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Revision of *Pherusa* Oken, 1807 (Polychaeta: Flabelligeridae)

SERGIO I. SALAZAR-VALLEJO

Grupo Estructura y Función del Bentos, Depto. Sistemática y Ecología Acuática, El Colegio de la Frontera Sur, Chetumal, Quintana Roo, MEXICO. E-mail: savs551216@hotmail.com, ssalazar@ecosur.mx



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SERGIO I. SALAZAR-VALLEJO
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Abstract

Pherusa Oken, 1807 was the first genus of flabelligerids to be described and was regarded as having over 40 species. Following revision of all available material two morphological patterns are recognized: *Pherusa* is restricted to those species with eight branchial filaments of similar width, and anchylosed falcate neurohooks, shorter than body width. Species with the same number of branchial filaments but with neurochaetae mostly straight, distally foliose and often as long as body width are transferred to a new genus: *Lamispina* n. gen. *Pherusa* contains 14 species, including six newly described: *P. plumosa* (Müller, 1776), type-species, restricted, from Greenland, *P. affinis* (Leidy, 1855) from the NW Atlantic, *P. andersonorum* n. sp. from the NE Pacific (California), *P. aspera* (Stimpson, 1854) from the NW Atlantic, *P. hobsonae* n. sp. from the NE Pacific (Washington), *P. incrustata* Quatrefages, 1866, reinstated from the Mediterranean Sea, *P. mikacae* n. sp. from the Adriatic Sea, *P. moorei* n. sp. from the NW Pacific (Japan), *P. neopapillata* Hartman, 1961 from the NE Pacific (California), *P. nipponica* n. sp. from the NW Pacific (Japan), *P. obscura* Quatrefages, 1866 reinstated from the NE Atlantic (France), *P. papillata* (Johnson, 1901) from the NE Pacific (Washington), *P. rullieri* n. sp. from the Eastern tropical Atlantic (Benin), and *Pherusa sibogae* (Caullery, 1944) n. comb. from Western Timor, Indonesia. *Lamispina* n. gen. has 10 species with five newly described: *L. schmidtii* (Annenkova-Chlopina, 1924) n. comb., type-species from the Japan Sea (incl. *P. negligens* (Berkeley & Berkeley, 1950)), *L. amoureuksi* n. sp. from the NE Atlantic (off SW Ireland), *L. carrerai* n. sp. from the NE Pacific (Mexico), *L. chilensis* n. sp. from the SE Pacific (Chile), *L. falcata* (Stöp-Bowitz, 1948) n. comb. from the Norwegian Sea, *L. gymnopapillata* (Hartmann-Schröder, 1965) n. comb. from the SE Pacific (Chile), *L. horsti* (Haswell, 1892) n. comb. from Southern Australia, *L. keeli* n. sp. from the Gulf of Mexico (Florida), *L. kerguelarum* (Grube, 1877) n. comb. from the Southern Indian Ocean (Kerguelen Islands), and *L. milligani* n. sp. from the NW Atlantic (Florida). Keys to identify these two genera and all species in each genus are also included.

Key words: *Flabelligera*, *Flemingia*, *Pennaria*, *Stylarioides*

Introduction

Pherusa Oken, 1807 was the first flabelligerid genus to be described and contains over 40 species (Fauchald 1977:116–117), but has not been subjected to a revisionary study until now. Oken (1807:1168) proposed *Pherusa* for *Amphitrite plumosa* Müller, 1776; a few years later he defined both the genus and species (Oken 1815:377). The former publication was overlooked, and the second one prompted discussion and several replacement names were proposed because *Pherusa* Oken, 1815 was a junior homonym. Stöp-Bowitz (1948a:13) solved the problem and *Pherusa* Oken, 1807 was reinstated as the senior homonym.

The type species for the genus is, by original designation, *Amphitrite plumosa* Müller, 1776. Müller (1776:216) stated: “cirro longo utrinque, flabellis caput setasque pediformis tegentibus” (this translates as: Long lateral cirri (branchiae), head with (chaetal) fan and foot-like projections with chaetae); he attributed the authorship for the species to Fabricius, probably because he had access to Müller’s manuscript, which was published later. There was a Greenlandic word attached to the description: Merkolualik, and it was regarded as the type locality. However, according to Wesenberg-Lund (1950:84), “merkolualik” is the Greenlandic name for the species, not the type locality.

Fabricius (1780:288–289) provided a more complete description with the following relevant features (p. 288): “Haec sub involucro suo pupam mentitur ... Corpus integrum pellucidum ... Sub singulo flabello versus abdomen seta simplex robustior s. aculeus longior retro curvatus, aureo-nitidus ... cuius labium superius tenuislimis brevibus numerosis purpureis obsitum ... Flabella 2 maiora antrorsum tendentia caput obtegunt antice supraque connivencia, infra patentia. Involucrum cinereum sericeum, quasi exuviae, totum corpus cingit tam accurate... (p. 289) Interdum contingit feminudum vel plane nudum conspiciere vivaciorem.... Extremitatibus suis connuens larvam simulat.” These fragments translate as (p. 288): “It simulates a pupa in its involucrum ... Body completely transparent ... Ventrally, one simple robust acicula-like chaetae, curved, golden... over the lip abundant thin purple filaments... Two large fans cover the head, imperceptible from above but visible from below. Tunic gray, silky, dehiscent, cover the body ... (p. 289) It can be seen without the cover being more active ... Resembles a larva by retracting the appendages”.

These characteristics imply that Fabricius studied at least two different forms. One that is currently regarded as *Flabelligera* Sars, 1829, and to which most of the above features can easily be linked (Salazar-Vallejo 2012a), and by referring to a form without mucous cover, he may have been including what we now regard as *Pherusa*, although the retracted appendices form might be similar to what we now regard as *Brada*. It must be concluded, however, that most features could be linked to *Flabelligera*.

wall. Parapodia lateral; medial neuropodia ventrolateral. Notopodia long conical lobes directed anteriorly in chaetigers 1–3, then low lateral lobes, without special papillae. Neuropodial lobes low, without special papillae. Noto- and neuropodia close to each other.

Medial notochaetae arranged in transverse tufts; all multiarticulated capillaries, articles short basally, medium-sized medially, long distally (Fig. 24D); about 10 per fascicle, as long as 1/3 body width. Neurochaetae multiarticulated capillaries in chaetigers 1–3; lamispines from chaetiger 4, yellowish, arranged in transverse series, or in inverted C- or J-patterns, 8 in chaetiger 4, 9 thereafter (posterior fragment with 7–8 lamispines per fascicle). Lamispines in medial chaetigers with margins entire (Fig. 24E), becoming hirsute or plumose by lateral fragmentation of individual fibers in more posterior chaetigers (Fig. 24F).

Posterior end unknown.

Etymology. This species is named after Michael R. Milligan for his contributions to the Taxonomic Guide to the Polychaetes from the Northern Gulf of Mexico, because he wrote the chapter on flabelligerids (Milligan 1984), and because he noticed that some of his specimens did not fit into *Pherusa* because of the long neurohooks, and very long notochaetae. Regretfully, his material was not found and its affinities to this species cannot be determined. The epithet is a noun in the genitive case.

Remarks. *Lamispina milligani* n. sp. can be grouped with *L. falcata* (Støp-Bowitz, 1948) n. comb. and *L. schmidtii* (Annenkova-Chlopina, 1924) n. comb. because their bodies have delicate, filiform papillae, which can be eroded leaving bare surfaces. However, *L. milligani* is unique within the group because it has very short notochaetae (1/3 as long as body width), and because its lamispines have tips with fibers exposed. The specimen is very old and this exposure of chaetal fibers might be regarded as a physical degradation but this roughness resembles what can be seen in some other deep-water flabelligerids, such as *Ilyphagus* (Salazar-Vallejo 2012d), and by analogy, this feature is regarded as species specific. The differences between *L. falcata* and *L. schmidtii* were indicated previously.

Type locality. Florida Strait.

Distribution: Apparently restricted to the Florida Strait, in soft bottoms at 620 m depth. If Milligan's juvenile specimens belonged to this species, then it would be present along the Northern Gulf of Mexico, in silty clay at 134 m depth.

Acknowledgments

This is one of my last revisions of flabelligerid genera. The revision of the whole family has taken much longer than expected, as this journey started in 2003. Throughout this time, good luck and warm hospitality were everywhere, and this series of studies will hopefully be their best result. I wholeheartedly thank my colleagues for making this possible. In alphabetical order per name and institutions: Angelika Brandt and Gisela Wegener (ZMH), Ardis Johnson (MCZ), Birger Neuhaus (ZMB), Danny Eibye-Jacobsen (ZMUC), Dieter Fiege (SMF), Elin Sigvaldadottir and Karin Sindemark (SMNH), Evangelina Schwindt (CENPAT), Fredrik Pleijel (then in MNHN), Galina Buzhinskaja (ZIRAS), Greg Rouse, Joke Bleeker and Harry ten Hove (ZMA), Leslie Harris, Kathy Omura and Kirk Fitzhugh (LACM), Katie Ahlfeld, Linda Ward, Kristian Fauchald and Geoff Keel (USNM), Marie-Noelle Helleout and Tarik Meziane (MNHN), Norma Emilia González (ECOSUR), Tore Høisæter and Jon Anders Kongsrud (ZMUB). Len Hirsch & Kristian Fauchald, Leslie Harris & David Ocker, and Ana Parma & Lobo Orensanz kindly allowed me to share their homes. Last but not least, Teresa Darbyshire and Danny Eibye-Jacobsen have kindly given off their precious time helping me improve this contribution.

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