



New species and a new record of sea cucumbers from deep waters of the South African temperate region (Echinodermata: Holothuroidea)

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Abstract

Two new species, *Pseudostichopus langeae* and *Psolus griffithsi*, and a new South African record, *Molpadia musculus* Risso, are described from some deep-sea material collected off the South African west and south coasts. This material also contains the well known *Pseudocnella insolens* (Théel), *Ocnus capensis* (Théel), *Rhopalodinopsis capensis* Heding and an indeterminate *Thyone* sp.

Key words: Holothuroidea, Synallactidae, Molpadiidae, Phylloporidae, Psolidae, South Africa, new species, new records

Introduction

Subsequent to the writer's last paper on "Additions to the holothuroid fauna of the southern African temperate faunistic provinces, with descriptions of new species" (Thandar 2008), a few more species from deep waters of the South African temperate region have come to light from material sent to the writer by Prof. Charles Griffiths and Ms. Louise Lange of the University of Cape Town, South Africa. The material, trawled between 84–407 m, off the South African south and west coasts, although scant, reveals the presence of two new species, a new record of *Molpadia musculus* Risso, an indeterminate *Thyone* sp and the well known *Pseudocnella insolens* (Théel), *Ocnus capensis* (Théel) and *Rhopalodinopsis capensis* Heding. The two new species are described as *Pseudostichopus langeae* and *Psolus griffithsi*. In addition, this paper also describes the new *Molpadia musculus* record and the indeterminate *Thyone* sp.

Order Aspidochirotida Grube, 1840

Family Synallactidae Haeckel, 1896

Genus *Pseudostichopus* Théel, 1886

Pseudostichopus langeae n. sp.

Figures 1 & 2

Diagnosis. Length up to 60 mm; colour off-white. Mouth ventral, tentacles about 20; anus sub-ventral. Encrustations include sand grains, broken shells, coral debris, echinoid spines and foraminifera but no pteropod shells or sponge spicules. Podia thin, mostly on dorso-lateral radii. Polian vesicle single. Ossicles only in tentacles, podia, respiratory trees and gonad. Tentacle and podial ossicles as slender, curved rods with