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The genus *Exogone* (Polychaeta: Syllidae) from the Brazilian coast, with the description of a new species

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Abstract

A new species of *Exogone*, *E. gigas* sp. n., is described herein, together with *E. africana*, *E. arenosa*, *E. dispar*, *E. naidinoides*, *E. rolani*, and *E. simplex*, collected along the Brazilian coast, including new morphological details. The distribution of *E. breviantennata* is expanded to include the states of Espírito Santo, Paraíba and Pernambuco. *Exogone gigas* sp. n. is characterized by having a large median antenna, the absence of dorsal cirri on chaetiger 2, and having a triangular process and minute spines on the shaft of the spiniger-like chaetae on chaetiger 2. The Brazilian specimens are compared to the morphologically most similar congeners. A key for the species described in this paper is provided.

Key words: Exogoninae, new occurrence, taxonomy, Atlantic Ocean, phytal.

Introduction

Syllidae Grube, 1850 is one of the largest families of polychaetes, currently comprising around 700 species, with more than 70 genera (Aguado *et al.* 2007). The state of knowledge of the syllid fauna occurring off the Brazilian coast is still poor, considering the great extension of the coast and the diversity of syllids in areas that have been more thoroughly studied (San Martín 2003, 2005; San Martín & López 2003; San Martín & Hutchings 2006; San Martín *et al.* 2008a, 2008b, 2010). Up to the present, about 140 species have been recorded from Brazil (Rullier & Amoureux 1979; Morgado & Amaral 1985; Nogueira 2000, 2006; Nogueira *et al.* 2001, 2004; Nygren & Gidholm 2001; Nogueira & San Martín 2002; Fukuda & Nogueira 2006, 2013a, b; Paiva *et al.* 2007; Nogueira & Fukuda 2008; Nogueira & Yunda-Guarín 2008; Fukuda *et al.* 2009, 2012, 2013; Fukuda 2010; Berlandi *et al.* 2011; Amaral *et al.* 2012; Paresque & Nogueira 2014).

Exogone Örsted, 1845 is a cosmopolitan genus commonly found in samples collected off the Brazilian coast (Nogueira 2000; Nogueira *et al.* 2004; Berlandi *et al.* 2011). However, only eight species of this genus have been recorded from Brazil: *E. aquadulcensis* Pascual, Núñez & San Martín, 1996, *E. arenosa* Perkins, 1981, *E. breviantennata* Hartmann-Schröder, 1959, *E. dispar* Webster, 1879, *E. lourei* Berkeley & Berkeley, 1938, *E. marisae* Pascual, Núñez & San Martín, 1996, *E. naidina* Örsted, 1845 and *E. verugeta* (Claparède, 1868) (see Amaral *et al.* 2012). A formal description of Brazilian populations was provided only for *E. breviantennata* (Nogueira *et al.* 2004), with the remaining records coming from identifications for ecological studies or unpublished theses and dissertations, and frequently without voucher specimens available for examination. Therefore, only *E. breviantennata* and the species dealt with in this paper can be confirmed as occurring in Brazilian waters. Brazilian specimens of *Exogone africana*, *E. arenosa*, *E. dispar*, *E. gigas* sp. n., *E. naidinoides*, *E. rolani*, and *E. simplex* from recent collections are described and illustrated herein.

Exogone longicornis also has dorsal cirri on chaetiger 2 and a triangular process is present on the shafts of spiniger-like chaetae of chaetigers 1 and 2 (San Martín 2005). In addition, *E. longicornis* has shorter blades of spiniger-like chaetae throughout, 26 µm, 26 µm, and 20 µm long on anterior, midbody and posterior chaetigers, respectively, and a proventricle with 33–38 rows of muscle cells. In contrast, *E. gigas* **sp. n.** has blades of spiniger-like chaetae 30–50 µm, 22–45 µm, and 17–35 µm long on anterior, midbody and posterior chaetigers, and a proventricle with 25–27 rows of muscle-cells.

Exogone multisetosa is a smaller species, the holotype, with 41 chaetigers, was described from the Pacific Ocean (Lima, Peru) and can be differentiated from *E. gigas* **sp. n.** by having a shorter, squared triangular process on spiniger-like chaetae of chaetiger 2, ventral simple chaetae with acute tip, and shorter proventricle, through 2.5–3 segments. *Exogone arenosa* differs from *E. gigas* **sp. n.** by having dorsal cirri on chaetiger 2, pharynx through 7 segments, and proventricle with 27–36 rows of muscle cells.

Etymology. The epithet *gigas* is derived from Latin, meaning "giant", and refers to the length of this species, which is the longest known for this genus.

Distribution. Atlantic Ocean: Brazil (Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo). From the intertidal zone to ca. 143 m.

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