

## A checklist of the Medusae (Hydrozoa, Scyphozoa and Cubozoa) of Mexico

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### Abstract

A list of 169 medusae species in 45 families recorded in Mexican waters is presented for the first time. 86 species (50.8%) were found in the Pacific Ocean, 75 species (44.3%) in the Gulf of Mexico, and 88 (52%) in the Mexican Caribbean Sea. Only 17 species (10%) were common to the three regions. The superclass Hydrozoa, the most diverse one, is represented by 151 species (89%), the Scyphozoa by 16 species (9.5%) and the Cubozoa by 3 (1.8%). Among the Hydrozoa, up to 6 new species have been described from Mexican waters. It is expected that the number of species will grow as surveys that include the hydroid stages and their laboratory-released medusae, as well as benthic and deep-living medusofauna are undertaken in both the Atlantic and the Pacific coasts of Mexico.

**Key words:** Cnidaria, Hydrozoa, Cubozoa, Scyphozoa, checklist, México

### Introduction

Most of the surveys on medusae developed in Mexican waters have dealt with selected taxa (i.e. Alvarez-Silva 1999; Gómez-Aguirre 1986, 1991 a). Comparatively, few studies have been conducted on the ecology, distribution, and taxonomy of these cnidarians in general (Segura-Puertas 1984, 1992; Segura-Puertas & Ordóñez-López 1994; Suárez-Morales *et al.* 1999 a). Works with a wide geographic coverage of Mexican coastal, oceanic or neritic waters are necessary in order to have comprehensive information about the medusan fauna of the Mexican seas. The current information on Mexican medusae is frac-