

***Lafoeina amirantensis* (Cnidaria: Hydrozoa, Campanulinoidea),
the hydroid stage of the medusa *Cirrholovenia tetranema* (Cni-
daria: Hydrozoa, Lovenelloidea)**

ALVARO E. MIGOTTO & ANDRÉ S. CABRAL

Centro de Biologia Marinha, Universidade de São Paulo, rod. Manoel H. do Rego, km 131.5, 11600-000, São Sebastião, SP, Brazil, aemigott@usp.br

Abstract

The metagenetic *Lafoeina* is one of the many leptothebate genera with uncertain affinities, the life cycles of its constituent species being poorly known. The genus has traditionally been recognized as belonging to the polyphyletic superfamily Campanulinoidea, family Campanulinidae, taxa that artificially group together a variety of probably unrelated species. Life-history studies are the most important method to link species that were originally based solely on medusa or polyp stage, as is the case of *Lafoeina* spp. Findings of *Lafoeina amirantensis* at the coast of São Sebastião (São Paulo, Brazil) allowed us to study its juvenile medusa and to observe new facts pertinent to the classification of the Order Leptothebata. The hydrotheca of *L. amirantensis* is similar to those of the genus *Cuspidella*, except for the absence of nematophores in the latter. The newly released medusa of *L. amirantensis* is similar in morphology to the young medusae of *Cirrholovenia tetranema*, a species belonging to the family Cirrholoveniidae (superfamily Lovenelloidea).

Key words: Leptothebata, life cycle, cnidome, nematocyst, medusa, polyp, planuloid, frustule

Introduction

Lafoeina is one of the many leptothebate genera with uncertain affinities. Hydroids with cylindrical hydrotheca and conical opercula with many triangular flaps are traditionally recognized as belonging to the family Campanulinidae Hincks, 1868 (superfamily Campanulinoidea Hincks, 1868). A few studies of life cycles have shown, however, striking inconsistencies, as hydroids with typical campanulid features released medusae referable to several, unrelated families (Cornelius 1995). As Calder (1991a) pointed out, the family Campanulinidae, as currently defined, groups together a variety of probably unrelated taxa, just for convenience sake.