



Additions to the holothuroid fauna of the southern African temperate faunistic provinces, with descriptions of new species

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Abstract

This paper is the third and the final one in the series reporting on the numerous lots of unidentified holothuroids received from the South African and Natal Museums. While the first two papers were limited to the fauna of the subtropical east coast, this paper is limited to the fauna of the temperate region of southern Africa, west of the Port St. Johns-East London area, encompassing the warm and cold temperate faunistic provinces, stretching into Namibia. It records and/or describes 23 nominal and four indeterminate species of mostly dendrochirotid holothuroids. Altogether seven new species and three new records for the region under consideration are included and some new data presented for previously described but poorly known species, where this was lacking. The new species are *Sclerothyone unicolumnus*, *Ocnus rowei*, *Cladodactyla brunspicula*, *Panningia trispicula*, *Psolidium pulcherrimum*, *P. pseudopulcherrimum* and *Synallactes samyni* whereas the new records for South Africa are *Pannychia moseleyi* Théel; for the temperate region, *Pawsonellus africanus* Thandar; and for Namibia, *Pseudoaslia tetracentriophora* Heding.

Key words: Holothuroidea, Dendrochirotida, Apodida, Aspidochirotida, Elasipodida, South Africa, new species, new records

Introduction

A brief history of the state of our knowledge of the southern African holothuroid echinoderms is given by Thandar (2006) as an introduction to his first report on numerous lots of unidentified holothuroids received from the South African and Natal Museums or present in the collections of the former University of Durban-Westville (now University of KwaZulu-Natal, Westville Campus). These materials come from waters ranging from the littoral to the deep sea and contain several hitherto un-described species and many new records for