

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Hacelia superba H. L. CLARK, 1921 AND *Chaetaster longipes* RETZIUS, 1805 (ECHINODERMATA: ECHINOIDEA) NEW RECORDS FOR CANARY ISLAND

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During the 2003 SEGA expeditions one individual of *Chaetaster longipes* Retzius, 1805 was found at 40 meters depth by a SCUBA diver at Los Islotes (North Lanzarote), and two individuals of *Hacelia superba* Clark, 1921 were caught respectively by a circular wire fish trap and by dredging northeast of Gran Canaria. These are first records for the infralittoral and circumlittoral zones of the Canary Islands.

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INTRODUCTION

In 2002, the Environmental and Territorial Ordination Department of Canary Island Government, started the SEGA project with the aim of monitoring endangered marine species. During 2002 and 2003, the project permitted the authors to conduct a visual inspection of the infralittoral to 50 m depth, along the entire length of the Canarian archipelago. More than 1500 dives were carried out. Two new records of echinoderm species were among the results of this survey.

Up to now, there have been no references in the literature of *Hacelia superba* Clark, 1921 in Canarian waters. The published distribution of this species in the Atlantic extends from North Carolina, the northern part of Gulf of Mexico to Barbados, as well as Saint Helena, and the Cape Verde Archipelago, the Gulf of Guinea and Angola (CLARK & DOWNEY 1992).

Chaetaster longipes Retzius, 1805 appears in various lists of marine fauna of the Canary Islands, (BACALLADO et al. 1984; PÉREZ & LÓPEZ 1988; MORO et al. 2003), and its

distribution includes the Azores, Saint Helena, Ascension, the Bay of Biscay, Cabo Verde, Liberia, and the Mediterranean (CLARK & DOWNEY 1992). However, its presence at the Canary islands is based on a single record, by MORENO-BATET (1976) from the Dacia bank at a depth of 150 m. This bank is situated 200 km North of Fuerteventura, and is not considered as a part of the circumlittoral zone of the Canary Islands.

RESULTS

The first individual of *H. superba* was caught in the year 2000, by dredging at 270 m depth, on sandy bottom northeast of Gran Canaria (28°07'8,58"N 15°51'23,1"W to 28°07'30,06"N 15°51'40,74"W). Other fauna in the area consisted of *Stichopathes setacea* (Gray, 1860) and a very rich molluscan fauna, including *Emarginula adriatica* O. G. Costa, *Emarginella huzardii* Payraudeau, 1826, *Tectura virginea* (Müller O.F., 1776), *Clelandella miliaris* (Brocchi, 1814), *Alvania joseae* Hoenselaar &

Gould, 1998, *Metaxia metaxae* (Chiage, 1829), *Hexaplex saharicus* Locard, 1897, *Mitrella pallary* Dautzenberg, 1925, *Granulia canarioensis* Boyer, 2001, *Granulia guanacha* (Orbigny, 1840), *Mitromorpha cachiai* Mifsub, 2001, *Yoldiella messanensis* (Jeffreys, 1870), *Bathyarca pectunculoides* (Scachi, 1834), *Bathyarca philippiana* (Nyst, 1848), *Limopsis aurita* (Brocchi, 1814), *Aequipecten commutatus* (Monterosato, 1875), *Parvamusium fenestratum* (Forbes, 1843) and *Axelella minima* (Reeve, 1846).

The second individual was caught at 295 m depth by circular wire fish trap, at the position 28°05'56,1"N, 15°52'1,74"W northeast of Gran Canaria in 2003. This method of capture does not permit an evaluation of the accompanying fauna, but the trap also included live specimens of *Narella cf. bellissima* (pers. com. A. Brito). The dimensions, of the two individuals, are reported in Table I.

The specimen of *C. longipes* was caught by scuba diving at 40 m depth, in the marine protected area of La Graciosa, North Lanzarote on May 24, 2003, at coordinates 29°17'12,8"N, 13° 32'55,2"W. The locality was a rocky reef above sandy bottom. The reef had vertical walls with small caves. The maximum depth of the area reached 70 m. The accompanying fauna consisted of numerous and large-sized specimens of *Gerardia savaglia* (Bertoloni, 1819). Less well represented was the orange coral *Dendrophyllia ramea* (Linnaeus, 1758) located in shady zones. *Paramuricea grayi* (Johnson, 1861) and *Leptogorgia ruberrima* (Koch, 1886) were also present. Other invertebrates were colonies of *Filograna implexa* Berkley, 1851 as well as the sea urchin *Diadema antillarum* Philippi, 1845.

The individual of *C. longipes* was found at the base of *G. savaglia* at 40 m depth. The colour was yellowish orange. The biometric dimensions are reported in Table I.

Table I
Dimensions of the specimens.

	Major radius, from centre of the disc to tip of arm (mm)	Minor radius, from centre of the disc to interradial edge (mm)	The width arm at the interradian edge (mm)	The width arm at tip of arm (mm)
<i>Hacelia superba</i> (1)	85.1	25.2	33.5	6.3
<i>Hacelia superba</i> (2)	87.7	17.1	18.3	7.1
<i>Chaetaster longipes</i>	78.0	7.0	7.5	3.5

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