

Rediscovery and redescription of *Hybocodon chilensis* Hartlaub, 1905 (Cnidaria: Hydrozoa) from Comau Fiord, southern Chile

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Abstract

Hybocodon chilensis Hartlaub, 1905, a poorly known species considered as of doubtful validity, is redescribed. Material examined was collected in Comau Fiord (Chile), situated a short distance from Calbuco, the original site where the type material was collected. Morphological features of living specimens of *H. chilensis* are fully described and illustrated, and data are provided on the cnidome. A table that compares polyp and medusa stages of species assigned to the genus *Hybocodon* L. Agassiz, 1862 is presented. The systematic position of *H. chilensis* amongst the other members is discussed, and an identification key for the medusae is given.

Key words: Cnidaria, Hydrozoa, Tubulariidae, redescription, *Hybocodon chilensis*, hydroid, medusa, Chile

Introduction

A recent exploration (January–February 2006) of the benthic hydroid fauna of Comau Fiord, southern Chile, revealed the presence of numerous specimens of a hydroid referable to the genus *Hybocodon* L. Agassiz, 1862. The colonies were fertile at the time of collection, and numerous medusae were liberated in the laboratory. Moreover, juvenile and adult medusae, as well as actinula larvae, were collected in plankton samples from the same area. Comparison of this material with descriptions and geographic distributions of all species assigned to the genus *Hybocodon* enabled us to associate our material unambiguously with *Hybocodon chilensis* Hartlaub, 1905. The genus *Hybocodon* currently includes the following species: *H. atentaculatus* Uchida, 1947, *H. cryptus* Watson, 1984, *H. octopleurus* Kao, Li, Chang & Li, 1958, *H. pendulus* (L. Agassiz, 1862), *H. prolifer* L. Agassiz, 1862, *H. unicus* (Browne, 1902), and the poorly known *H. chilensis* Hartlaub, 1905.

This species was first described by Hartlaub (1905) from several hydroid specimens