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## New sea anemone (Anthozoa: Actiniaria) from Patagonia: *Andvakia manoloi* sp. nov.

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### Abstract

A new species of sea anemone from the intertidal zone of San Matías Gulf is described. *Andvakia manoloi* sp. nov. is a small and inconspicuous species that differs from other species of the genus in number of tentacles, number of mesenteries at proximal and distal part of the column, column division, muscles, cnidae, size, habit and distribution. *Andvakia manoloi* sp. nov. is the first species of the genus from South America and the southernmost record of the genus.

**Key words:** Cnidaria, Argentina, Río Negro, Benthos, Andvakiidae

### Introduction

Sea anemones belonging to genus *Andvakia* Danielssen, 1890 have been recorded from several locations: North Atlantic Ocean, East and Central Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and the Sea of Cortez; from the intertidal zone to 275 m depth (Daly & Goodwill 2009). This genus has undergone significant recent revision. Daly and Goodwill (2009) described *A. discipulorum* Daly and Goodwill, 2009, redescribed *A. boninensis* Carlgren, 1943, amended the diagnosis of the family, and synonymized *Andvakia* with *Decapheilia* Bourne, 1918. Rodríguez *et al.* 2012 transferred Andvakiidae to superfamily Metridioidea Carlgren, 1893 and synonymized it with Isophellidae Carlgren, 1900, a family previously differentiated by the presence of basilar muscles.

Here I describe *Andvakia manoloi* sp. nov., based on nine specimens found in San Matías Gulf (Río Negro, Argentina). This is the first record for the genus *Andvakia* from the South Atlantic Ocean and the southernmost record for the genus.

### Materials and methods

Nine specimens were collected by hand in the intertidal zone of Punta Colorada (41° 46' S, 65° 00' W) (Fig. 1). The specimens were relaxed with menthol crystals for a few hours, fixed in 4% seawater formalin for two months, and transferred to 70% ethanol for long-term storage afterwards.

The specimens were examined whole and in dissection. Histological sections 5–10 µm thick were made from different parts of five specimens and were stained with Azocarmin triple staining (Humason 1967). To assess the presence of basilar muscles, the proximal end of three specimens were sectioned and stained. Since most specimens were covered with sand and small gravel, it was necessary to pretreat the specimens for histology with 40% hydrofluoric acid for 12 h to dissolve the attached particles.

The distribution of the cnidae in the tissues was determined using a light microscope (1000x magnification, oil immersion). I only used two specimens for the cnidae observation; the specimens are small and fragile and there were only four specimens left after histology. Forty undischarged capsules of each type of cnida (when possible) were haphazardly chosen to be measured and photographed with Axio Vision 4.4 software. Mean and standard