

***Raspailia (Raspaxilla) bouryesnaultae*, a new name for Brazilian *Raspaxilla elegans* Boury-Esnault, 1973 (Demospongiae, Poecilosclerida, Raspailiidae) with a redescription and a new record**

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Abstract

The combination *Raspailia (Raspaxilla) elegans sensu* Boury-Esnault, 1973 is preoccupied by *Raspailia elegans* Lendenfeld, 1887 (Porifera, Poecilosclerida, Raspailiidae). A new name for this Brazilian shallow-water species is proposed, *Raspailia (Raspaxilla) bouryesnaultae* n.n., and the species is redescribed based on a skeleton slide from the holotype and additional material freshly collected from the coast of Santa Catarina state. The distribution is now expanded to encompass the area from 22° to 27°S, in southeastern Brazil.

Key words: Taxonomy, Porifera, *Raspailia*, Southwestern Atlantic, Brazil

Introduction

The coast of the Brazilian state of Santa Catarina represents the southern limit of the distribution of many shallow-water sponges, because it is the southernmost Brazilian region with rocky substrate and protected areas for attachment of this fauna. Further south, the coasts are sandy and the waters are very troubled. Porifera studies in this area are scarce. Until 1994, only six species were recorded from Santa Catarina coast: *Geodia glariosa*, *Stelletta beae*, *Tethya diploderma*, *Drumacidon reticulata*, *Tedania ignis* and *Aplysina caissara* (Volkmer-Ribeiro & Mothes-de-Moraes, 1975; Mothes-de-Moraes, 1985; 1987). In the last ten years the number of species was increased with twenty-four records: *Aaptos aff. aaptos*, *Axinella corrugata*, *Callyspongia (Toxochalina) pseudotoxa*, *Chalinula zae*, *Ciocalypa alba*, *Clathrina ascandroides*, *Guitarra sepia*, *Haliclona catarinenses*, *Haliclona lilacea*, *Haliclona mammillaris*, *Haliclona tubifera*,