



## Two new species of Cirratulidae (Annelida: Polychaeta) from Mar del Plata, Argentina (SW Atlantic)

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### Abstract

Cirratulidae from Mar del Plata (38°S, 57°W) are under revision. The city has an intertidal outfall, and several polychaetes are associated with both intertidal and subtidal communities in organically enriched areas. The present paper provides the first records of the cirratulid genera *Protocirrinieris* and *Aphelochaeta* from Argentine waters: *P. angelicollatio* sp. nov. from intertidal areas and *A. malefica* sp. nov. from shallow subtidal areas. Living specimens of *P. angelicollatio* sp. nov. were observed and asexual reproduction and high regeneration rates have been observed.

### Resumen

Los Cirratulidae de los alrededores de Mar del Plata (38° S, 57° W) están siendo revisados. La ciudad posee un efluente intermareal, y varias especies de poliquetos se hallan asociados a las comunidades bentónicas inter y submareales enriquecidas orgánicamente. Los géneros *Protocirrinieris* y *Aphelochaeta* son mencionados por primera vez para aguas argentinas, *P. angelicollatio* sp. nov. es descripta para áreas intermareales, y *A. malefica* sp. nov. para fondos someros, ambos ambientes orgánicamente enriquecidos. Especímenes vivos de *P. angelicollatio* sp. nov. se hallan bajo observación, y altos ritmos de regeneración y reproducción asexual han sido observados.

**Key words:** *Protocirrinieris*, *Aphelochaeta*, taxonomy, intertidal, subtidal, organically enriched areas, Mar del Plata, Argentina

### Introduction

Argentina has 4,000 km of coast and nearly 1,000,000 km<sup>2</sup> of continental shelf. The region has several oceanographic features including the front of the Rio de la Plata estuary, the shelf-break front, and tidal fronts (Acha et al. 2004). Due to the confluence of two major currents, the Brazil (warm-temperate) and Malvinas (subantarctic), two Zoogeographic Provinces occur along the coast (Boschi 2000). An unpublished list of cirratulids is available for the southern Argentina (the Magellanic Province, Orensanz 1974), but there are no records of cirratulids for the northern area. Mar del Plata (38°S, 57°W) is in the northern warm-temperate Argentine Zoogeographical Province, which extends from southern Brazil to northern Argentina.