



Some hydrozoans (Cnidaria) from Central Chile and the Strait of Magellan

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Abstract

This report supplements a series of earlier accounts on the hydrozoan fauna of Chile, and discusses 34 species of hydroids and one hydromedusa. The available collection was gathered from three distinct biogeographical regions: the southern border of the Peruvian Province around Punta de Choros, the southern Intermediate Zone around Corral, and the northern and southern parts of the Magellan Province, around Reloncaví Sound and in the Strait of Magellan, respectively. All the species are fully illustrated and, when necessary, data on the cnidome composition are provided. Six species, *Halecium annuliforme*, *Sertularella curvitheca*, *Sertularella mixta*, *Symplectoscyphus patagonicus*, *Halopteris plumosa*, and *Clytia reloncavia*, are described as new. The gonothecae of *Halecium fjordlandicum* Galea, 2007, *Symplectoscyphus magellanicus* (Marktanner-Turneretscher, 1890), and *Campanularia hartlaubi* (El Beshbeeshy, 2011) are described for the first time, while those of *Kirchenpaueria curvata* (Jäderholm, 1904) were rediscovered and are accurately redescribed. Morphological differences between *C. hartlaubi* and *C. lennoxensis* (Jäderholm, 1903), two species with similar trophosomes, are highlighted. Large, fertile specimens of *Halecium pallens* Jäderholm, 1904, as well as a female colony of *Hydractinia parvispina* Hartlaub, 1905, allowed new redescriptions to be made. Due to insufficient taxonomic information on several species created more than a century ago, two Chilean records are doubtfully assigned to *Sertularella implexa* (Allman, 1888) and *Sertularella lagena* Allman, 1876, respectively, the former represented by fertile specimens, and thus allowing the first description of its gonothecae. The long history of the confused taxonomy of South American "*Symplectoscyphus subdichotomus* (Kirchenpauer, 1884)" is now entirely settled. All the available records are confidently assigned to the synonymy of *Symplectoscyphus filiformis* (Allman, 1888), whose sexual dimorphism of gonothecae, first indicated by Totton (1930), is confirmed in light of the present material. Five species represent new records for the country: *Staurocladia vallentini* (Browne, 1902), *Samuraia tabularasa* Mangin, 1991, *H. pallens*, *Sertularella blanconae* El Beshbeeshy, 2011, and *Symplectoscyphus paraglacialis* El Beshbeeshy, 2011, the latter two being redescribed. Due to the scarcity of available material and the lack of gonophores of both sexes, six species of *Eudendrium* Ehrenberg, 1834 could be identified to genus only. Similarly, a species of *Sertularella* Gray, 1848 and two belonging to *Symplectoscyphus* Marktanner-Turneretscher, 1890, are awaiting reliable identifications based on fertile specimens. A species of *Clytia* Lamouroux, 1812 could not be determined to species in the absence of life cycle studies.

Key words: Hydrozoa, hydroids, hydromedusa, new species, south-eastern Pacific

Introduction

Until quite recently, taxonomic studies on Chilean hydrozoans (siphonophores excluded) have been rather scarce and the number of publications limited. With the exception of several papers dealing exclusively with hydroids (Jäderholm 1904a; Hartlaub 1905; Leloup 1974) and hydromedusae (Kramp 1952, 1966; Fagetti 1973) of the country, additional records are scattered in accounts by Kirchenpauer (1876), Ridley (1881), Allman (1885, 1888), Philippi (1886), Hartlaub (1901, 1904), Jäderholm (1903, 1905, 1910, 1917, 1920), Nutting (1904, 1915), Stechow (1914, 1919), and Vervoort (1972).

Important hydrozoan material has been obtained during recent (2005–2008) investigations on benthic fauna of the northern and central Patagonian zones. In a series of studies (Galea 2006a, b; Galea & Leclère 2007; Galea 2007; Galea *et al.* 2007, 2009) based on these collections, new species have been introduced, poorly known taxa have been redescribed, noteworthy range extensions have been reported, and further records made of species