



Two New Species of *Chrysopathes* (Cnidaria: Anthozoa: Antipatharia) from the Western Atlantic

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Abstract

Two new species of *Chrysopathes* are described, *C. oligocrada* from Yucatan and Brazil, and *C. micracantha* from the southeastern coast of the U.S. and Brazil. *Chrysopathes oligocrada* is characterized by lateral pinnules mostly 7–8 mm long (to 2 cm); 18–21 primary pinnules per cm; anterior-most primary pinnules with no more than one secondary pinnule (absent on some); some posterior primaries with a single secondary pinnule; lateral primary pinnules usually simple, rarely with a single subpinnule; tertiary pinnules absent; pinnular spines to 0.07 mm. This species is similar to *C. formosa* Opresko 2003 from the Pacific; the latter species differing in density of pinnulation (15–18 per cm) and size of the spines (to 0.16 mm). *Chrysopathes micracantha* is characterized by lateral pinnules mostly 5–6 mm long (to 2 cm); 24–33 primary pinnules per cm; anterior and posterior primary pinnules with as many as two subopposite secondary pinnules; lateral primary pinnules usually simple but with subpinnules on the thicker branches and stem; tertiary pinnules rarely present; pinnular spines to 0.1 mm. *Chrysopathes micracantha* is similar to *C. speciosa* Opresko 2003 from the Pacific, the latter species differing in a greater number of secondary pinnules per primary (three or more) and in size of the spines (to 0.18 mm).

Key words: Cladopathidae, *Chrysopathes oligocrada*, *Chrysopathes micracantha*, Yucatan, Mexico, United States, Brazil

Introduction

The genus *Chrysopathes* was established by Opresko (2003) on the basis of material collected in the northeast Pacific. The genus is differentiated from others in the family Cladopathidae by the occurrence of the primary pinnules in six rows. Specimens of this genus were collected by RSMAS in 1968 in waters off the Yucatan Peninsula. Since then, additional material has been found off the southeastern coast of the U.S. and also off the coast of Brazil. Two undescribed species are represented in these collections. These new species are described herein and are compared to closely related species from the northeastern Pacific. The Brazilian specimens discussed in this paper were previously described (but not named) by one of the coauthors at the 3rd International Symposium on Deep-Sea Corals, held in Miami, Florida, Nov. 28 to Dec. 2, 2005 (de Laia Loiola 2007).

The genus *Chrysopathes* is placed in the family Cladopathidae, one of seven families recognized in the order Antipatharia. It is the only family in which the polyps have only primary mesenteries and no secondary mesenteries. In the Antipathidae, Myriopathidae (see Opresko 2001), Aphanipathidae (see Opresko 2004), Schizopathidae (see Opresko 2002), and Stylopathidae (see Opresko 2006) the polyps have six primary and