



Magelonidae (Polychaeta) from Hong Kong, China, with discussions on related species and redescriptions of three species

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Abstract

A review of the Magelonidae from three surveys carried out in Hong Kong waters revealed the presence of three species: *Magelona crenulifrons* Gallardo, 1968, *Magelona cornuta* Wesenberg-Lund, 1949, and *Magelona* cf. *cincta*. Type materials of *M. crenulifrons* and *M. cornuta* were examined and redescriptions undertaken. *Magelona cornuta* was shown to possess a crenulate anterior margin, and the nature of the thoracic neuropodial lamellae was found to differ from the original description. Comparison with *M. crenulifrons* revealed these two species to be very morphologically similar, differing however, in several features that require close examination, including the dentition of the abdominal hooks. The presence of a species matching the description of *Magelona cincta* led to a redescription of the type specimen. Whilst the Hong Kong material shared many similarities with the holotype, several differences were noted. However, due to size variation between the material, the species cannot be currently described as new and is treated separately herein. Material collected from the Gulf of Oman was subsequently studied and revealed the presence of *M. crenulifrons* off Iran and Qatar, however, *M. cornuta* which was originally described from Iranian waters, was not present. Additional information has been added to species descriptions and the relationship between Indo-West Pacific species discussed.

Key words: *Magelona cornuta*, *Magelona crenulifrons*, *Magelona cincta*, Indo-West Pacific

Introduction

The current paper, following on from work in the Seychelles (Mortimer & Mackie 2003, 2006), reviews the magelonids from three surveys carried out in Hong Kong, China, between 1986 and 1990. Collections were made in the northeastern Mirs Bay and Tolo Channel area in 1986 (e.g., Shin 1990), and again in 1989 (Mackie et al. 1993), while southwestern Hong Kong waters were sampled in 1990 during an ecological survey of an area to be reclaimed for airport construction. In addition, recent material from southeastern waters in the region of the Ninepin Group islands was obtained through Dr. Paul Shin (City University of Hong Kong).

Currently, nearly 70 magelonid species are recognized worldwide. Almost all are included in the genus *Magelona* Müller, 1858; however, two species are described for *Meridithia* Hernández-Alcántara & Solís-Weiss, 2000, and one for *Octomagelona* Aguirrezabalaga, Ceberio & Fiege, 2001. The validity of *Meridithia* was recently questioned by Mortimer & Mackie (2003).

To date, only two species of *Magelona* have been reported from Hong Kong waters: *Magelona crenulifrons* Gallardo, 1968 and an unnamed species (Mackie et al. 1993; Shin 1982 a & b, 1998, 1990, 2003; Shin & Thompson 1982). This review of the Hong Kong Magelonidae revealed the