

# First record of *Loxosomella tethyae* (Salensky, 1877) (Endoprocta, Loxosomatidae) in the Mediterranean coast of the Iberian Peninsula

## Primera cita de *Loxosomella tethyae* (Salensky, 1877) (Endoprocta, Loxosomatidae) en la costa mediterránea ibérica

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The number of species of Endoprocta recorded in the Mediterranean coast of the Iberian Peninsula is very low. Up to date, only five species (all of them belonging to the family Loxosomatidae) have been cited. One of them, cited as *Loxocalyx leptoclini* (Harmer, 1885), was collected living on the ascidia *Polysyncraton lacazei* (Giard, 1872) in the Northeast Spanish coast (Turón, 1989). According to Nielsen (1964, 1996), the generic names *Loxocalyx* Mortensen, 1911 and *Loxosomella* Mortensen, 1911 are synonyms, giving the priority to the latter. Thus, the valid name of this species must be *Loxosomella leptoclini*. In the Granada coast, the species *Loxosomella crassicauda* (Salensky, 1877) has been found on the Bryozoa *Schizoporella dunkeri* (Reuss, 1848) (Tierno de Figueroa & Sánchez-Tocino, 2008). Finally, in the same area, Sánchez-Tocino and Tierno de Figueroa (2009a) and Tierno de Figueroa & Sánchez-Tocino (2009) recorded *Loxosomella pes* (Schmidt, 1878) living on the sponges *Ircinia fasciculata* (Pallas, 1766) and *Sarcotragus spinosula* (Schmidt, 1862), and described two new species, *Loxosomella ameliae* Sánchez-Tocino & Tierno de Figueroa, 2009, living on *Ircinia fasciculata*, and *Loxosomella almugnecarensis* Tierno de Figueroa & Sánchez-Tocino, 2009, living on *Hyrtios collectrix* (Schulze, 1879).

A sampling of marine fauna from Southern Iberian Peninsula showed the existence of a population of a different loxosomatid species living on the sponge *Sarcotragus spinosula*. Individuals were collected by scuba diving at 10 meters depth in the Almuñécar coast (Granada province, Spain),



Fig. 1.—Live individual of *Loxosomella tethyae* showing the glandular cell row around the tentacle crown base and a lateral attached bud.

Fig. 1.—Individuo vivo de *Loxosomella tethyae* mostrando la fila de células glandulares entorno a la base de la corona de tentáculos y una yema lateral.

particularly at Punta de la Mona (3°43'39"W; 36°43'10"N, October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008). The entoprocts were collected and transported in a refrigerator to the laboratory, where they were photographed *in vivo* and further studied. After photographing loxosomatids, they were narcotized in seawater with menthol crystals for approximately 8 hours and subsequently fixed in 4% formalin in sea water and preserved in 70% ethanol. Individuals were identified as *Loxosomella tethyae* (Salensky, 1877) according to the form of the calyx, the number of tentacles (10), the foot shape (with a well developed gland, small lateral wings, etc), and especially by the presence of a row of conspicuous gland cells around the tentacle crown base (Fig. 1 & 2).

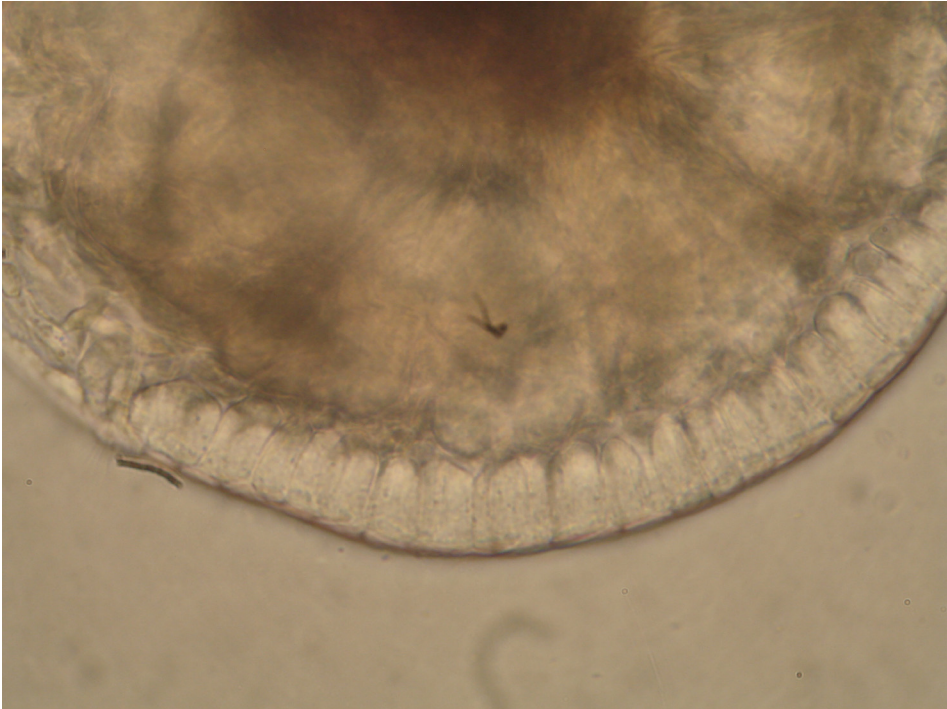


Fig. 2.—Detail of the glandular cell row around the tentacle crown base of *Loxosomella tethyae*.

Fig. 2.—Detalle de la fila de células glandulares entorno a la base de la corona de tentáculos de *Loxosomella tethyae*.

*Loxosomella tethyae* has been previously reported from sponges of the genera *Tethya* Lamarck, 1814 and *Stylotella* Lendenfeld, 1888 (the latter currently considered as a synonym of *Hymeniacidon* Bowerbank, 1858) in

some areas of the Western Mediterranean Sea (see Nielsen, 2008) and on *Microciona* Bowerbank, 1862 from Atlantic waters of USA (Nielsen, 1966). This species was recently found on *Sarcotragus spinosula* in the Chafarinas Islands (Mediterranean coast of North Africa) (Sánchez-Tocino & Tierno de Figueroa, 2009b). Therefore, the present record is the first one of *Loxosomella tethyae* in the Iberian Mediterranean coast.

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