



Nemopsis mianzani n. sp. (Hydrozoa, Bougainvilliidae), a new hydromedusa from central Chile

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Abstract

The genus *Nemopsis*, a bougainvillid hydrozoan with a dominant medusa phase, currently includes three species (*Nemopsis bachei*, *N. dofleini* and *N. hexacanalisis*), all characterized by the presence of a pair of club-shaped tentacles in the median portion of the marginal bulbs. In this paper, we describe a fourth species, based on the medusa collected off Dichato, central Chilean coast.

Key words: Gelatinous zooplankton, Hydroidolina, Hydrozoa, Medusozoa, Southeastern Pacific

Introduction

The bougainvillid genus *Nemopsis* Agassiz, 1849 comprises hydromedusae with four perradial groups of marginal tentacles. Unlike the other genera of the family, the tentacles are not uniform as a pair of tentacles in the middle of the bulb differs clearly from the other filiform tentacles: these tentacles are shorter and end in a terminal swelling (Bouillon et al. 2006; Schuchert, 2007). Three species (*N. bachei* L. Agassiz, 1849; *N. dofleini* Maas, 1909 and *N. hexacanalisis* Huang & Xu, 1994) are currently accepted as valid (Schuchert, 2014), all of them occurring in temperate and subtropical waters of the North-Pacific, except for *N. bachei*, which occurs also in the North Atlantic Ocean (Kramp 1959; Moore 1962; Calder 1971; Fraser 1972; Schuchert 2007; Mendoza-Becerril & Marques 2013). In this paper, we describe *Nemopsis mianzani*, a new species from the central Chilean coast, the only one in the genus occurring in the southern hemisphere.

Material and methods

Nine specimens of *Nemopsis mianzani* were collected in November 2013 off Dichato, in the central coast of Chile (36°30'S, 73°05'W), in oblique plankton tows, from 30 m to the surface, using a WP-2 net with 250 µm-mesh and mouth area of 0.25 m². Water temperature was 10–12°C and salinity about 35 psu on the occasion. These specimens were preserved in 4% neutralized formalin solution. The holotype was deposited in the Invertebrate Collection of the Museo de Historia Natural de Santiago de Chile (access number MNHNCL/CNID-15001). Two paratypes were deposited in the Cnidaria collection of ZooTaxa Millennium Institute of Oceanography at University of Concepción, Chile (access number ZOOTIMO201404).