

## **A new species of *Macrophiothrix* (Ophiuroidea: Ophiotrichidae) common in northern Australia**

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### **Abstract**

A new brittlestar species *Macrophiothrix caenosa* is described from Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia. It is common throughout tropical Australia and is also recorded from Japan and Singapore. It is distinguished from congeners by the combination of trapeziform dorsal arm plates, short multifid disc stumps, radial shields with stumps or rugose granules, dental plate shape, arrangement of dental papillae and distribution of ventral disc armament.

**Key words:** Ophiuroidea, Ophiotrichidae, *Macrophiothrix*, new species

### **Introduction**

*Macrophiothrix* is a genus of large-bodied, long-armed brittlestars that are common in shallow water throughout the tropical and temperate Indo-west Pacific. It is currently known to include 17 species in Australian waters (Hoggett, 1991). An additional species, *Macrophiothrix caenosa* n. sp., is described here.

The new species was originally described in a thesis (Hoggett, 1990). The name *Macrophiothrix caenosa* has appeared in at least two scientific publications on the basis of that description. Miller (1997) compared the specificity of its sperm chemotaxis with congeners and other brittlestars, and Hart & Podolsky (2005) constructed a phylogeny for some *Macrophiothrix* and *Ophiothrix* species using mitochondrial DNA sequences. However, the name was not available because a thesis does not constitute publication under Article 8 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999). Miller (1997) and Hart & Podolsky (2005) refer to the thesis in which *M. caenosa* was described (Hoggett, 1990) but that does not make an unavailable name available (Article 11.5.2, ICZN, 1999).

New names published after 1930 must be “accompanied by a description or definition