomatoleios* sp., *Serpula cf. hartmanae* and *Spirobranchus cf. gaymardi*, need further study for their correct determination. For each species, one or two important references, a material examined section, a brief diagnosis, habitat and updated distributional information are included. Taxonomic remarks of several species and a meristic exploratory analysis of two *Spirobranchus* species are included. An identification key, illustrations and a checklist of all the species recorded in this region are provided.

**Key words:** *Bathyvermilia*, *Ficopomatus*, fouling species, *Hydroides*, *Protula*, *Serpula*, *Spirobranchus*

## Resumen

Los serpúlidos son un componente importante de las comunidades béticas de sustratos duros, incluyendo comunidades incrustantes que se desarrollan en sustratos naturales y artificiales. Este trabajo proporciona un panorama de la fauna de serpúlidos en el Pacífico oriental, incluyendo una sucinta mención de los serpúlidos hawaianos. El número de especies de serpúlidos registradas en esta área es de 58, pertenecientes a 21 géneros. Aproximadamente 2,300 ejemplares de serpúlidos fueron revisados, de los cuales se identificaron y caracterizaron 41 especies del Pacífico oriental (Alaska a Chile) y Hawai. Varios ejemplares fueron recientemente recolectados, principalmente en localidades del Pacífico de México, y de otras localidades de Panamá y Hawaii; también se revisaron materiales tipo y ejemplares adicionales en colecciones de museos. El género más diverso, con mucho, fue *Hydroides* (21 especies, 36.2%), seguido por *Protula* y *Spirobranchus* (cuatro especies cada una, 6.9%). *Bathyvermilia kupriyanovae* n. sp., es descrita en aguas profundas de California; y tres especies, *Pomatoleios* sp., *Serpula cf. hartmanae* y *Spirobranchus cf. gaymardi*, requieren un mayor estudio para su correcta determinación. Para cada especie se incluye una o dos referencias selectas, una sección de material examinado, una diagnosis breve, el hábitat y la información de distribución actualizada. También se incluyeron notas taxonómicas de varias especies y un análisis exploratorio de dos especies de *Spirobranchus*. Se proporcionan una clave de identificación, ilustraciones y una lista de todas las especies registradas en esta región.

## Introduction

The Eastern Pacific extends from Point Barrow, Alaska, to the Magellan Strait, Chile (Fig. 1). The Eastern Pacific subdivisions into zoogeographical regions or provinces are recognized mainly by the geographical distribution of molluscs, crustaceans and echinoderms in tropical, subtropical, temperate and cold waters; however, the geographical limits of these regions (or provinces) varies from one author to another (Sverdrup *et al.* 1942; Keen 1971; Briggs 1974; Brusca 1980; Carvacho 1980; Maluf 1988; Hendrickx 1995).

The Eastern Pacific is characterized by cold waters from Alaska to Northern California, by temperate-subtropical waters from Central California to the western coast of Baja California Peninsula, by extensive tropical waters from Gulf of California to Peru, and another temperate-cold water region from Peru to Chile (Brusca 1980).

Since a strong North Equatorial current brings surface water from Western Mexico to Hawaii, combined with ship-transport, the Hawaiian Archipelago serpulids mostly originate from the American Pacific (*cf.* Bastida-Zavala & ten Hove 2003b). For this reason, the Hawaiian Archipelago is included in the present work (Fig. 1).