



Redescription of *Eudistoma magalhaensis* (Michaelsen, 1907) (Asciadiacea) from Guaitecas Islands, Chile

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The type species of the genus *Paessleria* Michaelsen 1907, known previously only from the original description is newly recorded from the Guaitecas Islands. All features of this species are characteristic of the genus *Eudistoma* confirming that *Paessleria* and *Eudistoma* are synonyms.

The shallow-water ascidian fauna of Chile is relatively well known, although the species we describe in the present paper, *Eudistoma magalhaensis*, is recorded for the first time since it was described originally. The genus *Eudistoma* Caullery, 1909, comprising 110 species, often is encountered in temperate and tropical waters. However, species in this genus are difficult to identify, and many have been wrongly assigned in the past. Zooids have a uniform structure and are muscular and often strongly contracted in preserved material, adding uncertainty to the taxonomic position of several, sometimes common, species. For example, several authors, including Van Name (1945) assigned widely distributed northern *E. vitreum* (Sars, 1851) to *Polycitor* because they counted four rows of stigmata in this species, although only three actually are present. Redescribed here, *E. magalhaensis* also was assigned to *Polycitor* by Van Name (1945) because he believed that it may have four rows of stigmata. Stomach folds, mentioned in the original description of this species also added uncertainty to its generic assignment. As the species is the type species of the genus *Paessleria* Michaelsen, 1907 its accurate definition is important.

Eudistoma magalhaensis (Michaelsen, 1907)

(Figures 1, 2)

Paessleria magalhaensis Michaelsen, 1907: 69.

Polycitor magalhaensis: Van Name, 1945: 132 and synonymy (only where it refers to the type material).

Sigillina (Paessleria) magalhaensis: Kott, 1969: 39.

Material examined: Chile, Guaitecas Islands (KBPIG 1316, 1317). Melinka, island in front of Falso Faro (KBPIG 1313, 1315); old landing stage, in front of the town (KBPIG 1314). Several specimens in each lot. The specimens were collected in 2004 and 2005 by scuba diving at 5–8 m depth by D. Schories. They are deposited in the Kamchatka Branch of the Pacific Institute of Geography (KBPIG).

Description. The colonies consist of one to several small (about 1 cm diameter), rounded, semitransparent heads on short cylindrical stalks (0.5–1.5 cm long, 0.5 cm diameter) arising from common basal test. The stalked heads are unevenly distributed on the basal test (figure 2B) and are never crowded. The heads are clear and soft, and are clearly demarcated from the supporting stalks by their greater diameter and the softer consistency of the test. This demarcation is especially evident between heads and stalks in living specimens with inflated heads, but can also be seen in preserved specimens. The stalks and basal tunic are firm and opaque and usually are covered by fine sediment, sparse sand grains and epibionts. Inner layers of the test may contain scattered minute sand grains but generally are free from embedded matter. The largest colony photographed *in situ* is about 10 cm in maximum extent, although preserved specimens are fragments less than 2–3 cm long (figure 2A). Both living and preserved specimens are almost colourless, with a slight yellowish tint. Pigment granules were not detected in test, zooids or larvae. In preserved material contracted zooids are mostly located in the heads of the colony, and only occasionally abdomina extend down the stalk. Zooids are parallel to each other and open on the upper surface of the heads. Occasionally atrial siphons of two or three zooids open close to each other forming a rudimentary system, but generally these systems were not detected, and may not always be present.