

Revision of *Paraeupolymnia*, and redescription of *Nicolea uspiana* comb. nov. (Terebellidae: Polychaeta)

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Abstract

Paraeupolymnia Young & Kritzler, 1987 is redefined and its type species, *P. carus* Young & Kritzler, 1987, is redescribed. It is easily recognized by the presence of two pairs of branchiae on segments two and three, and one pair of lateral lappets on segments two/three; its distribution is expanded to include localities in Florida, the Gulf of Mexico, Lesser Antilles and Venezuela. *Paraeupolymnia garciagomezi* sp. nov. is described from the Florida Keys; it differs from its congeners by the presence of a region with many tubercles on the thoracic dorsal surface, and a rounded emergent papillae between the noto- and neuropodia. Finally, *P. uspiana* Nogueira, 2003, is transferred to *Nicolea* Malmgren, 1866, because of the lack of lateral lappets, and variation in the number of thoracic chaetigers.

Key words: Grand Caribbean, Mexican Caribbean, Panama, Polychaetes, Terebellids, Taxonomy, new species

Introduction

Paraeupolymnia Young & Kritzler, 1987 (subfamily Terebellinae) was established for *P. carus* Young & Kritzler, 1987, from Twin Cays, Belize, Caribbean Sea. The genus is characterized by two pairs of branchiae on segments 2 and 3, and one pair of well-developed lateral lappets shared by segments 2 and 3. The authors decided to erect this genus since, following Fauchald's (1977) key, they believed their material did not belong to *Eupolymnia* Verrill, 1900. *Eupolymnia* has three pairs of branchiae on segments 2–4, and small lateral lappets on segments 2–4. These features have been considered as stable generic characters in the terebellids. Characters shared by these two genera include the presence of smooth-tipped notochaetae, seventeen pairs of thoracic notochaetigers, and short-handled uncini in thoracic and abdominal uncinigers, with teeth in two or more rows.