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## A new species of *Havelockia* Pearson, 1903 from the Argentine Sea (Holothuroidea: Dendrochirotida: Sclerodactylidae)

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### Abstract

*Havelockia pegi* sp. nov., is here described from shallow waters of the Argentine Sea. This new species is distinctive in the purple colouration of its tentacles, scarcity of body wall ossicles and the presence of rosette-shaped ossicles in both the introvert and the tentacles. It is not closely related to any of its congeners. This is the first record of a true sclerodactylid from Argentina. *Thandarum hernandezii* Martínez & Brogger, 2012, described in the family Sclerodactylidae, is now classified in the family Sclerothyonidae.

**Key words:** Echinodermata, south-western Atlantic Ocean, sea cucumber, *Havelockia pegi*

### Introduction

Only three orders of holothuroids, comprising 26 species, have this far been reported from the Argentine Sea: Apodida, Molpadida and Dendrochirotida (Martínez & Brogger 2012, Brogger et al. 2013). The latter, which constitutes most of the world’s described holothuroids, is represented in Argentinian waters by 18 species spread over four families: Psolidae (5 spp.), Cucumariidae (11 spp.), Sclerodactylidae (1 sp.), and Phyllophoridae (1 sp.) (see, Pawson 1969, Tommasi 1974, Hernández 1981, Tommasi et al. 1988a, b, Martínez & Brogger 2012, Brogger et al. 2013). The single sclerodactylid above was recently described by Martínez & Brogger (2012) but in the Sclerothyoninae, a subfamily which has recently been elevated to full family status (Sclerothyonidae) by Smirnov (2012) (see below). The current paper describes a new dendrochirotid strictly belonging to the family Sclerodactylidae. Hence, this must be regarded as the first record of a true sclerodactylid from the Argentine waters. The family Sclerodactylidae was erected by Pawson & Fell (1965), who determined that the use of the tentacle number by Panning (1949), Heding & Panning (1954) and other authors to characterize dendrochirotid families was artificial and hence proposed a new classification by re-combining various subfamilies so they became inter-mixed. Thus, Sclerodactylinae Panning, 1949, originally included in the Cucumariidae, and Cladolabinae Heding & Panning, 1954, originally included in the Phyllophoridae, were combined in the family-group taxon Sclerodactylidae. The validity of the taxon Sclerodactylidae has been questioned by Thandar (1989) and more recently by Arumugam (2012), but this taxon still stands and has been employed by many authors, including Thandar himself the way it was constituted by Pawson & Fell (1965). While the current paper was in review, Smirnov (2012), published his comprehensive paper on the system of the Holothuroidea, elevating the taxonomic status of the subfamily Cladolabinae to family Cladolabidae and the subfamily Sclerothyoninae to family (Sclerothyonidae), thus accepting the validity of the family Sclerodactylidae as originally diagnosed by Panning (1949). Smirnov’s revision is here accepted.

The family Sclerodactylidae is currently represented in South America by only *Pseudothyone belli* (Ludwig, 1887), extending from Panama to the Abrolhos Archipelago, in the north-east of Brazil and the recently described