

A checklist of marine polychaetous annelids (Polychaeta) for the Gulf of Paria, Trinidad, West Indies

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Major polychaete collections from the soft predominantly mud bottom of the Gulf of Paria, Trinidad, were made between 1979 and 1986. One hundred and eighty-eight species from 38 families including two new species were identified. A checklist of these species is reported together with their distribution and occurrence. Further treatment is required for formal designation of some species recorded.

Depuis 1979 jusqu'à 1986, l'on amassa des prélèvements énormes de polychaete du fond mou du Golfe de Paria à la Trinité, dont la plus grande partie est composée de boue. L'on identifia 188 espèces provenant de 38 familles, y compris deux nouvelles espèces. L'on fournit une liste de ces espèces, ainsi que des renseignements sur la distribution et l'existence à elles. Il faut le traitement supplémentaire afin de nommer de façon formelle un certain nombre des espèces constatées.

Desde 1979 hasta 1986, se acumularon tomas enormes de polikaete del fondo blando del Golfo de Paria en Trinidad, la mayor parte del que está compuesta de lodo. Se identificaron 188 especies que proceden de 38 familias, incluso dos nuevas especies. Se presenta una lista de dichas especies, así como la información sobre la distribución y la existencia de ellas. Es necesario el tratamiento suplementario para nombrar de manera formal algunas de las especies observadas.

Introduction

Polychaetes may make up about 50-60 per cent of the macroinvertebrates in soft substrates (Fauchald 1984) and are also among the most "species-rich" groups (Fauchald and Jumars 1979). Polychaetes have contributed to the assessment of both temperate and tropical environments, especially in terms of sewage pollution (McNulty 1961, 1966; Taylor 1971) and in their use as indicators of pollution (Reish 1959; Pearson and Rosenberg 1978; Wade 1972). To complete a successful benthic investigation, the polychaetes should ideally be identified at least to the level of genera.

Apart from a checklist of polychaetes for the Caribbean region, by Perkins and Savage (1975), comprehensive papers on polychaete studies for the region are few. Most of the polychaete literature for Trinidad and Tobago are taxonomic accounts of specimens sent to taxonomists as a result of casual collections off the island. Monro (1928) described *Polyodontes oculatea* and *Sabella bipunctata* with localities in Trinidad. Wesenberg-Lund (1958) described a new species of euryhaline spionid from Trinidad. Marsden (1960)

described *Hermodice carunculata* Pallas 1766 with localities including Arnos Vale, Tobago. Bacon (1968) produced a list of polychaetes for the mud sediments, rotting mangroves, and herbaceous swamp areas of the Caroni Swamp (Fig. 1) in Trinidad. This was the island's first record of a list of the annelid fauna which up till this time was poorly known. Bailey (1970) described *Spirorbis epichysis* (Spirorbinae) from Tobago and three other species from Trinidad. Ten Hove (1975) described *Pseudovermilia occidentalis* from Tobago.

Four multidisciplinary projects were carried out in the Gulf of Paria by the Institute of Marine Affairs over the period 1979 to 1986, in which collections of polychaetes were made. The coastal areas of the Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas [where two separate studies were carried out (PLIPDECO/IMA 1982; Gobin 1988)] and South Oropuche are shown in Fig. 1. In the original Point Lisas study (PLIPDECO/IMA 1982) the polychaetes were identified in most cases only to families. Four families which were recorded in PLIPDECO/IMA (1982) were not recorded by Gobin (1988) but have been included in this checklist.

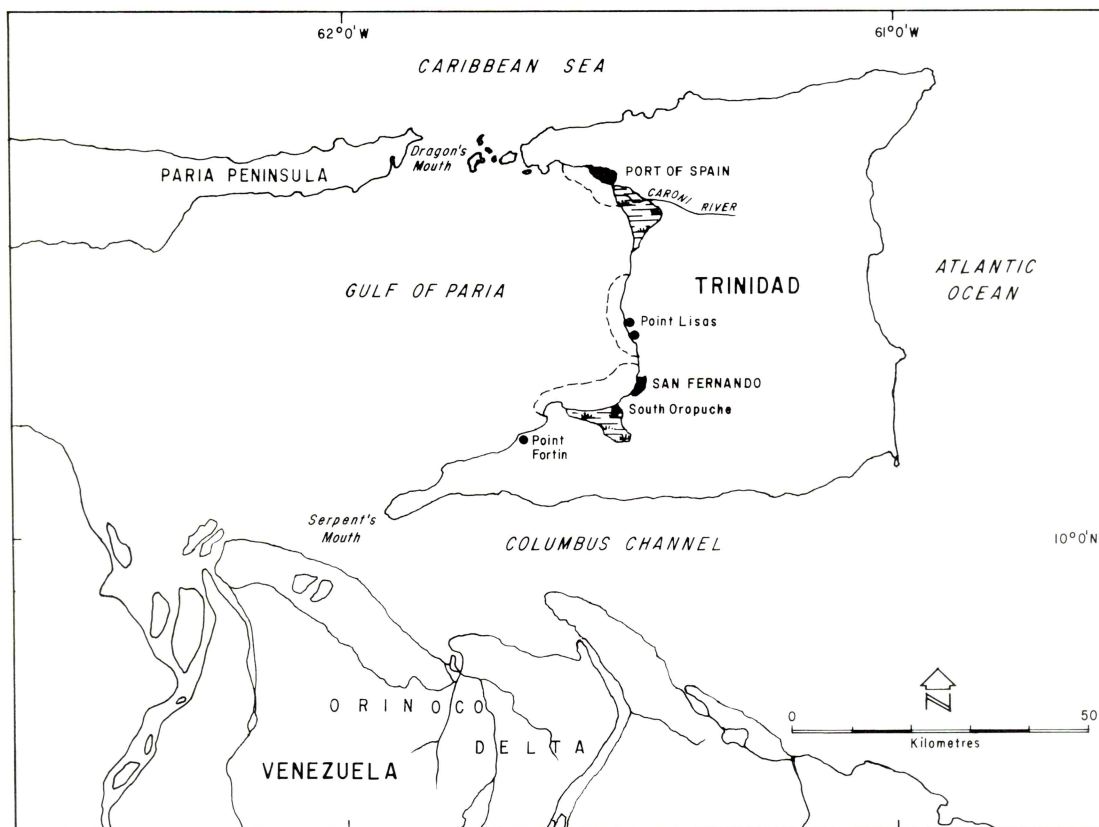


FIG. 1. Areas sampled in the Gulf of Paria, off Trinidad.

Locality

The Gulf of Paria is almost landlocked being bounded by the west coast of Trinidad and the east coast of Venezuela (Fig. 1). It is connected to the Atlantic Ocean by a long channel, the Serpent's Mouth, and the Caribbean Sea by a deep-island-studded trough of structural origin, the Dragon's Mouth (van Andel and Sachs 1964). There are marked salinity and turbidity fluctuations in the Gulf of Paria caused by the outflow from local rivers, which include the Caroni, Couva, Diego Martin, Guaracara, and Godineau rivers, as well as the great influence of the Orinoco River of Venezuela. The result is extensive mudflats and a brackish water environment. The bottom sediment in the major part consists of fine mud with occasional sandy patches. There is a sandy platform surrounding south-western Trinidad and there are rock outcrops around Soldado Rock and in the Dragon's Mouth.

Methods

Sediment samples were obtained using a 0.04-m² van Veen grab sampler. Replicate samples were taken and agitated in filtered sea water, and the suspended sediment was filtered through a 0.5-mm² sieve. The retained fauna were narcotized

using a MgCl₂ solution and stained with Rose Bengal, a proteinaceous dye, to facilitate sorting. All specimens were preserved in a 10% formalin solution and later stored in a 70% ethanol solution. Identifications were carried out using binocular and compound microscopes. Also, Hoyer's solution was used for clearing tissue to examine setae under high power. All specimens are presently lodged at the Institute of Marine Affairs' Reference Collection and eventually duplicate collections with paratypes will be sent to the United States National Museum (USNM). The polychaetes were identified using taxonomic keys by Uebelacker and Johnson (1984) for the Northern Gulf of Mexico alongside other major keys (Day 1967; Fauchald 1977). Barry Vittor and Associates, environmental consultants of Alabama, assisted in verification of the identifications.

Specific names in the checklist are grouped in phylogenetic order by family, generally following the checklist of Hartman (1959, 1965) and thereafter in alphabetic order by genus and species. Specimens that were either unidentifiable beyond the level of genus or varied from previously recorded descriptions were labelled to the genus only, followed by sp. and a letter of the alphabet. This was similar to that given by Uebelacker and Johnson (1984). These unidentifiable specimens do not imply that they are new species, however.

**Checklist of polychaetes for the
Gulf of Paria**

PHYLUM ANNELIDA

CLASS POLYCHAETA

Family **Polynoidae**

Eunoe sp. *a*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Harmothoe sp. *b*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point
Lisas

Harmothoe sp. *e*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, South
Oropuche

Harmothoe aculeata Andrews 1891

Distribution : North Carolina
Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Lepidasthenia sp. *a*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Lepidonotus sp. *a*

Occurrence : South Oropuche

Family **Polyodontidae**

Polyodontes sp. *a*

Occurrence : Point Lisas

Family **Sigalionidae**

Sthenelais sp. *a*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point
Lisas

Sthenelais sp. *b*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Sthenelais sp. *c*

Occurrence : South Oropuche, Point Lisas

Sthenelais sp. *d*

Occurrence : Point Lisas

Sthenolepis cf. *grubei* (Treadwell, 1901)

Distribution : Puerto Rico, Brazil, California,
Panama, Gulf of Mexico, Ecuador

Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Family **Eulepethidae**

Grubeulepis ecuadorensis Pettibone, 1969

Distribution : Ecuador, Gulf of Mexico
Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Grubeulepis mexicana

(Berkley & Berkley, 1939)

Distribution : Southern California to Guatemala,
Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point
Lisas, South Oropuche

Family **Amphinomidae**

Paramphinomæ sp. *b*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point
Lisas, South Oropuche

Paramphinome sp. *c*

Occurrence : Point Lisas

Family **Phyllodoceidae**

Eteone sp. *a*

Occurrence : South Oropuche

Eteone lactea Claparede, 1868

Distribution : Europe, North Sea, Gulf of
St. Lawrence to Florida,
Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : South Oropuche

Eteone heteropoda Hartman, 1951

Distribution : Maine to North Carolina,
Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Eumida cf. *sanguinea* Oersted, 1843

Distribution : Mediterranean, France, Norway,
Iceland, east and west
coast of North and South
America including Gulf of
Mexico, Japan, Indian
Ocean, New Zealand, South
Africa

Occurrence : South Oropuche

Phyllodoce sp. *a*

Occurrence : Point Lisas

Phyllodoce arenae Webster, 1880

Distribution : Maine to North Carolina,
Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Phyllodoce madeirensis Langerhans, 1880

Distribution : Cosmopolitan in tropical seas

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Phyllodoce panamensis Treadwell, 1917

Distribution : Panama region

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Family **Hesionidae**

Gypis sp. *a*

Occurrence : Point Lisas

Gypis brevipalpa (Hartman-Schroeder, 1959)

Distribution : Washington, California,
Central America, Virginia
to Florida, Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Hesione sp. *a*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Hesione sp. *b*

Occurrence : South Oropuche

Hesione (picta) protochona Schmarda, 1861

Distribution : Arctic, West Indies, Puerto Rico

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Podarke sp. *a*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Family **Pilargidae**

Ancistargis papillosa (Jones, 1961)

Distribution : Gulf of Mexico off Florida, Texas

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Parandalia sp. *a*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, South Oropuche, Point Lisas

Parandalia americana (Hartman, 1947)

Distribution : Gulf of Mexico, Florida

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Sigambra bassi (Hartman, 1945)

Distribution : North Carolina to Florida, Gulf of Mexico, southern California

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Sigambra tentaculata (Treadwell, 1941)

Distribution : Black Sea, Red Sea, South Africa, northeastern South America, Gulf of Mexico, New England to Florida, North Pacific, southern California

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Family **Syllidae**

Exogone sp.

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Exogone atlantica Perkins, 1981

Distribution : East coast Florida, Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Exogone lourei Berkley & Berkley 1938

Distribution : British Columbia to southern California, Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, South Oropuche

Pionosyllis sp. *a*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas

Pseudosyllides sp. *a*

Occurrence : South Oropuche

Syllis sp.

Occurrence : South Oropuche

Typosyllis sp.

Occurrence : South Oropuche

Family **Nereidae**

Ceratocephale oculata Banse, 1977

Distribution : North Carolina, Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Genus *a*

Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Laeonereis sp. *a*

Occurrence : Point Lisas

Namalycastis sp. *a*

Occurrence : Point Lisas

Nereis sp. *a*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, South Oropuche

Nereis micromma Harper, 1970

Distribution : Mexico, Northern Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Nereis (Neanthes) succinea

(Frey & Leuckart, 1847)

Distribution : Cosmopolitan in temperate and tropical waters

Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Platynereis sp. *a*

Occurrence : Point Lisas

Family **Nephtyidae**

Aglaophamus sp. *a*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Aglaophamus verrilli (McIntosh, 1885)

Distribution : East and west Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Micronephthys sp. *a*

Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche

- Nephtys* sp. *d*
Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche
- lina, Gulf of Mexico, Puerto Rico
Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour
- Family **Sphaerodoridae***
- Family **Glyceridae**
- Glycera* sp. *a*
Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche
- Glycera abbranchiata* Treadwell, 1901
Distribution : Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Lesser Antilles, Gulf of Mexico, North Carolina
Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour
- Glycera convoluta* Keferstein, 1862
Distribution : Mediterranean, Persian Gulf, Japan, West Africa, southern California
Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, South Oropuche
- Glycera dibranchiata* Ehlers, 1868
Distribution : West Atlantic from Gulf of St. Lawrence to Florida, Gulf of Mexico, central California to Mexico
Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas
- Glycera longipinnis* Grube, 1878
Distribution : Tropical Indo-west Pacific
Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, South Oropuche
- Glycera sphyrabrancha* Schmarda, 1861
Distribution : North Carolina to West Indies, Gulf of Mexico, Indo-Pacific
Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche
- Hemipodus* sp. *a*
Occurrence : Point Lisas
- Family **Goniadidae**
- Glycinde* sp. *a*
Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche
- Glycinde* sp. *b*
Occurrence : Point Lisas
- Glycinde solitaria* Webster 1879
Distribution : New Jersey to North Caro-
- Goniada* sp. *a*
Occurrence : Point Lisas
- Goniada emerita*
Audoin & Milne Edwards, 1833
Distribution : Scotland, Mediterranean, New Zealand, North Atlantic, Morocco
Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour
- Goniada littorea* Hartman, 1950
Distribution : North Carolina, Gulf of Mexico, southern California
Occurrence : South Oropuche
- Goniada maculata* Hartman, 1959
Distribution : Northern Gulf of Mexico
Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche
- Goniadides carolinae* Day, 1973
Distribution : North Carolina, Gulf of Mexico
Occurrence : South Oropuche
- Family **Onuphidae**
- Diopatra cuprea* Bosc, 1802
Distribution : New England to Florida, Gulf of Mexico, Panama
Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche
- Kinbergonuphis* sp. *a*
Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche
- Kinbergonuphis* sp. *c*
Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche
- Mooreonuphis* cf. *nebulosa* (Moore, 1911)
Distribution : California, Gulf of Mexico
Occurrence : South Oropuche
- Onuphis* sp. *a*
Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche
- Onuphis* sp. *b*
Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour
- Family **Eunicidae**
- Eunice* sp. *a*
Occurrence : South Oropuche
- Euniphysa* sp. *a**
Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas

*Recorded in PLIPDECO/IMA (1982).

*New species being described, Gobin and Wolf (In prep.).

Euniphysa sp. *b*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Marphysa sp. *a*

Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Marphysa macintoshi Crossland, 1903

Distribution : Red Sea, Tropical Indian Ocean

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Marphysa sanguinea (Montagu, 1815)

Distribution : Cosmopolitan in warm waters

Occurrence : South Oropuche

Family **Lumbrineridae***Lumbrineris* sp. *a*

Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Lumbrineris ernesti Perkins, 1979

Distribution : North Carolina to Florida, Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Lumbrineris verrilli Perkins 1979

Distribution : East coast of Florida, Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Family **Dorvilleidae***Dorvillea* sp. *a*

Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Schistomeringos sp. *a*

Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Schistomeringos pectinata Perkins, 1979

Distribution : East coast Florida, Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain

Schistomeringos cf. *rudolphi*

(Delle Chiaje, 1828)

Distribution : Mediterranean; Atlantic—Norway to South Africa and Massachusetts to West Indies, Gulf of Mexico; Pacific—British Columbia to Chile

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Family **Orbinidae***Berkeleya* sp. *a*

Occurrence : South Oropuche

Califia sp. *a*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Leitoscoloplos sp. *c*

Occurrence : South Oropuche

Naineris sp. *a*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas

Naineris sp. *b*

Occurrence : South Oropuche

Scoloplos sp. *a*

Occurrence : South Oropuche

Scoloplos sp. *b*

Occurrence : Point Lisas

Scoloplos sp. *c*

Occurrence : Point Lisas

Scoloplos capensis (Day, 1961)

Distribution : South Africa, North Carolina, Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : South Oropuche

Scoloplos rubra (Webster, 1879)

Distribution : Virginia, West Indies, Eastern Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Scoloplos texana Maciolek & Holland, 1978

Distribution : Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Family **Paraonidae***Aricidea* sp. *a*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Aricidea sp. *b*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Aricidea sp. *c*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Aricidea sp. *d*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Aricidea sp. *e*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Aparaonis sp. *a*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Cirrophorus sp. *a*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Cirrophorus sp. *b*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Family Spionidae

- Apoprionospio dayi* (Foster, 1969)
 Distribution : North Carolina, Gulf of Mexico
 Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche
- Apoprionospio pygmaea* (Hartman, 1961)
 Distribution : Gulf of Mexico, Southern California, Baja California
 Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche
- Aquilaspio* sp. a
 Occurrence : South Oropuche
- Dispio uncinata* Hartman, 1951
 Distribution : North Atlantic, Massachusetts to Florida, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, Central America, Panama, California
 Occurrence : Point Lisas
- Malacoceros* sp. a
 Occurrence : Point Lisas
- Minuspio* sp. a
 Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas
- Minuspio* sp. b
 Occurrence : South Oropuche
- Microspio pigmentata* (Reish, 1959)
 Distribution : North Carolina, Gulf of Mexico, Southern California
 Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour
- Paraprionospio pinnata* (Ehlers, 1901)
 Distribution : Chesapeake Bay to Florida, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, Morocco, Africa, Indian Ocean, western Canada to Chile, Japan, New Zealand, New South Wales
 Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche
- Polydora* sp.
 Occurrence : Point Lisas
- Polydora plena* (Berkley & Berkley, 1936)
 Distribution : North Carolina, California, British Columbia, Massachusetts, Chile
 Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour
- Polydora socialis* (Schmarda, 1861)
 Distribution : East and west coasts of North America, Gulf of Mexico, Chile, Falkland Islands
- Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, South Oropuche
- Prionospio* sp. a
 Occurrence : Point Lisas
- Prionospio cristata* Foster, 1971
 Distribution : North Atlantic, North Carolina, Florida, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea
 Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche
- Prionospio fallax* Soderstrom, 1920
 Distribution : Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic from Sweden to Madeira, Mediterranean, South Africa, southern California, western Canada
 Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche
- Prionospio heterobranchia* Moore, 1907
 Distribution : Texas
 Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour
- Prionospio steenstrupi* Malmgren, 1867
 Distribution : North Atlantic from Norway to Greenland and New Brunswick to Florida, Gulf of Mexico, Alaska to Southern California, Japan, South Africa, southeastern Australia
 Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche
- Scolelepis* sp. c
 Occurrence : Point Lisas
- Spio pettiboneae* Foster, 1971
 Distribution : North Carolina, Gulf of Mexico
 Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, South Oropuche
- Spiophanes* sp. a
 Occurrence : Point Lisas
- Spiophanes missionensis* Hartman, 1941
 Distribution : Central California, Gulf of Mexico
 Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas
- Streblospio benedicti* Webster, 1879
 Distribution : Cosmopolitan

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Family Magelonidae

Magelona sp. a

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Magelona sp. b

Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Magelona sp. c

Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Magelona sp. d

Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Magelona sp. e

Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Magelona sp. f

Occurrence : Point Lisas

Magelona sp. g

Occurrence : South Oropuche, Point Lisas

Magelona sp. h

Occurrence : South Oropuche, Point Lisas

Magelona sp. i

Occurrence : South Oropuche, Point Lisas

Magelona sp. l

Occurrence : South Oropuche, Point Lisas

Magelona pettiboneae Jones, 1963

Distribution : Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Family Chaetopteridae

Chaetopterus variopedatus (Renier, 1804)

Distribution : Cosmopolitan in temperate and tropical waters

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain, Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Mesochaetopterus capensis (McIntosh, 1885)

Distribution : South Africa, Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Spiochaetopterus sp. a

Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Spiochaetopterus oculatus Webster, 1879

Distribution : New England, North Carolina

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas

Family Cirratulidae

Chaetozone sp. a

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas

Chaetozone sp. c

Occurrence : South Oropuche

Dodecaceria sp. a

Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Tharyx sp. a

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Tharyx annulosus Hartman, 1965

Distribution : Florida, Texas

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain, Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Tharyx marioni (Saint-Joseph, 1894)

Distribution : North Atlantic, Scotland, Mediterranean, Morocco

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Genus c

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Genus d

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Family Cossuridae

Cossura sp. a

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Cossura soyeri Laubier, 1963

Distribution : Mediterranean Sea, North Carolina, Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : Point Lisas

Family Scalibregmidae*

Family Ophelidae

Armandia agilis (Andrews, 1891)

Distribution : Bermuda, North Carolina, Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : South Oropuche

Armandia intermedia (Fauvel, 1902)

Distribution : Senegal, Ghana, Persian Gulf, New Caledonia, Japan, N.W. Australia

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, South Oropuche

Armandia maculata (Webster, 1884)

Distribution : Bermuda, North Carolina, Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point Lisas, South Oropuche

*Recorded in PLIPDECO/IMA (1982).

Family **Sternaspidae**

- Sternaspis scutata* (Renier, 1807)
 Distribution : Gulf of Mexico, Mississippi,
 Panama
 Occurrence : South Oropuche

Family **Capitellidae**

- Capitella* sp. *a*
 Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour
- Capitella capitata* (Fabricius, 1780)
 Distribution : Cosmopolitan
 Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point
 Lisas, South Oropuche,
 Caroni Swamp
- Capitomastus* sp. *a*
 Occurrence : South Oropuche
- Dasybranchus* sp. *a*
 Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour
- Decamastus gracilis* Hartman, 1963
 Distribution : Southern California, Gulf of
 Mexico
 Occurrence : Point Lisas
- Heteromastus filiformis* (Claparede 1864)
 Distribution : North Atlantic, North Caro-
 lina, Gulf of Mexico, Pa-
 cific, Morocco, south Cali-
 fornia
 Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour
- Lumbricomastus* sp. *a*
 Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour
- Mediomastus* sp. *a*
 Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche
- Mediomastus californiensis* Hartman, 1944
 Distribution : North Carolina to Florida,
 Gulf of Mexico, Oregon to
 California, Australia
 Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, South
 Oropuche
- Notomastus* sp. *a*
 Occurrence : Point Lisas
- Notomastus hemipodus* Hartman, 1945
 Distribution : North Carolina, Gulf of
 Mexico, California
 Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point
 Lisas
- Notomastus lobatus* Hartman, 1947
 Distribution : North California, Gulf of
 Mexico, southern California
 to Mexico
 Occurrence : Point Lisas

Notomastus tenuis Moore, 1909

- Distribution : Canada to California, Gulf of
 Mexico
 Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour

Family **Arenicolidae***Family **Maldanidae**

- Axiothella* sp. *a*
 Occurrence : South Oropuche
- Clymaldane* sp. *a*
 Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point
 Lisas, South Oropuche
- Euclymene* sp. *a*
 Occurrence : Point Lisas
- Johnstonia* sp. *a*[†]
 Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Family **Oweniidae**

- Owenia* cf. *fusiformis* Delle Chiaje, 1844
 Distribution : Atlantic, North Carolina,
 Gulf of Mexico, Mediterra-
 nean and Red Sea, Indian
 Ocean, North Pacific, Chiie
 Occurrence : South Oropuche

Family **Ampharetidae**

- Amphicteis scaphobranchiata* Moore, 1906a
 Distribution : Washington to Baja Califor-
 nia, Gulf of Mexico
 Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point
 Lisas
- Amphicteis* sp. *a*
 Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point
 Lisas, South Oropuche
- Melinna* sp. *a*
 Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche
- Melinna cristata* (Sars, 1851)
 Distribution : Widespread in the cold wa-
 ters of the Artic, north
 Atlantic and south Pacific,
 north Carolina, Gulf of
 Mexico
 Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point
 Lisas
- Melinna maculata* Webster, 1879
 Distribution : Virginia to Gulf of Mexico,
 West Indies

*Recorded in PLIPDECO/IMA (1982).

[†]New Species being described by Gobin and Mackie (In prep.).

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain, Point Lisas,
South Oropuche

Genus *a* (unknown)

Occurrence : South Oropuche

Family Lacydoniidae*

Family Terebellidae

Loimia sp. *a*

Occurrence : Point Lisas, South Oropuche

Loimia medusa (Savigny, 1818)

Distribution : Northern Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : South Oropuche

Loimia viridis (Moore, 1903)

Distribution : Massachusetts, North Carolina,
Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point
Lisas, South Oropuche

Family Trichobranchidae

Terebellides stroemi Sars, 1935

Distribution : Cosmopolitan, from Arctic to
sub-Antartic

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point
Lisas, South Oropuche

Family Sabellidae

Branchiommata nigromaculata (Baird, 1865)

Distribution : Pacific, Red Sea, West Indies,
Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : Caroni Swamp

Chone cf. *americana* Day, 1973

Distribution : North Carolina, Gulf of
Mexico

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point
Lisas, South Oropuche

Fabricia sp. *a*

Occurrence : Point Lisas

Megalomma sp. *a*

Occurrence : Port-of-Spain Harbour, Point
Lisas

Potamilla sp. *a*

Occurrence : Point Lisas

Family Serpulidae

Eupomatus (Hydroides) sanctaerucis
(Kroyer, 1863)

Distribution : Gulf of Mexico

Occurrence : Caroni Swamp

Discussion and Conclusions

One hundred and eighty species from 38 families were identified for the coastal waters of the Gulf of Paria which provides intertidal habitats and includes mud flats, sandy mud bottoms, and mangrove swamp areas. Categories of polychaetes represented included typically tropical species (*Diopatra cuprea*, *Glycera sphyrabrancha*), cosmopolitan species (*Nereis succinea*, *Capitella capitata*, *Streblospio benedicti*), and some new species (see checklist).

Polychaetes when identified may provide valuable information to benthic community research. Agard (1984) described the ubiquitous *S. benedicti* as indicative of a very polluted environment. In the South Oropuche area *C. capitata* and *S. benedicti* were abundant at inshore stations where pollution was suspected (Agard and Gobin, in preparation). Both studies suggest the possibility that these two polychaetes are indicator species for the tropics. They have already been described as indicator species for the temperate areas (Pearson and Rosenberg 1978; Reish 1959). Change in spatial and temporal distribution of organisms in an area may be due to natural occurrences, physical perturbation, or pollution. The effect of these influences may be reflected in the abundance and species composition of polychaetes within a benthic community (Wade 1972; Agard 1984; Gobin 1988).

Knowledge of species or genera present is therefore of prime importance in benthic surveys. Standardization of identification aids should be encouraged for use by future polychaete workers. This checklist is only for the Gulf of Paria (predominantly a muddy bottom). More oceanic areas as well as coral reef areas of the east and north coasts are virtually unknown with regard to the polychaete fauna. It is expected that polychaete species in these areas will be varied and typical of sandy and rocky bottoms.

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*Recorded in PLIPDECO/IMA (1982).

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