Terebellidae (Polychaeta) from the Mexican Caribbean with description of four new species

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Abstract

Twenty species of Terebellidae Grube, 1850 were recorded and characterized from the Mexican Caribbean, four were newly described: Polycirrus holthei sp. nov., Loimia salazari sp. nov., Neoamphitrite glasbyi sp. nov., and Terebellobranchia mchughae sp. nov. The other species recorded were Lysilla sp., Amphitritides bruneocomata (Ehlers, 1887), Eupolymnia crassicornis (Schmarda, 1861), Eupolympnia nebulosa (Montagu, 1818), Loimia medusa (Savigny, 1818), Loimia minuta Treadwell, 1929, Nicolea modesta Verrill, 1900, Paraepolymnia carus Young & Kritzler, 1987, Pista palmata (Verrill, 1873), Pista cf. quadrilobata (Augener, 1918), Spinosphaera carrerae Londoño-Mesa, 2003, Spinosphaera hutchingsae Londoño-Mesa, 2003, Streblosoma hartmanae Kritzler, 1971, Terebella verrilli Holthe, 1986, and Thelepus setosus (de Quatrefages, 1865). Materials from the Mexican Caribbean are compared with populations from the Grand Caribbean Region and elsewhere, and with descriptions available in the literature. A taxonomic key for the terebellids recorded from the Grand Caribbean Region is provided.

Key words: Grand Caribbean, Mexican Caribbean, Polychaetes, Taxonomic key, Terebellids

Introduction

Terebellids are common worms in marine bottoms, mostly in shallow waters, they build tubes on or inside the sediment or in crevices of hard bottoms (Hutchings, 2000; Rouse, 2001). Terebellidae is divided into three subfamilies based on the combination of morphological characters including the presence or absence of branchiae, their structure and the arrangement and shape of neuropodial uncini: Terebellinae Malmgren, 1866, Polycirrinae Malmgren, 1866, and Thelepodinae Hessle, 1917 (Holthe, 1986a); a fourth subfamily, Artacaminae Malmgren, 1866, was placed within the Terebellinae by McHugh (1995) on the basis of a cladistic analysis. Trichobranchids were erected as a subfamily

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