

***Myriotrochus (Oligotrochus) meteorensis* spec. nov., a new myriotrochid holothurian from the deep-sea off NW Africa (Echinodermata: Holothuroidea: Myriotrochidae)**

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Abstract

A new myriotrochid holothurian, *Myriotrochus (Oligotrochus) meteorensis* spec. nov., has been discovered in a deep-sea sample taken during an expedition with FS 'Meteor' (M 36) off north-west Africa, together with specimens of *Molpadia musculus* Risso, 1826, *Hedingia albicans* (Théel, 1886) and *Protankyra* cf. *brychia* (Verrill, 1885). The new species is similar to *M. (O.) vitreus* (M. Sars, 1866) and *M. (O.) clarki* Gage and Billett, 1986; it is thoroughly described and detailed measurements of wheel parameters are presented. This is the first record of a myriotrochid holothurian for the NE Atlantic Ocean south of 40°N.

Key words: Holothuroidea; Myriotrochidae; *Myriotrochus*; *Oligotrochus*; *M. (O.) meteorensis* spec. nov.; taxonomy; systematics

Introduction

The benthos of the north-western Africa upwelling area from Cape Blanc to off northern Morocco has been sampled during four cruises (M 26, M 36, M 44 and M 53) with the German research vessel 'Meteor' (Thiel 1981) by the means of eight depth transects.

A hitherto unsorted holothurian sample from a deep station taken during cruise M 36 off Cape Blanc in 1975, held at the Zoologische Staatssammlung München (ZSM), contained in addition to *Molpadia musculus* Risso, 1826 (10 specimens, ZSM 20043111), *Hedingia albicans* (Théel, 1886) (3 specimens, ZSM 20043110) and *Protankyra* cf. *brychia* (Verrill, 1885) (35 fragments, ZSM 20043109) several fragments of a yet undescribed myriotrochid holothurian.

The Myriotrochidae Théel, 1877 are a family of apodous, usually infaunal holothurians that are worldwide distributed in the deep-sea, though few species are also known