



New Species of *Pista* Malmgren, 1866 (Polychaeta: Terebellidae) from the Caribbean

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Abstract

Three new species of *Pista* are described. *Pista vossae* sp. nov., occurs from Florida to Jamaica and Venezuela. This species is distinguished by uncini having few teeth, and base shaped with a rounded anterior process. *Pista lizae* sp. nov., is present in Florida, the Gulf of Mexico and Panama. This species is distinguished by having a lobe on the dorsal edge of segment 4, eyespots, and uncini with long posterior processes on the anteriormost three uncinigers only. Finally, *Pista hataam* sp. nov., from Yucatan Basin, is distinguished by having two lobes on the dorsal edge of segment 4, separated by a smooth swollen membrane, and all thoracic uncini with long posterior processes. Thus, the number of species of *Pista* for the region is doubled to six. A taxonomic key for Caribbean species is provided.

Key words: Annelida, Descriptions, Grand Caribbean, Morphological characters, Standardization, Taxonomic Revision, New Species

Introduction

The genus *Pista* Malmgren, 1866 has about 62 species and 2 subspecies, with bathymetric distribution from intertidal to abyssal waters (5000 m), and a geographical distribution from tropical regions to the Arctic and/or Antarctic waters. Some species are found in restricted regions, considered endemic, whilst other species have been reported more widely. The taxonomic boundaries of the genus have proven to be problematic, because as it has been emended to accommodate new species, almost each time they have been described. Because of this, the genus now includes wide variations in its morphology, with species having 1–3 pairs of branchiae, 17 or more thoracic notochaetigers, avicular or acicular uncini, uncini with short or long posterior process, presence or absence of eyespots, etc. Hence, the genus must be redefined and revised based on revisions of all the species, to include morphological characters that agree with the current diagnosis of the genus, and avoid the inclusion of species with additional characters that fall outside those of *Pista*.

Problems begin with the type species of the genus. *Pista cristata* (Müller, 1776), the type species from Norway, is also ill-defined because the original description and drawings do not give enough information to define the species and the genus. Later descriptions of *P. cristata* also introduced ambiguity in taxonomic characters (e.g., type and number of branchiae, type and shape of uncini). Thus, the species has been reported from all over the world. Taking into account this problem, Londoño-Mesa & Eibye-Jacobsen (in prep.) redescribe *P. cristata*, designating a neotype, since type material is lost or was never deposited in a collection.

The Grand Caribbean has been defined by Salazar-Vallejo (2000) as the geographical region from Bermuda and South Carolina (USA), in the north, the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, including the Greater and Lesser Antilles, and the northern Brazilian coast in the south. Londoño-Mesa (2009) reported three species of *Pista*