



## ***Monticellina* (Polychaeta: Cirratulidae) from the Pacific coast of Costa Rica with descriptions of six new species**

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### **Abstract**

Eight species of *Monticellina* are described from intertidal and subtidal sites on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica. Six of these species, *M. acunai* sp. nov., *M. antelaxa* sp. nov., *M. carrikeri* sp. nov., *M. elongata* sp. nov., *M. giribeti* sp. nov., and *M. setosa* sp. nov. are new to science while *M. cryptica* Blake, 1996 and *M. tessellata* (Hartman, 1960) have been previously described from California. *M. acunai* sp. nov. has a wide prostomium, a peristomium with four annulations and denticulate capillary setae with numerous well-developed teeth in both the notopodium and neuropodium. *M. antelaxa* sp. nov. has a small prostomium, a wide peristomium with three annulations, and a double row of denticulate neurosetae with long fibrillar teeth. *M. carrikeri* sp. nov. has a wide prostomium, a wide peristomium with three annulations, and denticulate neurosetae with a narrow base and an expanded midsection with numerous, scattered, small teeth. *M. elongata* sp. nov. has a wide prostomium, an elongate peristomium with six annulations, the first segment joined with the first setiger, and denticulate capillary noto- and neurosetae with coarse teeth. *M. giribeti* sp. nov. has a wide prostomium, an elongate peristomium with five annulations, an asetigerous first segment joined with the peristomium, and denticulate capillary noto- and neurosetae with fine teeth. *M. setosa* sp. nov. has a small prostomium, a wide peristomium with five annulations, nuchal organs present within narrow indentations of the overlying peristomium, and denticulate capillary neurosetae with fine teeth. Morphological characteristics that may aid in the differentiation of species within the genus are discussed.

**Key words:** Annelida, Polychaeta, Cirratulidae, *Monticellina*, Costa Rica, Eastern Pacific

### **Introduction**

The polychaetes of Costa Rica are not well known mainly due to a lack of sample effort and difficulty in the identification of what are often undescribed species. This is especially true of the Cirratulidae, a highly speciose and usually very abundant but poorly understood family. Dean (2004) lists 24 tentatively described species belonging to six genera recorded in the literature from the Pacific coast of Costa Rica. Of these, nine were identified only to the genus level. No cirratulids have been reported from the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica. Dean & Blake (2007) presented the first thorough study of the genera *Chaetozone* and *Caulleriella* from the coast of Costa Rica and expanded the number of known members of the genus *Chaetozone* from two identified species to five species and the number of species of *Caulleriella* from one misidentified species to five. It is obvious that the family Cirratulidae has been inadequately characterized in Costa Rica.