

***Biemna trisigmata* sp. n., a new sponge from the North coast of Brazil (Demospongiae, Poecilosclerida)**

BEATRIZ MOTHES* & MAURÍCIO A. DE CAMPOS*

* Museu de Ciências Naturais, Fundação Zoobotânica do Rio Grande do Sul, Cx. Postal 1188, 90001-970,
Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil; bmothes@fzb.rs.gov.br

Abstract

A new species of *Biemna* Gray, 1867, *B. trisigmata* sp. n., is described from the northern Brazilian coast, Amapá State. The new species is compared to other tropical West Atlantic species of *Biemna*, from which it differs in having three categories of sigmas and two categories of microxeas.

Key words: Porifera, *Biemna*, Desmacellidae, Poecilosclerida, Taxonomy, Brazilian coast, Amapá, southwestern Atlantic

Introduction

The north coast of Brazil is still poor with regard to knowledge of the Porifera fauna. A few records of shallow-water Poecilosclerida have been previously made in this area and adjacent regions (Collette & Rützler, 1977; Hajdu & Desqueiroux-Faúndez, 1994; Mothes *et al.*, 2000; Mothes *et al.*, in press). Tendal (1973) working on material gathered by the 'Albatross' Swedish Expedition, described *Chondrocladia albatrossi* from deep-water (4.474–4.430 m), off the coast of Ceará State. The occurrence of *Biemna* is limited to one species, *B. microacanthosigma* Mothes, Hajdu, Lerner & Van Soest (in press).

Material & methods

The sample was collected from the Brazilian coast in 1968, from 02°57'00"N–49°04'00"W, 76 m depth, off the coast of Amapá State (Fig. 1). It was dredged during the oceanographic expedition of Diretoria de Hidrografia e Navegação da Marinha do Brasil (DHNM) — Comissão Pesca Norte I. The holotype is deposited in the Porifera Collection of Museu de Ciências Naturais, Fundação Zoobotânica do Rio Grande do Sul (MCNPOR). Skeletal slides and dissociated spicule mounts were made according to methods of Mothes