



Additions to the hydroids (Cnidaria: Hydrozoa) from the fjords region of southern Chile

HORIA R. GALEA^{1,3}, GÜNTER FÖRSTERRA^{1,2} & VERENA HÄUSSERMANN^{1,2}

¹Huinay Scientific Field Station, Casilla 462, Puerto Montt, Chile. E-mail: h.galea@laposte.net

²Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Facultad de Recursos Naturales, Escuela de Ciencias del Mar. Avenida Brasil 2950. Valparaíso, Chile

³Corresponding author

Abstract

This report considers five species of hydroids collected during a scientific expedition to the Northern Patagonian Zone of Chile in March 2007. Two poorly known species, *Halecium fraseri* Ralph, 1958 (Haleciidae) and *Thuiaria polycarpa* Kirchenpauer, 1884 (Sertulariidae), are redescribed from new, fertile material. The genus *Parathuiaria* Leloup, 1974 is assigned to the synonymy of *Thuiaria* Fleming, 1828, and notes are provided on the taxonomy of its type species, *T. polycarpa*. Three other hydroid species, *Halecium tenellum* Hincks, 1861 (Haleciidae), *Amphisbetia operculata* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Sertulariidae), and an athecate hydroid tentatively assigned to the genus *Turritopsis* McCrady, 1857 (Oceaniidae), are mentioned and accompanied by figures and brief remarks.

Key words: Cnidaria, Hydrozoa, fjords, Chile, *Halecium fraseri*, *Thuiaria polycarpa*

Introduction

The hydrozoan fauna from the fjords region of southern Chile was recently reviewed by Galea (2007). Another expedition (Huinay Fiordos 4), organized by scientists at the Huinay Scientific Field Station (HSFS), took place in the Northern Patagonian Zone during March 2007. Examination of samples from this expedition revealed the presence of five additional species of hydroids not mentioned in the report by Galea (2007). These were: *Halecium fraseri* Ralph, 1958 and *H. tenellum* Hincks, 1861 (family Haleciidae), *Thuiaria polycarpa* Kirchenpauer, 1884 and *Amphisbetia operculata* (Linnaeus, 1758) (family Sertulariidae), and an athecate hydroid devoid of gonophores, tentatively assigned to the genus *Turritopsis* McCrady, 1857 (family Oceaniidae).

The binomen *Halecium fraseri* has been applied to a hydroid species misidentified by Fraser (1914) as *H. flexile* Allman, 1888 (the latter now being recognized as a synonym of *H. delicatulum* Coughtrey, 1876). Ralph (1958) pointed out the main differences between the two species, and proposed the name *H. fraseri* for the hydroid *H. flexile* sensu Fraser. This species was briefly redescribed by Leloup (1974) from Chilean material, but information about it is still insufficient.

Thuiaria polycarpa was originally described by Kirchenpauer (1884) based on sterile material from Valparaíso, Chile. Nutting (1904) studied new (but also sterile) material and likewise included it as a species of *Thuiaria* Fleming, 1828. Later, Leloup (1974) erected the new genus *Parathuiaria* for *T. polycarpa*. He based his opinion on the following characters: hydrothecae are in opposite pairs, as in *Synthecium* Allman, 1872; they seem to be devoid of an abcauline operculum, unlike in *Thuiaria*; gonothecae arise below the base of stem hydrothecae, and not from their apertures, as in *Synthecium*. Observations on our material, however, sug-