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Hydroids and hydromedusae (Cnidaria: Hydrozoa) from the fjords region of southern Chile

HORIA R. GALEA



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Abstract

The shallow-water hydroids and hydromedusae from the fjords region of southern Chile are surveyed. A total of 63 species are described or mentioned. Of these, one species, *Halecium fjordlandicum* sp. nov., is new to science, five species could be identified to genus only, and one species, *Hebella* cf. *dispolians* (Warren, 1909), is only tentatively identified. The species have been assigned to nine families of athecates, 13 families of thecates, two families of narcomedusae and one family of trachymedusae. Among the present material, twenty species are new records for Chile: *Bougainvillia muscoides* (M. Sars, 1846), *B. pyramidata* (Forbes & Goodsir, 1851), *Cordylophora caspia* (Pallas, 1771), *Hydractinia tenuis* (Browne, 1902), *Eudendrium* cf. *nambuccense* Watson, 1985, *E.* cf. *scotti* Puce, Cerrano & Bavestrello, 2002, *Calycella syringa* (Linnaeus, 1767), *Campanulina pumila* (Clark, 1875), *Egmondella gracilis* Stechow, 1921, *Lafoeina longithecata* Jäderholm, 1904, *Filellum* cf. *magnificum* Peña Cantero, Svoboda & Vervoort, 2004, *Hebella* cf. *dispolians*, *Sertularella argentinica* El Beshbeeshy, 1991, *S. fuegonensis* El Beshbeeshy, 1991, *S. gayi* (Lamouroux, 1821), *S. jorgensis* El Beshbeeshy, 1991, *Campanularia* cf. *hincksi* Alder, 1856, *Clytia linearis* (Thornely, 1900), *C. paulensis* (Vanhöffen, 1910) and *Culina octonaria* McCrady, 1859. A number of species show affinities partly with the cold-temperate Magellan region, and partly with Antarctica. The remaining species have either a cosmopolitan distribution, or are restricted to the temperate part of the southern hemisphere. Finally, several species have a bipolar distribution. Two species, *Hydractinia pacifica* Hartlaub, 1905 and *Kirchenpaueria magellanica* (Hartlaub, 1905) are here recorded for the first time from Chile since their original description. *Phialella chilensis* (Hartlaub, 1905) is regarded as a synonym of *P. quadrata* (Forbes, 1848), since there are available records of the medusa stage of the latter species from Chile. Some of the well-known species are listed together with short remarks, while others are briefly described. Less common species are redescribed, and new and uncertain species are fully described. Nearly all the species are illustrated, and their geographic distributions along the coasts of Chile are indicated. A checklist of all hydroids and hydromedusae described or mentioned from Chile is provided. Deposition of alcohol-preserved specimens and microslide preparations in the collections of the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle of Geneva is indicated.

Key words: Cnidaria, Hydrozoa, taxonomy, hydroids, athecate, thecate, hydromedusae, narcomedusae, trachymedusae, new species, southern Chile, fjords

Introduction

Historical review

The hydrozoan fauna of Chile has so far received little attention, with relatively few sporadic investigations and publications. Philippi (1866) was the first author who published a paper dealing with some Chilean hydroids. He described two new species, *Dynamena bidentata* and *Sertularia bidentata*, but both of them are unrecognizable from his account. Moreover, they have never been reported in subsequent works and are therefore considered as doubtful.

Later, Jäderholm (1904a) published a short paper on eight hydroid species, with three of them thought to be new. Of these, one is valid [*Plumularia duseni*=*Nemertesia duseni* (Jäderholm, 1904)], while *Selaginopsis* (= *Staurotheca*) *dichotoma* is a junior synonym of *Staurotheca dichotoma* Allman, 1888 and was subsequently renamed *Staurotheca jaederholmi* by Stechow (1920). The third species, *Campanularia obtusidens*, is actually a synonym of the well-known *Obelia dichotoma* (Linnaeus, 1758).

Shortly afterwards, Hartlaub (1905) made the first important account of the Chilean hydroid fauna known to him. He described a total of 81 hydroids, comprising several new species, i.e. *Hydractinia parvispina*, *H.*