



***Thandarum hernandezii*, a new genus and new species of sea cucumber family Sclerodactylidae (Echinodermata: Holothuroidea: Dendrochirotida) from the Southwestern Atlantic Ocean**

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Abstract

A new genus and a new species of dendrochirotid, *Thandarum hernandezii* **gen. et sp. nov.**, is described from Buenos Aires coast in the Southwestern Atlantic. For this species is quite significant the body U shape, up to 14.08 mm (along the trivium), with double row of podia restricted to the ambulacra. Other features are ossicles from body wall with buttons and 4 pillar tables, tube feet with rods and end plate star-shaped; the introvert with rosettes and tentacles with rods. These characteristics require the recognition of a new genus, and the new species and represents the first sclerodactylid reported in Argentinean waters.

Key words: Sclerothyoninae, *Thandarum hernandezii* **gen. et sp. nov.**, holothurian, Argentine Sea

Introduction

On the basis of the holothurians of South Africa, Thandar (1989) revised and modified the family Sclerodactylidae. He recognised the subfamily Cladolabinae for forms with 15–20 tentacles and he divided the included 10-tentacled taxa, based on the form of the calcareous ring, into two subfamilies; Sclerodactylinae and Sclerothyoninae. The subfamily Sclerothyoninae described by Thandar (1989) has 10 tentacles with a not tubular calcareous ring. For this subfamily are *Sclerothyone* with table ossicles from body wall with or without a handle on one side and usually an arched spire with or without teeth and *Temparena* with table ossicles from body wall without handles. This two genus are from South Africa and erected by Thandar (1989).

For Southwestern Atlantic Ocean, Ludwig (1887) and Cherbonnier (1961) described two sclerodactylids, *Pseudothyone belli* (Ludwig) with 10 tentacles and *Euthyonidiella dentata* Cherbonnier with 20, both with distribution in Brazil.

For the Argentine Sea waters, Tommasi (1974) and Tommasi *et al.* (1988) studied the holothurians near Rio de la Plata and Mar del Plata, and Hernández (1981) studied specimens from Puerto Deseado (47°45'S; 65°55'W), but none of these works reported species of the family Sclerodactylidae in the area.

In the present article we describe a new genus and a new species of Sclerodactylidae from the Argentinian coast, which represents the first report for this family in Argentinean waters.

Material and methods

Samples were collected onboard B/O “Puerto Deseado” using an Agassiz trawl. Some samples were preserved in ethanol 96% and others in formalin and then conserved in ethanol 70%. Holotype and paratypes are deposited in the Invertebrate Collection of the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales “Bernardino Rivadavia” (MACN-In), Buenos Aires, Argentina. Permanent slides of ossicles of the holotype are lodged in MACN-In. Digital photos of