

SHORT COMMUNICATION

New records of marine invertebrates from the coast of Senegal

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INTRODUCTION

During dives at the coast of Senegal, in the vicinity of NGor Island, several marine invertebrate species were observed that apparently have not yet been recorded from this area.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

All observations were made while SCUBA diving in the area of NGor Island, Senegal, at the western tip of the Cape Verde peninsula (14 degrees 45 minutes N, 17 degrees 30 minutes W), in October 2009. Animals were photographed in the field and in some cases collected. Specimens of *Chauvetia tenuisculpta* were deposited at the Swedish Museum of Natural History under the numbers SMNH 109314 to 109317.

RESULTS

CNIDARIA

Alicia mirabilis Johnson, 1861

An individual of this sea anemone was seen and photographed at about 10 m depth in the bay of NGor. The species is known from both sides of the Atlantic. In the eastern Atlantic it is found from the Portuguese continental coast to the Canary Islands (Wirtz et al. 2003 and references therein).

Paralcyonium sp.

A small octocoral colony, with branches retractable into the base of the colony, was encountered at 29 m depth (Fig. 1a). Genetic analysis by Catherine McFadden placed it into the genus *Paralcyonium*, very similar to *P. spinulosum* (Delle Chiaje, 1822). The genus *Paralcyonium* has not yet been recorded outside European waters.

PLATHELMINTES

Pseudobiceros n. sp.

This is a common flatworm in the area of NGor in a depth range of at least 15–30 m. Animals from Madeira Island were called *Pseudoceros* n. sp. in Wirtz (1995, page 69) and Wirtz & Debelius (2003, page 84) but Newman and Cannon (2003, page 84) identified it as genus *Pseudobiceros*. The species is also known from the Canary Islands (Sánchez & Batet 1990; de Vera et al. 2009) and the Cape Verde Islands (Wirtz 2009).

MOLLUSCA

Chauvetia tenuisculpta (Dautzenberg, 1891)

This snail of the family Buccinidae was a common species in a depth range of 4–20 m. Almost all animals seen were on sea urchins, either on the test of *Arbacia lixula* and *Paracentrotus lividus* or on the spines of *Eucidaris tribuloides* (Fig. 1b). The snail appears to be parasitic on these species. Oliver & Rolan (2008) record it from the starfish *Oreaster clavatus* Muller & Troschel, 1842 and document this with a colour photo.



Fig.1. a) *Paralcyonium* sp. from 29 m depth, b) *Chauvetia tenuisculpta* on *Eucidaris tribuloides* at 16 m depth, c) *Lysmata* n. sp. from 28 m depth.

DECAPODA

Lysmata n. sp.

Three specimens of this undescribed *Lysmata* species (Fig. 1c) were collected by spraying Quinaldine into a large rock fissure in 28 m depth. The species is currently being described by A. Anker from specimens collected at São Tomé Island.

Lysmata grabhami (Gordon, 1935)

This shrimp is known from both sides of the Atlantic. In the eastern Atlantic it is found from Madeira to Ascension Island (Wirtz 2004 and references therein), but it has not yet been recorded from Senegal. It was encountered once at 28 m depth.

Cinetorhynchus rigens (Gordon, 1936)

This shrimp is known from both sides of the Atlantic. In the eastern Atlantic from the Azores to the Cape Verde Islands (Wirtz & Debelius 2003) but it had not yet been recorded from Senegal. In the bay of NGor, it was common in shallow water at night.

DISCUSSION

Six marine invertebrate species are here recorded from the Cape Verde Peninsula for the first time. The Cape Verde Islands lie 600 km east of the Cape Verde Peninsula. There are strong biogeographic links between these two places. For instance, these are the only two localities where the little blenny *Malaccoctenus africanus* has been recorded (Wirtz 1980; Brito et al. 1999). However, many species common at the Cape Verde Islands have not been found at the coast of Senegal. Some of these are endemic species, due presumably to the comparatively isolated position of the islands, such as for example the blenny *Microlipophrys caboverdensis* Wirtz & Bath, 1989. Others are more tropical species, not found at the coast of Senegal but common at the Cape Verde Islands as well as further south along the West African coast (e.g. the damselfish *Chromis multilineata*). The absence of these more tropical species at the coast of Senegal is probably due to the cold upwelling at this coast, causing winter temperatures as low as 15°C (Terashima et al.

2007), whereas the winter temperature rarely drops below 20°C at the Cape Verde Islands (Türkay 1982).

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