



***Cabira rangarajani* n. sp. (Polychaeta: Pilargidae) from the Goa coast, central west coast of India**

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Abstract

Cabira rangarajani n. sp., is described from the Goa coast, in central west coast of India. It differs from *C. brevicirris* (Rangarajan, 1964), by having a single type of neurochaetae while the other species has three types. The new species also differs from the type species, *C. incerta* Webster, 1879 with regards to the relative length of the fused prostomium and peristomium, size of the palps and antennae and in having relatively smaller anterior appendages. A key to identify all species in the genus is also included.

Key words: Polychaete, Pilargidae, *Cabira rangarajani* n. sp., systematics, taxonomy, Goa coast, India

Introduction

The family Pilargidae was originally proposed as an independent group (de Saint-Joseph, 1899), but was not recognized as such and its species were placed in Hesionidae (Fauvel, 1920), but its independent status has since been recognized by Hartman (1947) and Pettibone (1963, 1966). Pilargids are found in sandy to muddy-sands from intertidal to deep water, and have a wide distribution (Hartman, 1947; Day, 1963; Pettibone, 1982). However, they are considered as an enigmatic family and are rarely abundant (Salazar-Vallejo & Orensanz, 1991). Hence, no dominance in terms of abundance or richness is observed (Salazar-Vallejo, 1987). Pilargids are not tube builders and due to their eversible muscular pharynx are considered as carnivores or omnivores (Fauchald & Jumars, 1979).

A recent paper by Marks & Hocknull (2006) referred to the generic composition of the family but it deserves updating; thus, the revised generic composition and the recent most publications dealing with them are as follows. The family Pilargidae de Saint-Joseph, 1899 includes two subfamilies, 13 genera and about 70 species. The subfamily Pilarginae de Saint-Joseph, 1899 contains *Ancistrostylis* McIntosh, 1879 (including *Ancistargis* Jones, 1961; Fiege & Bögemann, 1999), *Antonbruunia* Hartman & Boss, 1965; *Cabira* Webster, 1879; *Glyphohesione* Friedrich, 1951 (Licher, 1994), *Otopsis* Ditlevsen, 1917; *Paracabira* Britayev & Saphronova, 1981; *Pilargis* de Saint-Joseph, 1899 (Salazar-Vallejo & Harris, 2006), and *Sigambra* Müller, 1858 (Licher & Westheide, 1997), while the subfamily Synelminae Salazar-Vallejo, 1987 includes *Litocorsa* Pearson, 1970 (Darbyshire & Mackie, 2003), *Loandalia* Monro, 1936 (includes *Parandalia* Emerson and Fauchald, 1971 (Salazar-Vallejo, 1998), *Pseudexogone* Augener, 1922 (Ruiz-Ramirez & Salazar-Vallejo, 2001; Salazar-Vallejo *et al.*, 2007), *Synelmis* Chamberlin, 1919 (Salazar-Vallejo, 2003), and *Talehsapia* Fauvel, 1932 (Salazar-Vallejo *et al.*, 2001). *Glyphohesione* is being included in Pilarginae due to the shape of cephalic ganglion, as suggested by Fitzhugh & Wolf (1990). The family has been revised by Hartman (1947),