

Taxonomy of *Rhabderemia* Topsent, 1890 collected from the south-eastern Brazilian continental shelf and slope by Programme REVIZEE (Rhabderemiidae, Poecilosclerida, Demospongiae), with the description of two new species

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Abstract

Three new records (two new species) of *Rhabderemia* (Rhabderemiidae, Poecilosclerida, Demospongiae) are described from the South-eastern Brazilian coast, collected during Programme REVIZEE (1996–2002)-South Score, off the São Paulo and Santa Catarina State coasts. *Rhabderemia uruguaiensis* can be recognized by its rhabdostyles which are frequently smaller than 150µm as well as frequently larger than 300µm, and microscleres which are a single category of microstyles smaller than 100µm and small spirosigmata always smaller than 15µm. *Rhabderemia besnardi* sp. nov. is characterized by possession of two categories of spined microstyles, one category of rugose rhabdostyles and small spirosigmata. *Rhabderemia itajai* sp. nov. differs from other congeners, because of its rhabdostyles which are never smaller than 300µm, next to microstyles always smaller than 70µm and small spirosigmata always smaller than 10µm.

Key words: Taxonomy, Porifera, REVIZEE, Brazilian coast, *Rhabderemia*, continental shelf, continental slope

Introduction

Programme REVIZEE aimed to establish the maximum allowable limits for sustained capture of life resources in the Brazilian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) based on the best available scientific data. For operational purposes, the Brazilian EEZ has been subdivided in four sectors (the Scores) following substrate homogeneity, ecosystems and oceanographic conditions criteria: North Coast (ca. 4°N–3°S), Northeast Coast (ca. 3°–13°S), Central Coast (ca. 13°–22°S), and South Coast (ca. 22°–34°S). This paper reports on further results obtained from the taxonomic study of the sponge samples gathered in the