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**Additions to the aspidochirotid, molpadid and apodid holothuroids
(Echinodermata: Holothuroidea)
from the east coast of southern Africa,
with descriptions of new species**

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Table of contents

Abstract	4
Introduction	4
Systematic Account	5
Order Aspidochirotida Grube	5
Family Stichopodidae Haeckel	5
Genus <i>Thelenota</i> H.L.Clark	5
<i>Thelenota anax</i> H. L. Clark, 1921	5
Family Synallactidae Ludwig	6
Genus <i>Pseudostichopus</i> Théel	6
<i>Pseudostichopus echinatus</i> Thandar, 1992	6
Family Stichopodidae Haeckel	7
Genus <i>Stichopus</i> Brandt	7
<i>Stichopus</i> cf. <i>monotuberculatus</i> (Quoy & Gaimard, 1833)	7
Family Holothuriidae Ludwig	9
Genus <i>Actinopyga</i> Bronn	9
<i>Actinopyga bannwarthi</i> Panning, 1944	9
<i>Actinopyga echinites</i> (Jaeger, 1833)	11
<i>Actinopyga lecanora</i> (Jaeger, 1833)	12
Genus <i>Bohadschia</i> Jaeger	13
<i>Bohadschia marmorata</i> (Jaeger, 1833)	13
Genus <i>Holothuria</i> Linnaeus	16
<i>Holothuria (Halodeima) edulis</i> Lesson, 1830	16
<i>Holothuria (Lessonothuria) insignis</i> Ludwig, 1875	16
<i>Holothuria (Lessonothuria) pardalis</i> Selenka, 1867	18
<i>Holothuria (Lessonothuria) tuberculata</i> sp. nov.	20
<i>Holothuria (Mertensiothuria) albofusca</i> Cherbonnier, 1988	22
<i>Holothuria (Mertensiothuria) hilla</i> Lesson, 1830	24
<i>Holothuria (Microthele) nobilis</i> (Selenka, 1867)	26
<i>Holothuria (Platyperona) difficilis</i> Semper, 1868	27
<i>Holothuria (Selenkothuria) erinacea</i> Semper, 1868	29
<i>Holothuria (Stauropora) pervicax</i> Selenka, 1867	31
<i>Holothuria (Theelothuria) longicosta</i> sp. nov.	33
<i>Holothuria (Theelothuria) maculosa</i> Pearson, 1913	35
<i>Holothuria (Theelothuria) duoturriiforma</i> sp. nov.	37
<i>Holothuria (Theelothuria) pseudonotabilis</i> sp. nov.	40
<i>Holothuria (?Theelothuria)</i> sp. indet.	42
<i>Holothuria (Thymiosycia)</i> cf. <i>arenicola</i> Semper, 1868	44
<i>Holothuria (Vaneyothuria) integra</i> Koehler & Vaney, 1908	46
Order Molpadida Haeckel	49

Family Molpadiidae Müller	49
Genus <i>Molpadia</i> Risso	49
<i>Molpadia triforia</i> (Cherbonnier, 1965a)	49
<i>Molpadia</i> sp. indet.	52
Order Apodida Brandt	54
Family Synaptidae Oestergren	54
Genus <i>Protankyra</i> Oestergren	54
<i>Protankyra autopista</i> (Marenzeller, 1882)	54
<i>Protankyra</i> sp. indet.	56
Family Chiridotidae Oestergren	58
Genus <i>Chiridota</i> Eschscholtz	58
<i>Chiridota durbanensis</i> Thandar, 1996	58
<i>Chiridota rigida</i> Semper, 1868	59
Acknowledgements	59
Literature cited	59

Abstract

Collections of holothuroid echinoderms received from the Natal and South African Museums, the Universities of Cape Town and Witwatersrand and that present in the former University of Durban-Westville, contain several new species and many others that are new to the fauna of southern Africa, south of the tropic of Capricorn. A paper describing and/or recording several dendrochirots and a dactylochirotid, from a portion of these materials originating from the east coast of southern Africa, has already been published. The current paper describes and/or reports on several new species and records of aspidochirotid, molpadid and apodid holothuroids, also from the east coast, extending from Inhaca Island, off the coast of Maputo (Mozambique), to the Port St. Johns-East London area (South Africa), the subtropical zoogeographic province. A few other species have been included if they represent juvenile material, or considered extensions of ranges (bathymetric or otherwise) of previously known species, or confirmation of a species previously recorded from a single locality in the region under consideration, or for the provision of taxonomic data that was excluded for some previous published records. Of the 30 species treated, four are new to science and seven are new records for the southern African region. The new species are *Holothuria* (*Lessonothuria*) *tuberculata*, *H. (Thelothuria) duoturriiforma*, *H.(T.) longicosta* and *H. (T.) pseudonotablis*, whereas the new records include *Stichopus* cf. *monotuberculatus* (Quoy & Gaimard), *Actinopyga bannwarthi* Panning, *A. lecanora* (Jaeger), *Bohadschia marmorata* (Jaeger), *H. (Vaneyothuria) integra* Koehler & Vaney, *Molpadia triforia* (Cherbonnier) and *Protankyra autopista* (Marenzeller).

Key words: Holothuroidea, Aspidochirotida, Molpadida, Apodida, South Africa, new species, new records

Introduction

Currently the writer is in the process of identifying and reporting on numerous lots of holothuroid echinoderms received from the South African and Natal Museums and those as yet undescribed/unrecorded in the collections of the Universities of Cape Town, Witwatersrand and the former Durban-Westville (now University of KwaZulu-Natal: Westville Campus). These come from waters south of the tropic of Capricorn, ranging from the littoral to the deep sea, and contain several hitherto undescribed species and many new records for the southern African region. Most of the materials have been collected as a result of deep-water dredgings on the R.V. 'Meiring Naude' by researchers from the South African and Natal Museums, while others stem from either the Natal Museum's NMDP project, which extended from Kosi Bay on the north-east coast of KwaZulu-Natal to False Bay, east of the Cape Peninsula, as yet unidentified and/or unrecorded from the Universities of Cape Town's and Witwatersrand's ecological surveys (the latter at Inhaca Island, Mozambique), or a result of miscellaneous collections housed in the South African Museum, or made by collectors from the former University of Durban-Westville. A report on the dendrochirotid and dactylochirotid holothuroids contained in these materials from the subtropical east coast of South Africa, has recently been published (see