Additional records of Actiniaria (Anthozoa) from Greece

Ch. Chintiroglou & J.C. den Hartog


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Key words: Actiniaria; new records; Greece; Ionian and Aegean Seas; eastern Mediterranean; nematocysts.

A small collection of four species of Actiniaria, partly representing new records for Greece and the eastern Mediterranean, is described and discussed. These four species are: Bunodeopsis strumosa Andres, 1881, Edwardsia claparedii (Panceri, 1869), Actinia cari delle Chiaje, 1825, and Phymanthus pulcher (Andres, 1883).

Introduction

Although sparse information on Actiniaria from Greece can be found scattered in the older literature (e.g. Spratt & Forbes, 1847: 122; Forbes, 1843: 152, 155; Goette, 1897: 292) knowledge of the actinian fauna of Greece strongly increased in recent years starting with the publication of Doumenc et al. (1985), which lists and describes 15 species from the northern Aegean Sea. Ever since, several more records were published, and the number of species recorded now amounts to 23 (Ates, 1990a, 1990b, 1992a, 1992b; Chintiroglou, 1992; Chintiroglou & Stefanidou, 1994; Doumenc et al., 1987; den Hartog, 1995; present publication) (see table 1).

The present paper deals with records of four species from the northern Aegean Sea and the island of Zakinthos (northern Ionian Sea), three of which were listed previously by Chintiroglou (1992), however without further documentation. These species are: Bunodeopsis strumosa Andres, 1881, Edwardsia claparedii (Panceri, 1869), Actinia cari delle Chiaje, 1825, and Phymanthus pulcher (Andres, 1883). All except Actinia cari are new records for Greece and the eastern Mediterranean. Another undocumented record listed by Chintiroglou (1992) as new to the Greek fauna, viz. Paranemonia cinerea (Contarini, 1844), proved to bear upon a misidentification; a careful examination of the poorly preserved material (2 specimens) showed it to belong to a small Aiptasiid anemone.

Table 1. Survey of the species of Actiniaria so far recorded from Greece, and the most important references.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Reference(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bunodeopsis strumosa Andres, 1881</td>
<td>Goette, 1897 (Ionian Sea, Corfu); Ates, 1992b (Ionian Sea, Lefkas); present paper (N Aegean)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aiptasia mutabilis (Gravenhorst, 1831)</td>
<td>Doumenc et al., 1985 (Aegean)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Methods and material**

Samples were collected in the northern Aegean sea and in the island of Zakynthos in the Ionian Sea at depths varying from 0 to 40 m using Van Veen grabs and Charcot-Picard dredges, and by SCUBA diving. In addition soft bottoms were sampled with a corer to study the granulometric composition (cf. Buchanan, 1971). Sampling stations which yielded Actiniaria are indicated in fig. 1. All samples were preserved in 5% formalin/sea-water. Paraffin sections, 8 μm thick and stained with hematoxylin and eosin, were prepared for histological study. Measurements of cnidae were taken from undischarged capsules in squash preparations. As a compromise between the authors the nematocyst classification follows both Weill (1934) [as modified by Carlgren (1940: 4)] and Schmidt (1969, 1972) [terminology as used by Stephenson (1928: 62-63) and den Hartog (1980: 7-8; 1995: 156)].
Abbreviations: MZDAUT = Museum of the Department of Zoology, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki; RMNH = Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie (at present Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, NNM), Leiden, The Netherlands.

Fig. 1. Map indicating the sampling stations where the material of the present study was collected.
1, 5 = Gulf of Kavala; 2 = Zakinthos; 3, 6 = Gulf of Thessaloniki; 4 = Gulf of Strimonikos; 7 = Gulf of Thermaikos.

Notes on the species

Boloceroididae Carlgren, 1924
Bunodeopsis strumosa Andres, 1881

*Tetractis jonica* Goette, 1897: 292, 350 (footnote), pl. 19 figs 80-82 (Korfu).
*Tetractis janthina*; Schmidt, 1972: 12, 14 (misspelling of *T. jonica* Goette).
*Bunodeopsis strumosa* Andres, 1881: 315; Andres 1883: 444-445 [236-237] pls 6 fig. 1, 13 fig. 5; Andres, 1884: 227-228 pls 6 fig. 1, 13 fig. 5; Carus, 1885: 68-69; Carlgren 1940: 29-30, fig. 7.5-7.8; Carlgren, 1949: 41; Pérès & Picard, 1964: 55; Pérès, 1967: 486; Schmidt, 1972: 12-14, figs 11, 13b).
Material.—MZDAUT B 460c (Gulf of Thermaikos, 1.5-2 m, 15.vii.1986, leg. Ch. Chintiroglou; 45 specimens); RMNH Coel. 19697 (same data; 9 specimens).

Morphology.—Base 2 to 4 mm and oral disc ca 1.5 to 4.0 mm in diameter. Height of column ca 1-3 mm. Number of tentacles 12 to 28, ca 2-5 mm long, exceeding height of column. Lower part of column with simple spheroidal or compound vesicles, sessile or stalked and containing microbasic amastigophores (penicilli C). Sphincter absent. No distinct siphonoglyphs.

Colour.—In formalin/sea-water semi-transparent to beige. Vesicles generally translucent.

Cnidom.—See table 2. The cnidom of the present specimens is in general agreement with that given by Schmidt (1972: 13) for specimens from Banyuls and Naples. However, in all body parts of the Greek specimens we found an additional size-class of very small microbasic p-mastigophores/penicilli B2, presumably overlooked by Schmidt.

Table 2. Bunodeopsis strumosa, survey of the cnidom based on samples from the Gulf of Thermaikos (MZDAUT B 460c and RMNH Coel. 19697).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body part</th>
<th>Nematocyst type</th>
<th>Mean, SD, and range (in parentheses) of length and width of nematocyst capsules in μm</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Scapus &amp; vesicles</td>
<td>Basitrichs/Spirulae</td>
<td>12.1 ± 1.1 (10.7 - 14.2 x 1.8 - 2.2)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Micr. p-mast./Penicilli B2</td>
<td>9.2 ± 0.7 (8.1 - 9.8 x 2.2 - 2.7)</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Micr. p-mast./Penicilli B2</td>
<td>23.1 ± 2.5 (18.0 - 27.0 x 3.0 - 4.0)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Micr. amast./Penicilli C</td>
<td>40.7 ± 2.6 (30.9 - 44.9 x 5.5 - 7.5)</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Tentacles</td>
<td>Spirocysts</td>
<td>24.3 ± 3.9 (18.5 - 30.5 x 3.5 - 6.0)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Basitrich/Spirulae</td>
<td>10.7 ± 1.2 (9.0 - 14.0 x 1.5 - 2.2)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Micr. p-mast./Penicilli B2</td>
<td>10.3 ± 1.5 (8.5 - 15.5 x 2.0 - 2.7)</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Micr. p-mast./Penicilli B2</td>
<td>32.4 ± 2.4 (29.0 - 39.0 x 3.5 - 4.0)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Micr. amast./Penicilli C</td>
<td>37.4 ± 2.4 (31.0 - 40.5 x 5.5 - 7.0)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Pharynx</td>
<td>Micr. p-mast./penicilli B2</td>
<td>10.0 ± 0.8 (8.9 - 11.6 x 2.0 - 2.7)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Micr. p-mast./penicilli B2</td>
<td>23.5 ± 2.2 (18.7 - 26.7 x 3.6 - 4.5)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Filaments</td>
<td>Basitrichs/Spirulae</td>
<td>9.2 ± 0.5 (8.5 - 9.8 x 1.6 - 1.8)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Micr. p-mast./Penicilli B1</td>
<td>6.2 ± 0.4 (5.3 - 7.1 x 2.7 - 3.6)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Micr. p-mast./Penicilli B2</td>
<td>9.6 ± 0.6 (8.5 - 10.7 x 2.2 - 2.7)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Micr. p-mast./Penicilli B2</td>
<td>24.1 ± 1.8 (22.0 - 28.0 x 3.0 - 5.5)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Distribution.—So far, Bunodeopsis strumosa had been reported only from the western Mediterranean (Naples, Banyuls, Adriatic Sea, Korfu) (see the above references). Recently it was also found in Lefkas island (Ionian Sea) (Ates, 1992b: 33-34), and it is here reported for the first time from the Aegean and the eastern Mediterranean.

Remarks.—Bunodeopsis strumosa is a characteristic member of euryhaline and eurythermal biocoenoses in brackish waters and the biocoenosis of the superficial
muddy sands in sheltered areas, often occurring attached to algae or the leaves of *Zostera* and *Cymodocea* (e.g. Péres, 1967: 486; Schmidt, 1972: 13). An interesting point concerns the behaviour of the species at low temperatures. When the temperature drops below 10°C, these little anemones retract into the substratum in order to avoid the adverse conditions (Schmidt, 1972). In the Gulf of Thermaikos the species was found in *Zostera* beds at a depth of 1.5 to 2.0 m. In addition the species was found at 2.5 m depth on hard substrata of the semi-polluted areas of the Gulf of Thessaloniki (personal observation Ch. Chintiroglou; no reference material collected). In both situations the populations were quite dense.

A specimen of lot RMNH Coel. 19697 that was dissected to study the cnidom of the internal organs contained a single, well preserved, as yet unidentified copepod (Harpacticoida), possibly a commensal or parasite.

**Edwardsiidae Andres, 1880**

*Edwardsia claparedii* (Panceri 1869)

(fig. 2)


*Edwardsia Claparedii*; Andres, 1880: 221-236, pl. 1 [1881:123-142, pl. 8]; Andres, 1883 (pro parte): 303-305 [95-96], pl. 11 figs 2-3; Andres, 1884 (pro parte): 90-92, pl. 11 figs 2-3.


*Edwardsia callimorpha*; Carlgren & Stephenson, 1928: 20-23, figs 6-10; Stephenson 1928: figs 7c, 8b, 15, 21a, 23, 33a, 45b, c, pl. 1, pl. 2 fig. 2, pl. 4 fig. 3; Stephenson 1935: 53-63, figs 49, 50, 52, pl. 15.6; Carlgren 1949: 23.

Not *Scolanthus callimorphus* Gosse, 1853: 157, pl. 10; Gosse, 1860: 255-258, pl. 7 fig. 7. (see Manuel, 1981a).

**Material.**— MZDAUT B 460a (Gulf of Thessaloniki, 20 m, 11.x.1976, leg. Ch. Chintiroglou; 5 specimens); RMNH 19696 (same data; 2 specimens); MZDAUT 461 (Gulf of Kavala, 22 m, 24.ix.1976, leg. Ch. Chintiroglou; 3 specimens); MZDAUT B 462 (Gulf of Strimonikos, 27 m, 4.ii.1977, leg. Ch. Chintiroglou; 2 specimens).

**Morphology** (fig. 2).— Length of contracted specimens ranging from 5.6 to 26 mm (mean 16.2 mm).

Column differentiated into physa, scapus and scapulus. Scapus with nemathybomes and periderm. Nemathybomes arranged in 8 longitudinal rows, containing two types of nematocysts (see table 2). Physa naked, without cinclides.

**Anatomy.**— There are 8 macrocnemes provided with gonads, and in addition 4 inconspicuous microcnemes in the distalmost part of the body, so that there are 2 pairs of macrocnemes and 4 pairs of mesenteries made up of one macrocneme and one microcneme each.

**Colour.**— Specimens preserved in formalin are brown to rusty red with pale tentacles.

Fig. 2. *Edwardsia claparedii*, preserved specimen from the Gulf of Thessaloniki (MZDAUT B 460 a). Ca × 2.
Cnidom.—See table 3. The cnidom of the Greek specimens is in general agreement with that of specimens from e.g. the northern Adriatic Sea and south-west England (den Hartog, unpublished). It is interesting to note that a distinct V-shaped notch was observed in the undischarged shaft of part of the large b-mastigophores/spirulae of the filaments of the RMNH specimen, so that, according to the classification of Schmidt (1969), these cnidae should possibly be referred to as penicilli B1. A more detailed study of these cnidae is desirable.

Table 3. *Edwardsia claparedii*, survey of the cnidom based on samples from the Gulf of Thessaloniki (MZDAUT B 460a and RMNH Coel. 19696).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body part</th>
<th>Nematocyst type</th>
<th>Mean, SD, and range (in parentheses) of length and width of nematocyst capsules in μm</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Scapus</td>
<td>Micr. b-mast./Spirulae</td>
<td>15.1 ± 1.2 (11.5 - 18.5 x 2.3 - 3.7)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Tentacles</td>
<td>Spirocysts Basitrichs/Spirulae</td>
<td>20.2 ± 2.5 (15.2 - 27.0 x 2.8 - 5.0) Basitrichs/Spirulae</td>
<td>26.2 ± 2.9 (20.0 - 31.2 x 2.0 - 3.6) 62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Nemathy-bones</td>
<td>Pterotrichs Micr. t-mast.</td>
<td>151.7 ± 16.6 (125.0 - 193.2 x 5.0 - 9.3) Micr. t-mast. 87.9 ± 8.0 (82.5 - 102.0 x 2.5 - 5.1) 78</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Pharynx</td>
<td>Basitrichs/Spirulae</td>
<td>17.5 ± 1.5 (15.1 - 20.5 x 2.4 - 3.1)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Basitrichs/Spirulae</td>
<td>29.9 ± 3.2 (24.0 - 35.6 x 2.7 - 3.6)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Micr. p-mast./Penicilli A</td>
<td>28.5 ± 2.1 (23.1 - 31.2 x 6.2 - 8.0)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Filaments</td>
<td>Basitrichs/Spirulae</td>
<td>20.1 ± 2.9 (16.0 - 24.9 x 2.7 - 3.1)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Micr. b-mast./Spirulae [Penicilli B1?]</td>
<td>34.2 ± 2.1 (32.0 - 38.3 x 4.9 - 5.8)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Micr. p-mast./Penicilli A</td>
<td>26.1 ± 1.3 (24.0 - 28.5 x 5.8 - 7.1)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Habitat.—*Edwardsia claparedii* is found in the infralittoral zone, usually in muddy bottoms, often in *Zostera* beds (e.g. Panceri, 1869: 6; Stephenson, 1935: 63; Manuel, 1981/1988: 198). According to Picard (1965: 147) the species occurs in the biocenosis of muddy detritic substratum up to a depth of 75 m. Recently, Morri et al. (1991: 38) noted its presence in similar substratum at 92 m depth. The present specimens from the northern Aegean were collected in depths between 20 and 27 m in muddy substrata consisting of particles smaller than 50 μm. Similar conditions were reported by Rawlinson (1935: 141) for *Edwardsia callianthus* Rawlinson, 1935, and by Ellehauge (1978: 18) for *Edwardsia longicornis* Carlgren, 1921, and *E. danica* Carlgren, 1921.

Distribution.—Frequent on the coast of Britain, where it has been reported to occur in large numbers at some off-shore localities. Also recorded from northern France, the western Mediterranean and the Adriatic Sea (e.g. Stephenson, 1935: 63; Pax & Müller, 1962: 145; Manuel, 1981b/1988: 198). Its presence in the Aegean Sea and the eastern Mediterranean is here recorded for the first time.

Remarks.—On the basis of external morphology the species may be confused with *Scolanthus callimorphus* Gosse, 1853 (see Manuel, 1981a). However, the two spe-
cies are easily distinguished on the basis of their cnidom, notably as concerns the nematocysts present in the nemathymbomes. In *Edwardsia claparedii* the nemathymbomes contain two types of nematocysts (cf. table 1), for which England (1987: 219-221) proposed the names pterotrich and microbasic t-mastigophore, whereas those of *Scolanthus callimorphus* contain only a single type (cf. Manuel, 1981b/1988: 198, 204).

**Actiniidae Goldfuss, 1820**  
*Actinia cari* delle Chiaje, 1825  
(fig. 3)

*Actinia cari* delle Chiaje, 1825: 233, 243, pl. 17; delle Chiaje, 1841: 126.  
*Actinia cari*; Andres 1883: 402-403 [194-195], pl. 1 figs 1, 5-6; Andres, 1884: 187-188, pl. 1 figs 1, 5-6; Carlgren 1949: 49; Pax & Müller 1962: 165-167, fig. 85; Schmidt 1972: 67-68, fig. 27b; Ates, 1990b: 37, fig.; Chintiroglou, 1992: 33 (undocumented Greek record).  
*Actinia concentrica* Risso, 1826: 286, fig. 33.  

**Material.**— MZDAUT B 460 b (Zakinthos, E coast, 0.5-1 m, 24.viii.1992, leg. Ch. Chintiroglou; 7 specimens); RMNH Coel. 19698 (same data; 2 specimens).

**Morphology.**— Diameter of base ranging from 3.0 to 17 mm (i.e. quite small in comparison with those reported by Schmidt, 1972: 67). Column low, smooth and cylindrical ca 2.6 mm in the contracted specimens. A ring of simple acrorhagi present in the fosse of all specimens. Tentacles readily retracted, 96 in number in the largest specimens, hexamerously arranged.

**Anatomy.**— Number of mesenteric cycles in the largest specimens 5, of which 3 perfect and 2 imperfect.

**Colour.**— Usually the anemones are brown or green with small amounts of light brown, and are invariably marked by dark concentric lines or bars. The base is green, with its limbus marked by narrow blue line. Acrorhagi blue.

**Cnidom.**— See table 4. The data here presented are rather well in agreement with those of Schmidt (1972: 68) based on Adriatic specimens. However, unlike Schmidt, we noticed the presence of atrichs/homo-trichs in the column, but only close to the limbus. Hence, Schmidt may have overlooked these cnidae.
Table 4. *Actinia cari*, survey of the cnidom based on samples from Zakinthos (MZDAUT B 460b and RMNH Coel. 19698).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body part</th>
<th>Nematocyst type</th>
<th>Mean, SD, and range (in parentheses) of length and width of nematocyst capsules in μm</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Column</td>
<td>Atrich/Homotrich</td>
<td>18.2 ± 2.2 (15.1 - 21.4 × 3.3 - 4.5)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Micr. b-mast./Spirulae</td>
<td>17.9 ± 1.1 (16.0 - 20.0 × 2.0 - 3.0)</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Acrorhagi</td>
<td>Atrichs/Homotrichs</td>
<td>53.1 ± 4.3 (45.5 - 61.0 × 3.5 - 5.5)</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Tentacles</td>
<td>Spirocyts</td>
<td>21.3 ± 1.6 (18.0 - 25.0 × 2.0 - 3.0)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Basitrichs/Spirulae</td>
<td>18.2 ± 1.2 (15.5 - 20.0 × 2.0 - 2.5)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Pharynx</td>
<td>Micr. b-mast./Spirulae</td>
<td>21.7 ± 2.3 (17.0 - 26.0 × 2.0 - 3.0)</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Filaments</td>
<td>Basitrichs/Spirulae</td>
<td>12.4 ± 1.5 (10.5 - 16.0 × 1.5 - 2.5)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Micr. b-mast./Spirulae</td>
<td>26.1 ± 1.4 (25.5 - 30.5 × 3.0 - 5.0)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Micr. p-mast./Penicilli A</td>
<td>20.3 ± 2.5 (18.0 - 25.5 × 3.5 - 5.0)</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion and Remarks.— *Actinia cari* is usually found in the shallow infralittoral as a member of the biocoenosis of photophytic algae, often attached to bare stones and rocks (cf. Pax & Müller 1962: 166; Schmidt, 1972: 68). However, it may occur to a depth of at least 20 m, as demonstrated by a specimen found in the Adriatic Sea, attached to the stalk of a colony of *Alcyonium palmatum adriaticum* (Kükenthal, 1906) (cf. Pax & Müller, 1962: 273 fig. 146).

The present specimens from Zakinthos were all found on hard substratum in shallow water up to about 1 m depth, generally solitary. Only in one case two individuals were found on the same stone. Other invertebrates found in the same biocoenosis were e.g. *Ophiothrix fragilis* (Abildgaard, 1789), *Diogenes pugilator* (Roux, 1829), *Clibanarius erythropus* (Latreille, 1818), *Haliotis* spec., *Amphitrite* spec., and *Acanthochiton* spec.

Distribution.— *Actinia cari* is a Mediterranean endemic, and is generally considered a rare species (Riedl, 1963: 159; Schmidt, 1972: 68). It has been reported from the Gulf of Naples by Andres (1883: 402 [194]), but Schmidt (1972: 68) failed to find it there in the 1970s and suggested a decline of the species in the western Mediterranean. Most records are from the Adriatic Sea (Carus, 1885: 67; Pax & Müller, 1953: 24-25; 1962: 166; Simunovic, 1970: 28; Schmidt, 1972: 68). The species was recently reported for the first time from the Aegean Sea (Evian Island) by Ates (1990b: 37), and the present record from Zakinthos is the first for western Greece.

Remarks.— Schmidt’s suggestion that the species has also been reported from Madeira as *Actinia virgata* Johnson, 1861 (: 301-302) is wrong: *Actinia virgata* definitely is specifically different (den Hartog, personal observations). It is clear from Schmidt’s statement “Johnson beschreibt zahlreiche Querlinien von der gleichen Farbe wie der Limbus 'purblish [sic] blue' und blau Acrorhagen", that he misread Johnson’s description, for the latter does not mention transverse lines, but longitudinal lines "which extend from the margin of the disk to the angle of the column and the base
[the limbus], where there is a a circumferent line of the same colour".

A record of Actinia cari from the W coast of Norway at ca 63°N by Pax & Müller (1962: 167) can be done with as extremely unlikely.

Phymanthidae Andres, 1883
Phymanthus pulcher (Andres, 1883)

Phymanthus pulcher; Carlgren, 1949: 75.
Phymanthus pulcher; Schmidt, 1972: 94-97, figs 34d, 36.

Material.—MZDAUT B 460d (Gulf of Kavals, 22 m, biogenic debris, 25.vii.1991, leg. Ch. Chintiroglou; 1 specimen; 6 histological slides of single specimen, rest of the material mislaid); RMNH Coel. 19699 (same data; 5 histological slides).

Morphology.— Base 25 mm in diameter. Column semi-contracted, cylindrical, height ca 52 mm. Upper part of column with adhesive verrucae. Oral disc of about the same diameter as the base. Tentacles 96, occupying outer 2/3 of disc, ca 6 to 7 mm long, with well developed lateral protuberances.


Colour.— Oral disc and tentacles green; base of tentacles grey. Column orange and yellow with yellowish white verrucae.

Cnidom.— See table 5. Schmidt (1972: 95) found rather large isolated "p-rhabdoids A" (= microbasic amastigophores/penicilli A) in the column of three out of five specimens he examined. This nematocyst type was neither found in the column of the present specimen from Greece, nor in its actinopharynx. A few spirocysts found in the actinopharynx possibly represent contaminations from the tentacles.

Table 5. Phymanthus pulcher, survey of the cnidom based on the single specimen (now mislaid) from the Gulf of Kavals (MZDAUT B 460d).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body part</th>
<th>Nematocyst type</th>
<th>Mean, SD, and range (in parentheses) of length and width of nematocyst capsules in μm</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Column</td>
<td>Basitrichs/Spirulae</td>
<td>18.3 ± 3.4 (10.4 - 20.8 x 1.3 - 2.6)</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Tentacles</td>
<td>Spirocysts</td>
<td>26.3 ± 5.5 (16.9 - 33.8 x 2.0 - 3.9)</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Basitrichs/Spirulae</td>
<td>24.3 ± 1.4 (20.8 - 27.3 x 2.5 - 2.6)</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Pharynx</td>
<td>Spirocysts</td>
<td>27.1 ± 1.9 (24.7 - 29.9 x 2.0 - 3.3)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Basitrichs/Spirulae</td>
<td>25.6 ± 1.6 (20.8 - 29.3 x 2.0 - 2.6)</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Filaments</td>
<td>Basitrichs/Spirulae</td>
<td>16.2 ± 2.9 (11.7 - 20.8 x 1.3 - 2.6)</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Micr. b- mast./Spirulae</td>
<td>40.1 ± 3.6 (32.5 - 50.7 x 3.6 - 5.8)</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Micr. p-mast./Penicilli A</td>
<td>26.8 ± 4.9 (18.2 - 35.1 x 2.6 - 5.2)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Habitat.— According to Schmidt (1972: 95-96) *Phymanthus pulcher* is a typical representative of biogenic substrata, but it is also present in coralligenous bioecosystem and in *Posidonia* meadows. Fedra (1978: 78), notes that the species is the main inhabitant of the *Ophiothrix* populations in the Gulf of Triest, but that it is also found with *Cerianthus membranaceus*. The general depth range of the species lies between 15 and 70 m (e.g. Pax & Müller, 1962: 181; Schmidt, 1972: 94).

Distribution.— The species is generally regarded a Mediterranean endemic, so far exclusively known from the western Mediterranean and the Adriatic Sea (cf. Pax & Müller, 1962: 180; Schmidt 1972: 96). The present record is the first for the Aegean Sea and the eastern Mediterranean.

Remarks.— Originally accommodated in the genus *Ragactis* Andres, 1883 (: 457 [259]), the present species is currently included in the genus *Phymanthus* Milne-Edwards, 1857. However, it may in fact be more closely related to the tropical Indo-Pacific genus *Heteractis* Milne-Edwards & Haime, 1851, notably to its type species *H. aurora* (Quoy & Gaimard, 1833). This was already suggested by McMurrich (1896: 185) (See also Haddon, 1898: 444), and a comparative study of these two species is therefore desirable.

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