



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3691.3.3>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:24C5A895-F6B0-47CF-B138-A74670268984>

## Diversity of the genus *Terebellides* (Polychaeta: Trichobranchidae) in the Adriatic Sea with the description of a new species

JULIO PARAPAR<sup>1</sup>, BARBARA MIKAC<sup>2,3,5</sup> & DIETER FIEGE<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Departamento de Biología Animal, Biología Vegetal e Ecología, Universidade da Coruña, 15008 A Coruña, Spain.

E-mail: [jparapar@udc.es](mailto:jparapar@udc.es)

<sup>2</sup>Center for Marine Research, Ruđer Boković Institute, Giordano Paliaga 5, 52210 Rovinj, Croatia.

E-mail: [barbara.mikac@cim.irb.hr](mailto:barbara.mikac@cim.irb.hr)

<sup>3</sup>CNR-IAMC Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - Istituto per l'Ambiente Marino Costiero, Via G. da Verrazzano 17, 91014 Castellamare del Golfo (TP), Italy

<sup>4</sup>Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum Senckenberg Frankfurt, Sektion Marine Evertebraten II, Senckenberganlage 25, D-60325, Frankfurt/Main, Germany. E-mail: [dieter.fiege@senckenberg.de](mailto:dieter.fiege@senckenberg.de)

<sup>5</sup>Corresponding author

### Abstract

Based on specimens collected during the sampling campaigns in the Northern Adriatic from 2003–2010, the diversity of genus *Terebellides* (Polychaeta; Trichobranchidae) was studied and three species are reported for the Northern Adriatic Sea: *Terebellides gracilis* Malm, 1874, *Terebellides mediterranea* spec. nov., and *Terebellides stroemii* Sars, 1835. *Terebellides stroemii* was the only species previously reported from the area. *Terebellides gracilis* is reported for the first time for the Mediterranean Sea and its geographical distribution is extended south. *Terebellides mediterranea* spec. nov., is characterised by the presence of long notopodia and notochaetae in the first thoracic chaetiger. These three species are compared to other *Terebellides* species described or reported from North Atlantic waters, and a key to *Terebellides* species of the North East Atlantic and Mediterranean is provided.

**Key words:** taxonomy, new records, Mediterranean Sea

### Introduction

The presence of highly characteristic branchiae in the genus *Terebellides*, located dorsally on the third thoracic segment, has led to identification of most specimens across the world as *Terebellides stroemii* Sars, 1835. Therefore, this species was considered as being cosmopolitan, concealing the true diversity within the genus. A number of studies conducted in the last three decades have revealed that *T. stroemii* is not a true cosmopolitan taxon and several new species have been described, often from material previously attributed to this species (Hutchings & Peart 2000; Parapar *et al.* 2011; Schüller & Hutchings 2010; 2012; 2013; Solis-Weiss *et al.* 1991; Williams 1984). There are currently 51 valid species of the genus *Terebellides* known in the world (Schüller & Hutchings 2013).

The only valid species of the genus *Terebellides* so far recorded from the Mediterranean Sea has been *T. stroemii* (Arvanitidis 2000; Castelli *et al.* 2008) which was first recorded from the Adriatic Sea by Grube (1864) near the Island Lošinj in the Northern Adriatic. Subsequently it has been reported on soft bottoms up to a depth of 1,150 m (Katzmann 1973) in all parts of the Adriatic, and was considered as a species with a wide ecological distribution. While examining the polychaetes collected during benthic surveys in the Northern Adriatic Sea, it became clear that more than one species of the genus *Terebellides* was present. In this paper we provide the description of a new species, *T. mediterranea* spec. nov., and report on two other species, i.e. *T. stroemii* Sars, 1835 and *T. gracilis* Malm, 1874. The latter species is here recorded for the first time for the Mediterranean Sea. A key to all species of the genus known to occur in North East Atlantic and Mediterranean is provided.