



## New additions to the shallow-water hydroids (Cnidaria: Hydrozoa) of the French Lesser Antilles: Martinique

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## Abstract

The present report provides the first general account of the shallow-water hydroids (excluding Eudendriidae) of Martinique, French Lesser Antilles. Of a total of 92 species recorded, 10 athecates and 31 thecates are discussed here, with the remaining species having been the subject of earlier accounts. Six hydroids, namely *Halecium discooidum*, *H. xanthellatum*, *Sertularella calderi*, *Antennella peculiaris*, *A. similis*, and *A. tubitheca*, are new. Previously unreported data on the nematocyst complement of *Heterocoryne caribbensis* Wedler & Larson, 1986, *Ectopleura mayeri* Petersen, 1990, *Ralpharia gorgoniae* Petersen, 1990, and seven hebellid species are provided. The gonotheca and the gonophore of *Hebellopsis communis* Calder, 1991 are described for the first time, allowing a genus transfer to *Anthohebella* Boero *et al.*, 1997. *Thyroscyphus longicaulis* Spletstösser, 1929, a species whose gonosome remained unknown until now, is redescribed based on new, fertile material of both sexes. The occurrence of *Antennella quadriaurita* Ritchie, 1909 in the Caribbean is questioned upon comparison of its cnidome with that of specimens from Tristan da Cunha, the type locality of this species. An unexpectedly wide morphological variation is noted for *Aglaophenia rhynchocarpa* Allman, 1877. Specimens corresponding to the Caribbean *Gymnangium longicaudum* (Nutting, 1900), are shown to be indistinguishable morphologically from a taxon described earlier from Brazil, *Gymnangium allmani* (Marktanner-Turneretscher, 1890), the latter having priority. Thorough descriptions are provided for the new, lesser known or unidentifiable species, while the common taxa are accompanied by brief remarks and/or distributional data. Illustrations are provided for each species discussed in order to justify their identification, and to facilitate identification by others. A checklist at the end of this work incorporates records of 101 species of hydroids reported from Martinique, both occurring in the present collection and cited in the literature.

**Key words:** Hydrozoans, Caribbean, French West Indies, taxonomy, new species

## Introduction

This is the third of a series of reports on shallow-water hydroids of the French Lesser Antilles, following a taxonomic account of 48 species of athecate and thecate hydroids of Guadeloupe archipelago (Galea 2008) and a second report that dealt with 31 additional species of thecates from the same study area (Galea 2010a).

Previous records of hydroids from Martinique are very scarce and scattered in a few accounts, specifically: 1) Fewkes (1881), who included 6 species from collections made by the *Blake* in the Caribbean Sea, *viz.* *Aglaophenia dubia* Nutting, 1900 (as *A. gracilis* Allman, 1877); *A. gracillima* (new species); *Hincksella formosa* (new species, as *Sertularella formosa*); *Acryptolaria longitheca* (Allman, 1877) (as *Cryptolaria longitheca*); *Zygophylax*