

## ***Haliclona (Reniera) portroyalensis* n. sp., a new chalinid sponge (Porifera, Demospongiae, Haplosclerida) from the southeast coast of Jamaica**

CELIA P.J. JACKSON<sup>1</sup>, WALLIE H. DE WEERDT<sup>2</sup> & MONA K. WEBBER<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Life Sciences, University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Kingston, Jamaica.

<sup>2</sup>Zoological Museum Amsterdam, University of Amsterdam, P.O. Box 94766,  
1090 GT Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

<sup>3</sup>Department of Life Sciences, University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Kingston, Jamaica.

### **Abstract**

A new demosponge species of the order Haplosclerida, growing on mangrove roots in Port Royal, southeast coast Jamaica, is described as *Haliclona (Reniera) portroyalensis* n. sp. A short overview of previous work on Chalinidae and on Jamaican sponges is given, and we discuss how the new species differs from other member of the genus and subgenus. The holotype is purple alive and beige when preserved in alcohol. It has digitate and bulbous processes with scattered oscula, some laterally plush, and measuring 2–3 mm with larger ones up to 6 mm on the bulbous areas. The consistency is soft, and it is easily torn, but resilient. The megascleres, oxeas are straight to slightly curved with short conical points. The only microscleres are toxas which are of varying lengths numerous and distributed throughout the ectosome and choanosome.

**Key words:** Chalinidae, Haplosclerida, *Haliclona (Reniera)*, new species, Jamaica

### **Introduction**

During a systematic study of sponges growing on prop roots of the red mangrove, *Rhizophora mangle*, in the Port Royal lagoons at the southeast coast of Jamaica (Jackson 2003 and Jackson & Webber 2005), some specimens were collected by C. Jackson which appear to represent a new species of the family Chalinidae (Haplosclerida, Demospongiae), and which we describe below as *Haliclona (Reniera) portroyalensis* n. sp.

The Chalinidae outnumber all other sponge families, with approx. 450 species