

## ***Timea bioxyasterina* sp.n., a new species from the Northeastern coast of Brazil (Demospongiae, Hadromerida)**

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### **Abstract**

A new Brazilian species of *Timea* is described from 01°51'00"S-43°48'00"W (35.5 m depth). *Timea bioxyasterina* sp. nov. is set apart from other tropical Western Atlantic species by the possession of tylasters and two categories of oxyasters.

**Key words:** Taxonomy, Porifera, Hadromerida, northeastern Atlantic, *Timea bioxyasterina* sp. nov.

### **Introduction**

Ongoing taxonomic screening of biological collections gathered in the past decades along the Brazilian continental shelf is revealing many new sponge taxa (Lerner & Mothes, 1999; Mothes & Lerner, 1999; Mothes & Silva, 2002). Study of material dredged off the coast of the State of Maranhão yielded a new species of *Timea*, which is described below. The genus has ca. 20 species recorded from the Mediterranean, North Atlantic, West Indies, Brazil and northern Australia; some of these identifications being in need of a revision as large discontinuous distributions are postulated.

### **Material & methods**

The specimen was collected at Brazilian coast in the year 1973, from 01°51'00"S–43°48'00"W, off the coast of Maranhão State (Figure 1). It was dredged during oceanographic expedition [Superintendência de Desenvolvimento do Nordeste (SUDENE)—Comissão Maranhão]. The holotype is deposited in the Porifera Collection of the Museu Nacional, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (MNRJ).