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Two new species of *Timea* from the Southwest Atlantic (Timeidae, Demospongiae, Porifera)

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Abstract

Comprising 56 species, *Timea* Gray, 1867 belongs to the monotypic family Timeidae Gray, 1867, with both family and genus characterized by the presence of (sub)tylostyles as megascleres, and euasters as microscleres. Two new species are described from the coast of Rio de Janeiro state, *Timea berlincki* **sp. nov.** and *Timea clandestina* **sp. nov.**, the first of which also from São Paulo state (southeastern Brazil). Both are compared to other species based on their morphological and skeletal characters. Records of all species of the genus worldwide are tabulated and discussed, and an identification key for Tropical western Atlantic species of *Timea* is offered.

Key words: taxonomy, sponges, biodiversity, Brazil, morphology

Resumo

Compreendendo 56 espécies, *Timea* Gray, 1867 pertence à família monotípica Timeidae Gray, 1867, com ambos família e gênero caracterizados pela presença de (sub)tilóstilos como megascleras, e euásteres como microscleras. Duas novas espécies são descritas aqui do litoral do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, *Timea berlincki* **sp. nov.** e *Timea clandestina* **sp. nov.**, a primeira das quais também do Estado de São Paulo (sudeste do Brasil). Ambas são comparadas a outras espécies com base em seus caracteres morfológicos e esqueléticos. Os registros mundiais de todas as espécies do gênero são tabulados e discutidos, e uma chave de identificação para as espécies de *Timea* do Atlântico Tropical Ocidental é oferecida.

Palavras-chave: taxonomia, poríferos, biodiversidade, Brasil, morfologia

Introduction

Timea Gray, 1867 belongs in the monotypic family Timeidae Gray, 1867, recently relocated to the new order Tethyida Morrow & Cárdenas, 2015, after a proposal to abandon the polyphyletic Hadromerida Topsent, 1894 (Morrow & Cárdenas, 2015). The family and genus are characterized by the presence of tylostyles or subtylostyles as megascleres, and euasters as microscleres (Rützler, 2002).

Timea currently comprises 56 species worldwide (van Soest *et al.*, 2015), with six species previously recorded from Brazil: *Timea authia* de Laubenfels, 1930 from São Paulo (de Laubenfels, 1956; Hechtel, 1976); *Timea bioxyasterina* Mothes, Santos & Campos, 2004 from Maranhão; *Timea cumana* Pulitzer-Finali, 1977 from Espírito Santo (Muricy & Santos, 2007); *Timea mixta* Topsent, 1896 (Hechtel, *op. cit.*); *Timea secirm* Moraes, 2011 from Pernambuco (Fernando de Noronha Archipelago) and *Timea stellifasciata* Sarà & Siribelli, 1960 from Pernambuco and Alagoas (Boury-Esnault, 1973; Hechtel, *op. cit.*). In the present paper two new species, *Timea berlincki* **sp. nov.** and *Timea clandestina* **sp. nov.**, are described from the coast of Rio de Janeiro state, with additional records from São Paulo state for the former species.