

Adeonellas from the Gulf of Aden including one new species

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Abstract

The genus *Adeonella* Busk, 1884 consists of 41 species, with a broad distribution in the southern hemisphere. Just three are known from the east African coast so far: *A. distenta* from the coast of Aden, *A. lichenoides* and *A. falcicuala* from Zanzibar (Hayward 1988). Hayward (1983) suggested that further species of *Adeonella* are likely to be found along the east African coast. Two species of *Adeonella*, including one new species, are reported from the Gulf of Aden in this study.

Key words: Bryozoa, Arabian Fauna, Adoenellidae

Introduction

The arabian region, geologically only recently rejoined, with its unusual climate and semi-enclosed water bodies represents an interesting and poorly known area (Sheppard et al. 1991). Bryozoa have been studied from the Red Sea in detail, including the Sudanese, Egyptian and Israeli coasts which started with the early works of Audouin (1826) from the Red Sea and Waters (1909) from the Sudanese coast. The following studies by Hastings (1927), Balavoine (1959) and d'Hondt (1988) were attended to the Northern Red Sea, the Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez. Powell (1967) who has described 30 species from Massawa and the Dhalak Archipelago, published (1969) a checklist of Indo-Pacific Bryozoa in the Red Sea and Dumont (1981) described cheilostome Bryozoa from the Sudanese Red Sea. All these studies focus mainly on the region between the Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez down to Massawa. So far just few specimens were described from the Gulf of Aden.

In this study a new species of *Adeonella* is described as a result of the examination on the bryozoan specimens from the expedition of the R.V. Meteor in 1987. Furthermore *A. lichenoides* is reported from the Gulf of Aden for the first time. Together with *A. distenta* that makes a total of 3 *Adeonellas* in this region. First the Indo-West-Pacific appeared to be