



Syllidae (Annelida: Polychaeta) from Indonesia collected by the Siboga (1899–1900) and Snellius II (1984) expeditions

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Abstract

Twenty seven samples of syllids (Annelida: Polychaeta) from Indonesia collected during the Siboga Expedition (1899–1900) and five during the Snellius II Expedition (1984) have been examined. Material from several other museums and Institutions has also been included. Unpublished identifications of Siboga material by Augener have been checked and all specimens have been named according to current taxonomic knowledge. A total of 30 taxa have been identified, belonging to 10 different genera: *Branchiosyllis*, *Haplosyllides*, *Eusyllis*, *Odontosyllis*, *Opisthosyllis*, *Paraehlersia*, *Pionosyllis*, *Sphaerosyllis*, *Syllis* and *Trypanosyllis*. Four species are described as new: *Opisthosyllis mariae*, *Syllis komodoensis*, *Syllis villenai* and *Syllis ypsiloides*. One previously synonymised species, *Syllis augeneri*, is re-described herein as valid. Two more taxa are proposed as new combinations, and four are reported as cf. either due to lack of enough representative specimens or to variability in diagnostic characters or geographical distribution. Finally, two taxa are described but unnamed because of paucity of material. All new species and reports for the area are described and figured.

Key words: Syllidae, Polychaetes, Taxonomy, new species, Indonesia

Introduction

The Dutch Siboga Expedition to the Indonesian archipelago was one of the historically most important oceanographic expeditions of the end of the Nineteenth century (Van Aken, 2005). Under the initiative of the Society for the Advancement of Scientific Research in the Dutch Colonies, the Siboga Expedition was organized to enable a series of zoological, botanical, oceanographical and geological explorations in deep Indonesian waters. The expedition was led by Dr. M. Weber, director of the Zoological Museum of Amsterdam and professor of the University of Amsterdam and took place in the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) during 1899 and 1900. The principal aim of the expedition was to study the deep Indonesian basins; a secondary goal was to investigate coral reefs and shallow seas. More details can be found in Weber (1902) and Van Aken (2005).

The zoological results of these explorations have been published in more than 100 monographs and papers, principally focusing on Porifera, Cnidaria, Decapoda, Amphipoda, Isopoda and Chaetognatha. Almost all material has been deposited in the Zoological Museum of Amsterdam; a complete list of the holdings will be available on the Internet. The “errantiate” groups were studied by Horst (1903, 1912, 1913, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1921, 1924). Augener identified a number of new species in the beginning of the 20th century; his unpublished work was reviewed and partially published by Pettibone (1970). The “sedentariate” polychaetes were studied by Mesnil & Fauvel (1939) and by Caullery (1944), the pogonophores by Southward (1961) and the Siboglinidae by Caullery (1914) (named after the expedition). Hutchings & McRae (1993) more recently studied the Aphroditidae. A catalogue of published polychaete species found during the Siboga Expedition was compiled by Bleeker & van der Spoel (1992). Other significant taxonomic studies conducted in the region