



Checklist of Recent thecideoid brachiopods from the Indian Ocean and Red Sea, with a description of a new species of *Thecidellina* from Europa Island and a re-description of *T. blochmanni* Dall from Christmas Island

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Abstract

Compilation of a checklist of Recent thecideoid brachiopods from the Indian Ocean and Red Sea indicates that members of this superfamily are represented by a small number of species. The subfamily Lacazellinae is represented by *Ospreyella maldiviana* from the Maldivian Islands but the presence of *Lacazella* cannot yet be confirmed in the Indian Ocean as the holotype of *Lacazella mauritiana* from Mauritius is lost. The subfamily Thecidellinae is represented by *Thecidellina blochmanni* from Christmas Island in the eastern Indian Ocean and the Red Sea while a new species *T. europa* is here described from Europa Island in the Mozambique Channel. The subfamily Minutellinae is represented by *Minutella minuta* from Samper Bank and Walters Bank in the south-western Indian Ocean and in the Red Sea. Since the holotype of *Thecidellina blochmanni* from Flying Fish Cove, Christmas Island is also lost, this species is re-described and illustrated mainly from topotypes in the Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin, from which a suggested neotype has been selected.

Key words: Recent, thecideoid, brachiopods, *Thecidellina europa* new species, Indian Ocean, Red Sea

Introduction

Thecideoid brachiopods comprise a group of small cementing articulated forms that range from the Triassic to the present day. Modern representatives occur mainly in low to mid-latitudes in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans and adjacent seas and generally colonize light-poor cryptic environments, such as the undersides of platy corals and the walls of submarine caves, in relatively shallow water down to about 150 m (Logan 2005). The superfamily Thecideoidea Gray, 1840 is divided into the families Thecideidae Gray, 1840 and Thecidellinidae Elliott, 1958, the former containing one extant sub-family, the Lacazellinae Backhaus, 1959 and the latter containing two extant sub-families, the Thecidellinae Elliott, 1953 and the Minutellinae Logan and Baker, 2013. These divisions are based mainly on the internal skeletal structure of the dorsal valve and the nature of the pseudodeltidium in the ventral valve. The Lacazellinae contain the genera *Lacazella* Munier-Chalmas, 1880, *Pajaudina* Logan, 1988 and *Ospreyella* Lüter and Wörheide, 2003, the Thecidellinae only the genus *Thecidellina* Thomson, 1915 and the Minutellinae only the genus *Minutella* Hoffmann and Lüter, 2010. Lüter (2005) has recorded an extant deep-water species of *Kakanuiella* Lee and Robinson, 2003 from the south Pacific that displays diagnostic characters of both Recent subfamilies (for discussion on its placement see Lee and Robinson 2003, Lüter 2005, and Baker, 2007).

In this report we list the Indian Ocean thecideoids (Table 1) and describe a new species of *Thecidellina* from Europa Island. Also, we re-describe *Thecidellina blochmanni* Dall, 1920 from topotypes from Christmas Island and suggest a neotype to replace the missing holotype. The current status of *Lacazella mauritiana* Dall, 1920 from Mauritius is also summarized.

Abbreviations for repositories: NBM = New Brunswick Museum, Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada; NHM = Natural History Museum, London, U.K.; USNM = National Museum of Natural History, Washington DC, U.S.A.; ZMB = Museum für Naturkunde (formerly Zoologisches Museum Berlin), Berlin, Germany; MNHN = Muséum National d'histoire Naturelle, Paris, France; NHMW = Natural History Museum, Vienna, Austria.