



Synopsis and annotated checklist of Recent marine Bryozoa from Brazil

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Abstract

We present here a checklist of recent marine bryozoans recorded in the literature from Brazil. The total number of species recorded is 346. The most diverse group is the order Cheilostomata with 271 species, followed by the order Ctenostomata, with 42 species, and the order Cyclostomata, with 33 species. Included in the checklist are records by state and citations for species with synonyms utilized in Brazilian works.

Key words: Bryozoa, checklist, marine fauna, Brazil

Introduction

Bryozoans are a mostly marine invertebrate phylum, comprising approximately 5,500 recent and 15,000 fossil species worldwide (Rocha & d'Hondt 1999). According to Amaral & Jablonski (2005) only 300 species of bryozoans have been recorded so far for the Brazilian coast. In Brazil, the study of the phylum was mainly carried out by University of São Paulo professor Ernst Marcus, who recorded over 179 species between 1937 and 1962. However, most of these species were from São Paulo and Espírito Santo states, on the southeastern coast of Brazil.

The bryozoans of the coast of Brazil were the subject of a few investigations during the 19th and beginning of 20th centuries. The French naturalist Alcide d'Orbigny (1841–1847) was the first to study Brazilian bryozoans, reporting the occurrence of five species from Rio de Janeiro in the results of his seven year long expedition to the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of South America; one of the species described from Rio de Janeiro was *Watersipora subtorquata* (d'Orbigny, 1852), an important warm-water fouling species (Taylor & Gordon 2002). D'Orbigny was followed by the British zoologist and paleontologist George Busk (1854, 1881, 1884, 1886), who recorded 32 species from northeast and southeast Brazil; twenty nine species had been collected during the voyage of the 'H.M.S. *Challenger*', which dredged between St. Peter and St. Paul Archipelago (St. Peter and St. Paul Rocks) and Bahia in 1873. Three other early works were published by Hincks (1880), Ridley (1881), and Waters (1888), describing three new species and recording another 10 for the Brazilian coast. The first publication dealing exclusively with Brazilian specimens of bryozoans (Kirkpatrick 1888) listed 15 species from the Fernando de Noronha Archipelago, one of which was a description of a new species of *Scrupocellaria*.

Besides the papers of Marcus, the most comprehensive taxonomic account to date was published by Canu & Bassler (1928), who recorded 47 species from Brazil. They described one new genus and 27 new species dredged by the Steamer '*Norseman*' in 1877 and the U. S. Fisheries Commission Steamer '*Albatross*' in 1887