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New species, new records and redescriptions of Thecate hydroids (Cnidaria: Hydrozoa: Leptothecata) from Southern Australia

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Abstract

A collection of 13 species from southern Australia is described. The collection includes *Campanulina cliftonia* **n. sp.**, *Campanulina elata* **n. sp.**, *Hebella albida* **n. sp.**, *Antennella singulata* **n. sp.**, *Ventromma bellarensis* **n. sp.**, *Sertularella mytila* **n. sp.**, and *Obelia spongicola* **n. sp.** *Hydranthea margarica* is a new record of the genus from Australia; five other species previously recorded from Australia are redescribed in detail. The reproductive structure of *Macrorhynchia whiteleggei* is described for the first time allowing for a new genus species combination. Notes are given on distribution and ecology.

Key words: new species, *Campanulina cliftonia, Campanulina elata, Hebella albida, Antennella singulata, Ventromma bellarensis, Sertularella mytila, Obelia spongicola*; new record, *Hydranthea margarica,* species redescriptions

Introduction

This paper describes 13 species of leptothecate hydroids collected in southern Australia by the author and others. The paper describes seven new species and one new record for Australia, and redescribes several previously poorly known or inadequately described species. Type and voucher material is lodged in Museum Victoria, Melbourne, Australia (NMV F). Other material is held in the collection of the author.

Family Campanulinidae Hincks, 1868

Colony stolonal or erect, hydrocaulus branched or unbranched; hydrotheca usually campanulate or cylindrical, with or without pedicel, always with operculum of several triangular flaps; sharply demarcated from hydrotheca or not; with or without diaphragm; with or without nematophores; gonophores as fixed sporosacs or free medusae.

Genus *Campanulina* van Beneden, 1847

Colony stolonal or erect, hydrotheca tubular, with a pointed pleated or segmented operculum with or without a basal crease line, no nematophores, usually with a diaphragm, gonophores unknown or arising as indeterminate medusa buds.

Campanulina cliftonia sp. nov.

Fig. 1A–E

Material examined. Holotype, NMV F171352, infertile colony on dead bryozoan on floating pontoon, Clifton Springs boat harbour, Port Phillip, depth 0.3 m, coll: J. Watson, 7/04/2009. Paratype, NMV F171353, infertile colony on serpulid tube, on floating pontoon, Clifton Springs boat harbour, Port Phillip, depth 0.2 m, coll: J. Watson 22/02/2010. Paratype, NMV F171354, infertile colony on mussel shell, St Leonards pier, Port Phillip, depth 3 m, coll: J. Watson, 20/01/2010. All material ethanol preserved.

Description from holotype and paratype (live material). Colony minute, stolonal, hydrorhiza loosely attached to substrate, stolons tubular. Hydrothecal pedicels arising irregularly from stolon, diameter about same as stolon; pedicels variable in length, weakly corrugated to almost smooth, cylindrical or expanding slightly to base of hydrotheca, perisarc thin. Hydrotheca slender bud-shaped to almost tubular, variable in length, operculum comprising up to 20 thin segments arising in distal half to quarter of hydrotheca and converging in a tuft; no demarcation with body of hydrotheca; perisarc of hydrotheca and opercular segments thin; hydrothecal diaphragm usually indistinct but concave in paratype; no nematophores.

Hydranth very extensile with a whorl of 16–20 long moniliform tentacles with rings of nematocysts; tentacles extended in an amphicoronate pattern, base of tentacles connected by a conspicuous web with groups of large nematocysts; hypostome small, conical. Column of extended hydranth 0.5–1.0 mm long, tentacles to 0.7 mm long.