



## A new *Clymenura* (Polychaeta: Maldanidae) from the intertidal of Banks Peninsula, New Zealand, with a reassessment of *Leiochone* Grube, 1868 and *Clymenura* Verrill, 1900

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### Abstract

A maldanid discovered on sand beaches of Banks Peninsula, South Island, New Zealand is newly described. *Clymenura snaiko* **sp. nov.** is of large size at over 250 mm length, with 18 chaetigers, two achaetous preanal segments with tori, unmodified dentate uncini in anterior chaetigers, a ventral glandular shield on chaetiger eight, a high cephalic rim notched laterally, and a deep anal funnel rimmed with 16 short subequal cirri and one longer ventral cirrus. The confused taxonomy of ventral-shield-bearing maldanids is reassessed and clarified. *Leiochone* Grube 1868 and *Clymenura* Verrill, 1900 are here treated as the valid members of Arwidsson's (1906) tribe Leiochonini in Euclymeninae, and given emended diagnoses, while Imajima and Shiraki's (1982) subfamily Clymenurinae and *Clymenura* subgenus *Cly.* (*Cephalata*) are considered invalid. Differentiating character states of the valid Leiochonini species are tabulated. *Leiochone* is restricted to six species, including the new combinations *L. annulata* (Mohammad, 1980) and *L. japonica* (Imajima & Shiraki, 1982). *Clymenura* is restricted to nine valid taxa, including *Cly. snaiko* **sp. nov.** and the new combination *Cly. polaris lena* (Averincev, 1990). These updated groupings exclude a further eight nominal taxa which mostly may be indeterminable. *Leiochone* species occur in inshore temperate to tropical Eastern Hemisphere waters, while *Clymenura* mostly occur in high North European latitudes and the northern Pacific region, usually offshore in deep water. The new species is the first record of a *Clymenura* from Southern Hemisphere waters, and the second member of the genus to be found in the intertidal.

**Key words:** *Clymenura*, *Cephalata*, *Leiochone*, Leiochonini, taxonomy, generic emendation, new species, new combinations, sand beach

### Introduction

The Maldanidae (bamboo worms) of New Zealand intertidal sands consist of two endemic species, *Macroclymenella stewartensis* Augener, 1926 and *Axiothella serrata* Kudenov & Read, 1977, and a third species previously reported from northern New Zealand by Ehlers (1907) as *Asychis amphiglyptus* (Ehlers, 1897), type locality South Georgia. Two of the maldanids mainly occur in sheltered waters and are regional in distribution, with *Ax. serrata* present only in the greater Cook Strait area and *As. amphiglyptus* only in the northern half of the North Island, whereas *M. stewartensis* occurs widely throughout the three main islands, including on relatively open coasts (Ehlers 1907; Augener 1926; Kudenov & Read 1977; Read 1984; Read pers. obs.). *As. amphiglyptus* and *M. stewartensis* also occur subtidally, and all three maldanids are large worms, sometimes common and conspicuous in the intertidal, although only *Ax. serrata* populations have been studied in any detail (Read 1984).

In addition to the known sandy intertidal species, another large sandy-shore maldanid was discovered in February 2008 at Banks Peninsula, South Island, a much-eroded complex of Miocene volcanoes attached to the edge of the Canterbury plains (Weaver *et al.* 1985). The hitherto undescribed species occurred at low densities and only on isolated beaches at the head of three northeastern Banks Peninsula bays.

The Banks Peninsula maldanid belongs to a small group of mainly Northern Hemisphere euclymenin species which have a distinctively shaped ventral glandular structure that is always only on chaetiger eight. Species with