ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF SPONGES (PORIFERA) FROM THE SOUTHERNMOST CARIBBEAN REEFS (NORTH-WEST GULF OF URABÁ), WITH DESCRIPTION OF NEW RECORDS FOR THE COLOMBIAN CARIBBEAN

LISTA ANOTADA DE ESPONJAS (PORIFERA) DE LOS ARRECIFES MÁS MERIDIONALES DEL MAR CARIBE (NOROCCIDENTE DEL GOLFO DE URABÁ), CON LA DESCRIPCIÓN DE NUEVOS REGISTROS PARA EL CARIBE COLOMBIANO

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ABSTRACT

Valderrama, D., S. Zea. Annotated checklist of sponges (Porifera) from the southernmost Caribbean reefs (North-West Gulf of Urabá), with description of new records for the Colombian Caribbean. Rev. Acad. Colomb. Cienc. 37 (144): 305-???, 2013. ISSN 0370-3908.

The North-West Gulf of Urabá, Colombia, harbors the southernmost Caribbean reefs, exposed to high turbulence and fluctuating turbidity and salinity.An annotated systematic check-list of sponges fromthis area is presented.A total of 77 demospongespecies (class Demospongiae), 3 homoscleromorph species (class Homoscleromorpha) and 1 calcareous species (class Calcarea) were found to inhabit rocky shores and reefs,above 20 min depth. Some species in Urabá bearsiliceous spiculeslarger than in other Caribbean areas, probably owing to additional silicon input from heavy river discharge in the gulf.This work provides, additionally, the formal taxonomic description of 15 species, which arenew records for the Colombian Caribbean.

Key words: Sponges, Porifera, Demospongiae, Calcarea, Caribbean,hipersilicified spicules.

RESUMEN

El nor-occidente del Golfo de Urabá, Colombia, abriga los arrecifes más meridionales del Mar Caribe, sometidos a altas turbulencias y condiciones fluctuantes de turbidez y salinidad. Se presenta una lista sistemática anotada de esponjas (Porifera) de esta área.Un total de 77 especies de la clase Demospongiae, 3 especies de la clase Homoscleromorpha y 1 especie de la clase Calcarea) fueron encontradas en litorales rocosos y áreas

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arrecifales por encima de los20 m de profundidad. Algunas especies en Urabápresentan espículas silíceas con dimensiones superiores a las registradas en otras áreas del Caribe, debido probablemente al aporte adicional de sílicede las grandes descargas de los ríos en el interior del Golfo. Este trabajo incluye,adicionalmente,la descripción taxonómica formal de 15 especies, que representan nuevos registros para el Caribe Colombiano.

Palabras clave:esponjas, Porifera, Demospongiae, Calcarea, Caribe, espículas hipersilicificadas.

Introduction

The continental coast of Colombia in the Caribbean Sea has particularecological and geological features that differ markedly from other intensively exploredareas of the Caribbean(see **Hajdu *et al.***, 1995). This is especially true for the Gulf of Urabá, an area near the Colombia-Panama border that represents the southernmost portion of the Caribbean Sea. That area was part of the deep ocean corridor that connected the eastern Pacific to the Caribbean Sea before the rising of the Isthmus of Panama. Currently it is greatly influenced by large amounts of sediments and fresh water discharged by the Atrato River (**Chevillot *et al***., 1993; **Duque-Caro**, 1990).Moreover,at the North-West margin of the Gulf, fringing and patch reefsflourish in conditions of fluctuating high turbulence, turbidity and salinity (**Diaz *et al.***, 2000).In spite of these environmental and geological features, the knowledge of the flora and fauna of the Gulf of Urabá is very poor, even compared to other areas of the Colombian Caribbean (**Bula-Meyer & Schnetter**, 1988, **Alvarado**, 1992; **Zea**, 1998).

The systematic study of sponges in Colombia is very recent, covering only the last three decades. In the Gulf of Urabá, surveys have been carried outon rocky shores and reef environments, less than20 m in depth, along the coastline of Capurgana and Sapzurro towns, located in the North-West margin of the Gulf.The first sponge collections there were madeduring an expedition by Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras – INVEMAR in 1977 (without the participation of the authors). This material was analyzed by **Zea** (1987) within a broader assessment of sponges from several areas of the Colombian Caribbean, describing 23 demosponge species for Urabá. Subsequent sponge sampling and ecological studieswere carried out duringa second expedition by INVEMAR in 1995, aimed at the description and characterization of the localreef areas (with the participation of S. Zea). As a result, **Valderrama & Zea** (2003) described patterns of sponge composition and abundanceat 4 reef zones (1-17 m depth), recording the presence of 65 demosponge species and 1 calcareous species along belt transects (20 m^2). Thoseand other species were cited orpreliminarily described by **Valderrama** (2001). Although some specimens collected in the Gulf of Urabá have been included in the systematic revisions of some sponge groups [**Valderrama *et al.*** 2009 (redescribing 1 calcareous species of the genus *Leucetta*); **Parra-Velandia**, 2011 (redescribing several demosponge species of the genus *Agelas*)], most available materialawaits-further analysis and formal description.

The high diversity and abundance of sponges in theNorth-West of Gulf of Urabá (**Valderrama & Zea**, 2003) prompted additional sampling in 2004 (carried out by D. Valderrama) for natural products research at theMarine Natural Products Research lab (Universidad de Antioquia),which led topromising results (**Galeano & Martinez**, 2007; **Martinez *et al.***, 2007a, 2007b; **Zabala *et al.***, 2008). At this point we see the need for a synthesis and inventory of the sponge fauna from the area in order to support ongoing and future studies and to generate awareness in the region about the existence, need for conservation, and possible utilization of marine resources.

The purpose of this study is to compile data on all sponge species known fromthe North-West Gulf of Urabá in a systematic species checklist,based on unpublished data and literature records (systematics and distribution). This includes relevant taxonomic notes, data on species distribution along local reef zones and the systematic description of 15 species that arenew records fromthe Colombian Caribbean). Thus, this study adds new information for the inventory of the shallow sponge fauna of the Colombian Caribbean, estimated atapproximately 280 species (**Zea**, 1998).

Study area

The Gulf of Urabá, located in the southernmost portion of the Caribbean Sea, is a N-S embayment, roughly 85 km long and 15-30 km wide.Fringing reefs and some isolated patch reefs are located at the North-West margin of the Gulf, from 8°35' N near the town of Acandí to the border between Colombia and Panamá at Cabo Tiburón, covering 12 miles of coast (Figure 1). That area is bordered by a limestone terrace that is strongly exposed to North-East Trade winds, which together with the discharge ofthe Atrato River to the south and several minor rivers, produce characteristic seasonal conditions of high turbulence and fluctuating turbidity and salinity in shallow waters. Sponge observations and sampling were ca-

rried out in 6 reef zones dominated by different coral-algal associations described in detail by **Diaz *et al.*** (2000).

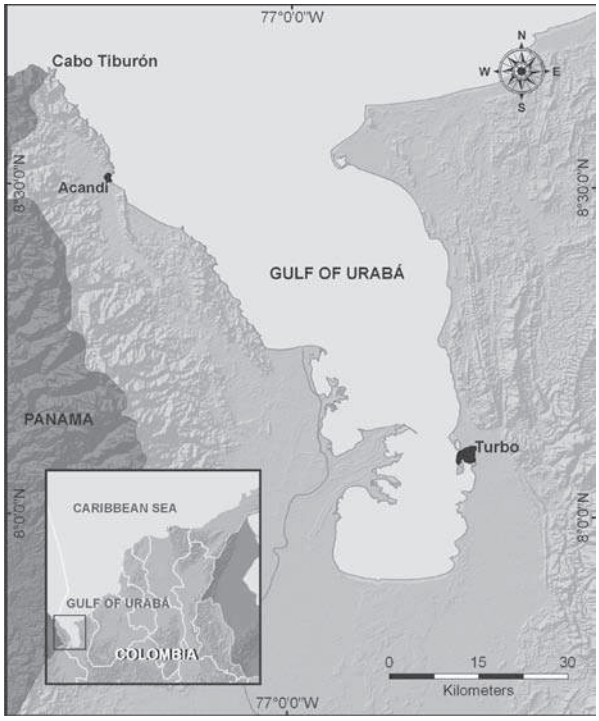

Figura 1. Map of Colombia showing the Gulf of Urabá region.

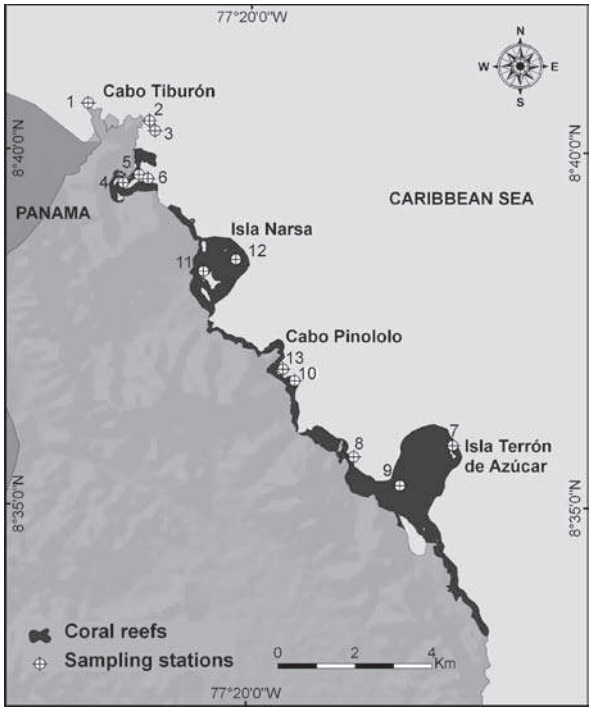

Figura 2. North-West Gulf of Urabá and sampling stations

Materials and methods

Sponge sampling was carried out between September 28th and October 2th 1995,during an expedition to the Gulf of Urabá by INVEMAR aboard the research vessel Ancón. Thirteen stations were surveyed by SCUBA, each spanning a plot of about 20 x 20 m (400 m^2) of homogeneous coral cover, in depths between 1 and 17 m (Figure 2, Table 1). Species were visually identified in the field and fragments of those posing identification difficulties were collected for closer examination, on board and in the laboratory. Samples were fixed in 10% formalin in seawater buffered with sodium borate (20g l^{-1}) and preserved in 70% ethanol after 1-3

Table 1.Sampling stations in reef areas of the North-West Gulf de Urabá.Modified from **Valderrama & Zea** (2003). Abbreviations represent types of coral assemblages (SSI: *Siderastrea siderea;* DST: *Diploria strigosa-crustose algae;* AAG: *Agaricia* spp.; MIX: mixed massive corals) and reef zones (SF: shallow calcareous flat, DF: deep calcareous flat, RD: Reef dome, RS: coralline slope, RB: reef base).

Station	Locality	Coral assemblage	Reef zone	Depth min-max (median) (m)
1	Cabo Tiburón	DST	DF	9.0
2	Sapzurro Cove (north to the entrance)	MIX	RB	15.0-17.0 (16.0)
3	Sapzurro Cove (north to the entrance)	SSI	SF	2.5-3.0 (2.7)
4	Sapzurro Cove (lagoon)	SSI	SF	1.0-2.0 (1.5)
5	Sapzurro Cove (north entrance)	DST	SF	3.0-4.0 (3.5)
6	Sapzurro Cove (south entrance)	MIX	RS	12.5-15.0 (13.7)
7	Isla Terrón de Azúcar (north side)	DST	DF	6.0-7.0 (6.5)
8	Cape in front of Isla Terrón de Azúcar	DST	DF	7.0-8.0 (7.5)
9	Patches between Isla Terrón de Azúcar and the shore	AAG	RD	9.0-10.0 (9.5)
10	Cabo Pinololo (south side)	SSI	SF	2.0-3.0 (2.5)
11	Capurgana Bay (north side)	SSI	SF	2.0-3.0 (2.3)
12	Isla Narsa	MIX	RS	11.0-15.0
13	Cabo Pinololo (south side)	AAG	RS	4.0-9.0

days. Permanent spicule preparations and tissue sectioning were performed following standard procedures (see **Rützler,** 1978; **Zea,** 1987). These preparations were analyzed under a Leitz Wetzlar compound microscope, identifying and measuring different spicule and spongin fiber types. Spicule types and skeletal organizations weredrawn using a camera lucida.

All information obtained was compared to previous sponge studies in the area and the latest literature on systematics and taxonomy of marine sponges. All specimens (including slides and vouchers) were deposited in the Porifera collections of the Museo de Historia Natural Marina de Colombia at INVEMAR (INV-POR), in Santa Marta, and the Museo de Historia Natural, Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Colombia [ICN-MHN (Po)], in Bogotá, Colombia.Institutional acronyms used in the text to refer to other sponge collections are as follows: Natural History Museum, London (BMNH), Instituto de Zoología de la Academia de Ciencias de Cuba (IdO), Museo e Istituto di Zoologia Sistematica, Università di Torino (MT-Por), Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts (MCZ), Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris (MNHN),Museo Civico de Storia Naturale "Giacomo Doria", Genoa (MSNG), Departamento de Zoologia, Instituto de Biologia, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ-POR), National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington (USNM), Peabody Museum, Yale University (YPM), Zoologisch Museum, Universiteit van Amsterdam (ZMA-POR).

Formal descriptions of new records for the Colombian Caribbean are provided. In general, each description includes: (1) full synonymy [including holotype catalogue number and type locality (type loc.)] or reference to previously gathered synonymy, and additions; (2) material examined, including sample site and station number (st.n.), substratum, habitat, depth, sampling date and collector (coll.); (3) morphological description, including colors based on the Naturalist's Color Guide of the American Museum of Natural History (NCG, **Smithe**, 1975), spiculation [with measurements of n=25 spicules, unless otherwise noted, providing minimum-*mean(standard deviation)*-maximum sizes, usually length x width] and/or architecture (min.-max.); (4) distribution; (5) taxonomic remarks. Pictures *in vivo* and camera lucida drawings are also provided when available. Sponge classification follows the Systema Porifera (**Hooper & van Soest**, 2002).

Results and discussion

Diversity

A total of 77demosponge species, 3 homoscleromorph sponge species and 1 calcareous sponge species have beenfound to date in the North-West Gulf of Urabá (including 1 species complex, 2 amphi-Atlantic species and 4undescribed species). This represents 46genera, 31 families, and 11 orderswithin 3 classesof the Phylum Porifera (Table 2).The species *Calyx podatypa* (de Laubenfels), although previously cited for Urabá (see **Zea,** 1987), was not found during the present study. Sixadditional morphotypes have also been found in Urabá but their identity isyet undetermined (see **Valderrama**, 2001).

Table 2. Annotated checklist of sponges (Porifera) from theNorth-Westof Gulf of Urabá, Colombian Caribbean (*: described in detail in the text; **: visually identified; ***: revision that includes material from Urabá).

Taxa	Record for Colombia	Specimens from Urabá	Stations in Urabá
Phylum Porifera			
ClassHomoscleromorpha			
Order Homosclerophorida			
Family Plakinidae			
Plakortis angulospiculatus - P. zyggompha complex [1]	**Zea**, 1987	INV-POR 0564, 0565	1,2
Plakortis halichondrioides (Wilson, 1902) **	**Zea**, 1987		2
Plakinastrella onkodes Uliczka, 1929 [2]	**Zea**, 1987	INV-POR 0560	2,9
Class Demospongiae			
Subclass Tetractinomorpha			
Order Spirophorida			
Family Tetillidae			
Cinachyrella kuekenthali (Uliczka, 1929) [3]	**Rützler & Smith**, 1992	INV-POR 0538, 0581	1,2, 6-8, 12

Order Astrophorida			
Family Ancorinidae			
Ecionemia megastylifera Wintermann-Kilian & Kilian, 1984[4]	**Wintermann-Kilian & Kilian**, 1984	INV-POR 0562, 0563	7,9
Order Hadromerida			
Family Clionaidae			
Cliona laticavicola Pang, 1973**	**Hofman & Kielman**, 1992		5
Cliona varians (Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1864)**[5]	**Hofman & Kielman**, 1992		1,2,4, 6-8, 12, 13
Cliona aprica Pang, 1973 [6]	**Zea & Weil**, 2003***	INV-POR 0577	3,13
Cliona tenuis Zea & Weil, 2003 [7]	**Zea & Weil**, 2003***	INV-POR 0578-0580	1,6-8,12
Family Placospongiidae			
Placospongia sp.1*[8]	**van Soest**, 2009	INV-POR 0546	4,5,7,8,10,11
Family Polymastiidae			
Polymastia tenax Pulitzer-Finali, 1986**			2
Family Spirastrellidae			
Spirastrella coccinea (Duchassaing & Minchelotti, 1864) *		INV-POR 0574	1,2,7-9
Spirastrella hartmani Boury-Esnault, Klautau, Bézac, Wulff & Solé- Cava, 1999* [9]	**Wintermann-Kilian & Kilian**, 1984	INV-POR 0576	1
Demospongiae "Lithistids"			
Family Azoricidae			
Leiodermatium aff. *pfeifferae* (Carter, 1873) *		INV-POR 0570	2,6
Subclase Ceractinomorpha			
Order Poecilosclerida			
Suborder Microcionina			
Family Microcionidae			
Subfamily Microcioninae			
Clathria (Microciona) echinata (Alcolado, 1984)[10]	**Zea**, 1987 ***	INV-POR 0280, 0568; ICN-MHN (Po) 0111	2
Clathria (Microciona) spinosa (Wilson, 1902)	**Zea**, 1987	INV-POR 0557	7
Clathria (Thalysias) virgultosa (Lamarck, 1814)* [11]	**Wintermann-Kilian & Kilian**, 1984	INV-POR 0553	7
Clathria (Thalysias) minuta (van Soest, 1984)*		INV-POR 0548	4
Clathria (Thalysias) venosa (Alcolado, 1984)**			4
Clathria (Thalysias) schoenus (de Laubenfels, 1936)**			2
Family Raspailiidae			
Subfamily Raspailiiniae			
Ectyoplasia ferox (Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1864)	**Zea**, 1987 ***	INV-POR 0335	2,3,5,6,12
Suborder Myxillina			
Family Coelosphaeridae			
Forcepia (Forcepia) sp.		INV-POR 0567	2
Lissodendoryx (Lissodendoryx) strongylata van Soest, 1984*		INV-POR 0541	1,6
Family Crambeidae			
Monanchora arbuscula (Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1864)[12]	**Zea**, 1987	INV-POR 0536	1,2,6-8
Family Iotrochotidae			

Iotrochota birotulata (Higgin, 1877)	**Zea**, 1987 ***	INV-POR 0247	1,2,6-10,12,13
Suborder Mycalina			
Family Desmacellidae			
Neofibularia nolitangere (Duchassaing & Minchelotti, 1864)	**Zea**, 1987	INV-POR 0554	7
Family Mycalidae			
Mycale (Mycale) laevis (Carter, 1881) **	**Zea**, 1987 ***	INV-POR 0225	1-3,6-9,12,13
Mycale (Aegogropila) citrina Hajdu & Rutzler, 1998 [13]	**Zea**, 1987	INV-POR 0549	4
Mycale (Aegogropila) escarlatei Hajdu, Zea, Kielman & Pleixinho, 1995	**Hajdu *et al.***, 1995	INV-POR 0561	11
Order Halichondrida			
Family Axinellidae			
Axinella corrugata (George & Wilson, 1919) [14]	**Zea**, 1987 ***	INV-POR 0325	2
Dragmacidon reticulatus (Ridley & Dendy, 1886) [15]	**Zea**, 1987 ***	INV-POR 0327	1,7,9
Ptilocaulis walpersi (Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1864)	**Zea**, 1987	INV-POR 0545	2,6,9
Family Desmoxyidae			
Myrmekioderma gyroderma (Alcolado, 1984) ** [16]			2,6
Myrmekioderma rea (de Laubenfels, 1934) * [16]		INV-POR 0556	7
Family Dictyonellidae			
Dictyonella funicularis (Rutzler, 1981) ** [17]	**Zea**, 1987		8
Scopalina ruetzleri (Wiedenmayer, 1977) ** [18]	**Zea**, 1987		1-6,8,10,11,13
Svenzea zeai (Alvarez,van Soest & Rutzler, 1998) ** [19]	**Alvarez *et al.***, 1998		1,2,6,13
Svenzea flava (Lehnert & van Soest, 1999) * [20]		INV-POR 0537	1
Svenzea tubulosa (Alcolado & Gotera, 1986) * [20]		INV-POR 0550	6
Family Halichondriidae			
Hymeniacidon caerulea Pulitzer-Finali, 1986 *		INV-POR 0558	8
Topsentia ophiraphidites (de Laubenfels, 1934)	**Díaz *et al.***, 1993	INV-POR 0534	1,6-8,12
Order Agelasida			
Family Agelasidae			
Agelas citrina Gotera & Alcolado, 1987 *		INV-POR 0551	6
Agelas clathrodes (Schmidt, 1870) **	**Zea**, 1987		2,6
Agelas conifera (Schmidt, 1870)	**Zea**, 1987 ***	INV-POR 0355	2,6,12
Agelas dispar Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1864 **	**Zea**, 1987		2,6,8,12
Agelas sceptrum (Lamarck, 1815) **	**Zea**, 1987		2
Agelas schmidti Wilson, 1902 [21]		INV-POR 0539	1,2,6-8,12
Agelas wiedenmayeri Alcolado, 1984 ** [22]	**Zea**, 1987		1,6-8,12
Order Haplosclerida			
Suborder Haplosclerina			
Family Callyspongiidae			
Callyspongia (Cladochalina) vaginalis (Lamarck, 1814)	**Zea**, 1987 ***	INV-POR 0179	1,8,13
Family Chalinidae			
Chalinula molitba (van Soest, 1980) ** [23]	de Weerdt, 2000		6

Haliclona (Halichoclona) vansoesti de Weerdt, Kluijver & Gomez, 1999 *		INV-POR 0540	7
Haliclona(Rhizoniera) sp.		INV-POR 0559	8.9
Haliclona (Soestella) caerulea (Hechtel, 1965) [24]	**Zea**, 1987 **de Weerdt**, 2000	INV-POR 0575	3,10,11
Family Niphatidae			
Amphimedon compressa Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1864	**Zea**, 1987 ***	INV-POR 0258, 0259; ZMA-POR 5166	1,2,6, 7,12
Cribrochalina vasculum (Lamarck, 1814)	**Zea**, 1987 ***	INV-POR 0169	12
Niphates erecta Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1864	**Zea**, 1987 ***	INV-POR 0116	1-9, 12,13
Niphates digitalis (Lamarck, 1814) [25]	**Zea**, 1987	INV-POR 0543	1,2,6
Niphates sp.		INV-POR 0566, 0582	2
Suborder Petrosina			
Family Phloeodictyidae			
Calyx podatypa (de Laubenfes, 1934) [26]	**Zea**, 1987 ***	INV-POR 0265	
Oceanapia bartschi (de Laubenfels, 1934)	**Zea**, 1987 ***	INV-POR 0216; ICN-MHN(Po) 0081	6,9
Oceanapia peltata (Schmidt, 1870) [27]	**Zea**, 1987 ***	INV-POR 0217, 0552	6
Family Petrosiidae			
Neopetrosia carbonaria (Lamarck, 1814) [28]	**Zea**, 1987	INV-POR 0555	7-9,13
Neopetrosia proxima (Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1864) [29]	**Zea**, 1987 ***	INV-POR 0209, 0535; ICN-MHN(Po) 0074	1,7-9
Petrosia (Petrosia) pellasarca (de Laubenfels, 1934)**	**Zea**, 1987		2,6
Petrosia (Petrosia) weinbergi van Soest, 1980	**Zea**, 1987	INV-POR 0533	1,12
Xestospongia muta (Schmidt, 1870)	**Zea**, 1987 ***	INV-POR 0200	2,8,12
Order Dictyoceratida			
Family Irciniidae			
Ircinia felix (Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1864) **	**Wintermann-Kilian & Kilian**, 1983; **Zea**, 1987		1-3,5-13
Ircinia campana (Lamarck, 1816)	**Wintermann-Kilian & Kilian**, 1983; **Zea**, 1987 ***	INV-POR 0024	1,2,13
Ircinia strobilina (Lamarck, 1816)	**Wintermann-Kilian & Kilian**, 1983; **Zea**, 1987***	INV-POR 0025	1,2
Family Thorectidae			
Subfamily Thorectinae			
Smenospongia aurea (Hyatt, 1875) **	**Zea**, 1987		2
Smenospongia conulosa Pulitzer-Finali, 1986 *		INV-POR 0544	2
Family Dysideidae			
Pleraplysilla aff. *spinifera* Schulze, 1878*		INV-POR 0547	4
Order Verongida			
Family Aplysinidae			
Aplysina archeri (Higgin, 1875)	**Zea**, 1987 ***	INV-POR 0059, 0061	1,2,6-9
Aplysina cauliformis (Carter, 1882)	**Zea**, 1987 ***	INV-POR 0048, 0049	2,6,12
Aplysina fulva (Pallas, 1776) **	**Wintermann-Kilian & Kilian**, 1983; **Zea**, 1987		2

Aplysina lacunosa (Pallas, 1776)	**Wintermann-Kilian & Kilian**, 1983; **Zea**, 1987 ***	INV-POR 0062	2
Verongula reiswigi Alcolado, 1987 **			2
Verongula rigida (Esper, 1794)	**Zea**, 1987 ***	INV-POR 0065	1,2,6
Aiolochroia crassa (Hyatt, 1875)[30]	**Zea**, 1987 ***	INV-POR 0075	2
Family Aplysinellidae			
Suberea(?) *flavolivescens* (Hofman & Kielman, 1992) [31]	**Hofman & Kielman**, 1992	INV-POR 0573	6
Clase Calcárea			
Order Clathrinida			
Family Leucettidae			
Leucettafloridana (Haeckel, 1872) [32]	**Valderrama *et al.***, 2009***	INV-POR 0542, 0583	1,2,6,9

[1] Treated as *Plakortis angulospiculatus* (Carter, 1879) by **Zea (**1987), and *Plakortis angulospiculatus*? by**Valderrama & Zea** (1993, distribution). Two morphotypes in Urabá: INV-POR 0565: green morph (NCG 146-Leaf Green), diods 99.3-*115.9(9.5)*-138 x 3.8-*4.8(0.5)*-6.2 µm, triods, rare: 34.5-56.9 x 3.5-5.8 µm (n=6); INV-POR 0564: dark brown morph (NCG 19-Dusky Brown, cream inside), diods 74.1-*99.3(12.8)*-121 x 3.8-*4.8(0.5)*-5.7 µm, triods, rare: 53x4 µm (n=1).

[2] **Zea** (1987) reported shorter and less robust caltrops [33-*94.1*-152 x 3.8-*16.6*-26.1 µm vs. 90.3-*148.2(24.7)*-190 x 23.8-*33.7(6.2)*-42.8 µm in Urabá (ray length and base width)].

[3] **Rützler & Smith** (1992) reported shorter and lees robust diactine oxeas (2500-4100 x 14-40 µm vs. 3225-6618 x 38.7-83.9 µm in Urabá, n = 5).

[4] Treated as *Ancorina* Schmidt, 1862 by **Valderrama** (2001) and **Valderrama & Zea** (2003, distribution).

[5] Treated as *Anthosigmella* Topsent, 1918 by **Hofman & Kielman** (1992).

[6] Treated as *Cliona aprica-langae-caribbaea* (morphotype 1) by **Valderrama** (2001) *fide***Zea & Weil** (2003).

[7] Treated as *Cliona aprica-langae-caribbaea* (morphotype 2) by **Valderrama** (2001) and **Valderrama & Zea** (2003, distribution) *fide***Zea & Weil** (2003).

[8] Treated as *Placospongia intermedia* Sollas, 1888 by **Valderrama** (2001) and **Valderrama & Zea** (2003, distribution). Name and short description of material from Islas del Rosario (Cartagena, Colombia) provided by **van Soest** (2009).

[9] Treated as *Spirastrella cunctatrix* Schmidt, 1868 by **Wintermann-Kilian & Kilian** (1984).

[10] Treated as *Clathria (Microciona) simpsoni* van Soest, 1984 by **Zea** (1987).

[11] Treated as *Thalysias juniperina* (Lamarck, 1814) by **Wintermann-Kilian & Kilian** (1984).

[12] Treated as *Monanchora unguifera* (de Laubenfels, 1953) by **Zea** (1987).

[13] Treated as *Mycale (Aegogropila) americana* van Soest, 1984 by **Zea** (1987).

[14] Treated as *Teichaxinella burtoni* (de Laubenfels, 1934) by **Zea** (1987).

[15] Treated as *Pseudaxinella lunaecharta* (Ridley & Dendy, 1886) by **Zea** (1987).

[16] Both names, *Myrmekioderma gyroderma* and *M. rea*,have been used for what in most Caribbean coral reef literature had been known as *M. styx* (de Laubenfels, 1953). According to **Castellanos *et al.*** (2003, material from Santa Marta, Colombia), *Myrmekioderma gyroderma* is the valid name to the typical *M. styx* of Caribbean authors. It has stout oxea and no styles, in addition to the smaller acanthoxea and rhapides (in trichodragmata). On the other hand, K. Ruetzler (USNM, *in litt.*), revised the holotypes of *M. styx*and *M. rea* and found them to be conspecific. From priority, *M. rea* is thus the valid name. It has a spicule complement of slender styles and oxea, the usual smaller acanthoxea, and two categories of raphides (in trichodragmata).

[17] Treated as *Ulosa* de Laubenfels, 1936 by **Zea** (1987).

[18] Treated as "*Ulosa"* by **Zea** (1987).

[19] Treated as *Pseudaxinella(?)* by **Alvarez *et al.*** (1998, original description), **Valderrama** (2001) and **Valderrama & Zea** (2003, distribution).

[20] Treated as *Pseudaxinella(?)* by **Valderrama** (2001) and **Valderrama & Zea** (2003, distribution).

[21] Treated as *Agelas sventres* Lehnert & van Soest, 1996 by **Valderrama** (2001) and **Valderrama & Zea** (2003, distribution), *fide***Parra-Velandia** (2011).

[22] Treated as *Agelas schmidti* Wilson, 1902 by **Zea** (1987), **Valderrama** (2001) and **Valderrama & Zea** (2003, distribution), *fide***Parra-Velandia** (2011).

[23] Treated as *Dendroxea carmabi* (van Soest, 1980) by **Valderrama** (2001) and **Valderrama & Zea** (2003, distribution).

[24] Treated as *Sigmadocia* de Laubenfels, 1936 by **Zea** (1987).

[25] Specimen from Urabá bears auxiliary sigmas as reported by **Zea** (1987) in other areas of the Colombian continental shelf.

[26] Treated as *Pachypellina* Burton, 1934 by **Zea** (1987).

[27] Treated as *Foliolina* Schmidt, 1870 by **Zea** (1987).

[28] Treated as *Pellina* Schmidt, 1870 by **Zea** (1987) and as *Xestospongia* de Laubenfels, 1932 by **Valderrama** (2001) and **Valderrama & Zea** (2003).

[29] Treated as *Xestospongia* de Laubenfels, 1932 by **Zea** (1987), **Valderrama** (2001) and **Valderrama & Zea** (2003, distribution).

[30] Treated as *Pseudoceratina* Carter, 1875 by **Zea** (1987).

[31] Treated as *Axinissa* von Lendenfeld, 1897 (order Halichondrida, family Halichondriidae)by **Hofman & Kielman** (1992). It was tentatively placed in *Suberea* by **Valderrama** (2001) and **Valderrama & Zea** (2003, distribution), because they found that the spicule complement was foreign, and instead its skeleton was made up of scattered dendritic verongid-like sponge fibers.

[32] Treated as *Leucetta* aff.*floridana*by**Valderrama** (2001) and**Valderrama &Zea** (2003, distribution).

Hypersilicified spicules

This study shows the existence of some demosponge species in which spicule size and/or ornamentationarelarger in Urabá than in other Caribbean areas (6 of 21 species for which data are available for comparison).This trend was evident in both length and width of part of the spicules of *Plakinastrella onkodes* (calthrops), *Cinachyrella kuekenthali* (oxeas), *Leiodermatium* aff. *pfeifferae* (oxeas) and *Agelas citrina* (acanthostyles). In fact, **Zea** (1987) detected this trend in at least 37 of 70 species from the Colombian Caribbean, comparing continental and oceanic populations (SW Caribbean), being more evidentinpopulations from the southern coast of Colombia, especially from Urabá. These findings help to support the thesis that the presence of hypersilified skeletons in the Colombian continental shelf, is likely to be correlated to a high fluvial input of dissolved silica, discharged by the large rivers of the southern Caribbean and Central America (e.g., Atrato, Magdalena and San Juan rivers) (**Zea**, 1985, 1987).

Concomitantly, an increase in the production of ornaments and appearance of accessory siliceous elements was also detected in Urabá. For example, occurrence of a small size of spined tylostyles (recorded smooth elsewhere) in *Clathria minuta* and apperance of accessory sigmata in *Niphates digitalis* [recorded also in other continental areas of Colombia (**Zea**, 1987), but not elsewhere]. Similar findings were found in sponges experimentally exposed to environments with high concentrations of silica (references in **Jones**, 1979, see also **Maldonado *et al.***, 1999). Moreover, it has been demonstrated that the influence of silica concentration on spicule growth may influence not only spicule shape and size, but also the phenotypic expression of several spicule types which are available genetically for a certain sponge (**Maldonado *et al.***, 1999).

The sponge *Svenzea tubulosa*, however, showed a larger spicule size inwidth only (styles). Similarly, experimental studies with *Spongilla lacustris* and *Suberites domuncula* demonstrated that an increase in environmental silica is related to an increase in spicule width but not in length (**Jones**, 1979; **Simpson *et al.***, 1985). On the other hand, **Weissenfels & Landschoff** (1977) experimentally recorded in the freshwater sponge *Ephydatia fluviatilis* normal values in spicule length, but not in width, in sponge individuals deprived of food, under normal environmental concentrations of silica. Temperature is another factor which may influence spicule growth.Experimental studies of its effect have been conducted with *Microciona prolifera*, being inversely correlated with spicule width, but little correlation with length (**Simpson**, 1978). In Colombia, for example, in some species those populations exposed to cold-water upwelling (in Santa Marta) show comparative smaller spicules than other continental areas (**Zea**, 1987).

Systematic descriptions of new records from the Colombian Caribbean

15 species of the Class Demospongiae are here formally recorded and described for the first time for the Colombian Caribbean. Of these, 2 species have names originating in the eastern Atlantic populations (presented as aff.)and 1is a known but yet-unnamed species (presented as sp.).New species will be published elsewhere.

Phylum Porifera Grant, 1836
Class Demospongiae Sollas, 1885
Order Hadromerida Topsent, 1894
Family Placospongiidae Gray, 1867
Genus ***Placospongia*** Gray, 1867

Placospongia sp.1. Fig. 3.

Synonymy *fide* **van Soest**, 2009: 11.

Placospongia carinata; **Little**, 1963: 56, fig. 25, 27; **Hechtel**, 1965: 62, pl. 7 (fig. 1); **Alcolado**, 1976: 6; **Coelho & Mello-Leitão**, 1978: 1; **Pulitzer-Finali**, 1986: 100; **van Soest**, 2009: 10 (unpublished specimens from the ZMA collection). **Rua *et al***, 2006: 197; [NON*P. carinata* (Bowerbank, 1858)]; **Muricy *et al***., 2011:67 (Brazilian records).

Placospongia intermedia; **Lehnert & van Soest**, 1998: 80; **Alcolado**, 2002: 60; **Alcolado & Busutil**, 2012: 68.[NON *P. intermedia*; **de Laubenfels**, 1936a: 454 (Caribbean coast) = *Placospongia* sp. 3 of **van Soest**, 2009]. [NON*P. intermedia* **Sollas**, 1888].

Material

INV-POR 0546: Sapzurro Cove (st.n. 4), on crevices between colonies of *Siderastrea siderea*, coralline flat of *S. siderea*, 3 m, 29 Sep. 1995, coll. S. Zea.

Description

Thinly encrusting, less than 2-3 mm in thickness.Color dark brown externally (NCG 22-Burnt Umber, 23-Raw Umber), orange internally (NCG 17-Spectrum Orange). External color remains after preservation in alcohol (brownish-red). Consistency firm but easy to break. Surface smooth to the touch, made up of polygonal plates, having a “veined” or furrowed appearance. In one of the furrows, it shows an oscule slightly elevated, 1.2 mm in diameter, white in alcohol.

Spicules: tylostyles, selenasters, acanthomicrorhabs, spirasters, spheraster.

Tylostyles, prominent tyles, bluntly rounded apices, 258-*705.6(179.3)*-903 x 7.6-*12.4 (2.4)*-14.3 µm, tyle diameter, 10.9-*16.6(2.9)*-19 µm; selenasters, smaller ones tending to be bean-shaped and largerones ellipsoidally rounded, 32.2-*66.5(19)*-85.1 x 19.6-*52.6(19.3)*-73.6 µm; acanthomicrorhabds, 4-*7.1(1.5)*-9.5 x 1.5-*2.4(0.6)*-4 µm; spirasters, few, tree-like 16.1-*19.7(2.3)*-23 µm (n=9); spheraster, rare, with short spines, 23.0-32.2 µm (n=3).

Distribution

According to **van Soest** (2009): Gulf of Mexico (**Little**, 1963), Jamaica (**Pulitzer-Finali**, 1986, **Lehnert & van Soest**, 1998), Brasil (**Hechtel,** 1976; **Coelho & Mello-Leitão,** 1978; **Rua *et al*.,** 2006; also in **Muricy *et al***., 2011) and Colombia (Cartagena). Additional records: Cuba (**Alcolado**, 1976; 2002), Guadalupe (**Alcolado & Busutil**, 2012). Colombia (Urabá). **Rua *et al***. (2006) suggested that this species also occurs in the Pacific coast of Panama.

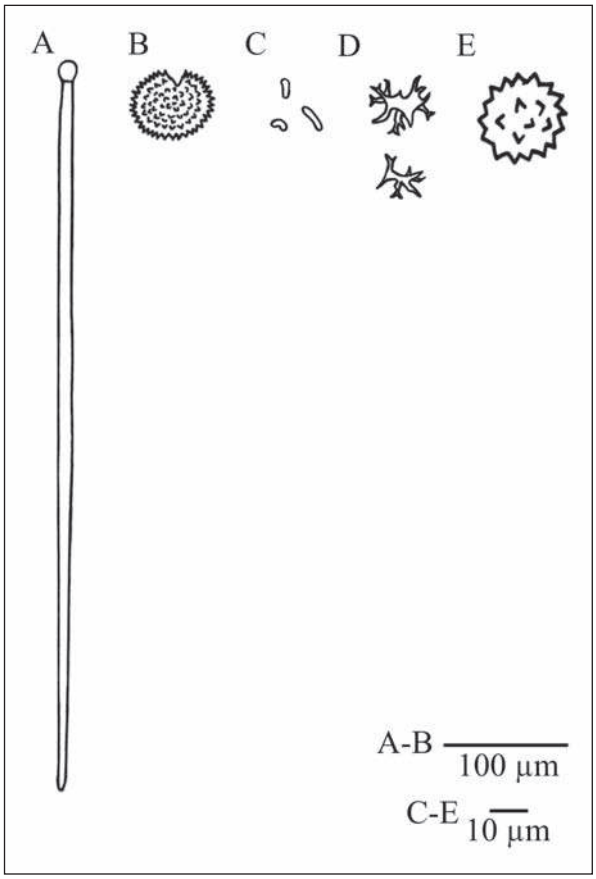

Figura 3. *Placospongia* sp. 1. Spicules. (A) Tylostyle; (B) Selenaster; (C) Acanthomicrorhabs; (D) Spirasters; (E) Spheraster.

Comments

It has become customary to consider *Placospongia* specimens with "spirasters" as members of a cosmopolitan species: *Placospongia carinata* Bowerbank (1858). Nevertheless, **van Soest** (2009) has questioned this assignment for the material of the Caribbean authors [including citation of **Lehnert & van Soest** (1998) as *P. intermedia*], providing a short combined description of ZMA material from Colombia (Cartagena) and Grenada to aid future decisions about the status of the Caribbean populations. The material from Urabá examined here is broadly consistent with this description. However, larger sizes of acanthomicrorhabds (up to 15 x 2 µm) were not found in Urabá, only a smallerandwidertype [4-*7.1(1.5)*-9.5 x 1.5-*2.4(0.6)*-4 µm vs. 6-*8.6*-15 x 1–2 µm]. Moreover, the two ectosomal and choanosomal tylostyle size categories suggested by **van Soest** (2009; also by **Pulitzer-Finali,** 1986) seem to overlap in Urabá, as a close re-examination of spicule slides showedrather continuous sizes between 199.5 x 7.1 µm to 903 x 14.3 µm [199,5-*584,2(243,2)*-903,0 x 4,8-*10,8(3,2)*-14,3 µm (n = 36)], being rarerthosesizes below 500µm in length [199,5-*285,5(74,2)*-432,3 x 4,8-*8,3(3,1)*-14,3 µm (n = 12) vs. 503,1-*733,5(132,5)*-903,0 x 6,5-*12,0(2,5)*-14,3 µm (n = 24)]. As cited by **Hechtel** (1965), some spheraster were also found in Urabá. A segregation of spiraster-like and amphiaster-like spicules could not be discriminatedhere due to low microscopic resolution.

Family Spirastrellidae Ridley & Dendy, 1886
Genus ***Spirastrella*** Schmidt, 1868

Spirastrella coccinea (Duchassaing & Minchelotti, 1864) PL.1(A), Fig. 4.

Synonymy in **Wiedenmayer**, 1977: 163. In addition:

Spirastrella coccinea, **Pulitzer-Finali**, 1986: 90, fig. 21; **Kobluk & van Soest**, 1989:1210;**Mothes & Bastian**, 1993: 20, figs. 17, 18, 40; **Lehnert & van Soest**, 1998: 79;**Lehnert & van Soest**, 1999: 145, **Alcolado**, 1999: 121; **Zea *et al*.,** 2009; **Alcolado & Busutil**, 2012; **Muricy *et al***., 2011:70 (Brazilian records). [NONS*. coccinea* of the authors cited by **Hecthtel**, 1965: 54 = *S. hartmani* Boury-Esnault *et al*., 1999, a valid species)].

Material

INV-POR 0574: Cabo Tiburón (st.n. 1), dead coral, calcareous terrace after cliff, 9 m, 28 Sep. 1995, coll. S. Zea.

Description

Thicklyencrusting, 1.5-3.0 mm thick. Color red scarlet (NCG 14-Scarlet) *in vivo* and white in alcohol. Underwater it looks

red with whitish scattered oscules.Consistency leathery. Smooth surface. Short, vein-like, whitish exhalant canals converge in oscules.

Spicules: tylostyles, spirasters.

Tylostyles, 426-*550.8(83.9)*-690 x 9-*11.6(1.3)*-12.9 µm; spirasters, 13.8-*41.1(12.7)*-57.5 µm.

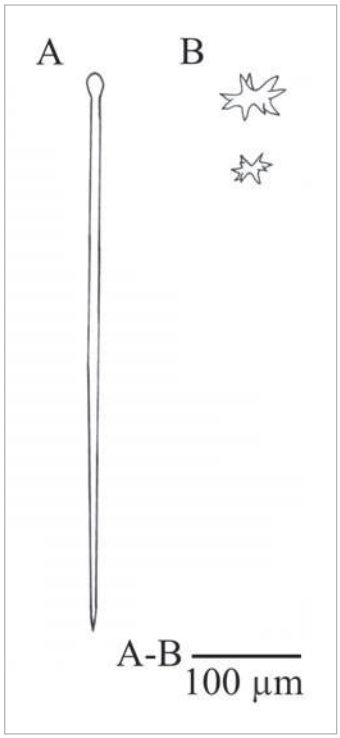

Figura 4. *Spirastrella coccinea* (Duchassaing & Minchelotti, 1864).Spicules.(A) Tylostyle; (B) Spirasters.

Distribution

St. Thomas (**Duchassaing & Michelotti**, 1864), Bahamas (**de Laubenfels**, 1949; **Wiedenmayer**, 1977; **Pulitzer-Finali**, 1986; **Zea *et al*.**, 2009), North Carolina (**Wells *et al*.**, 1960), Gulf of Mexico (Apalachee Bay, **Little**, 1963), Puerto Rico (**Wiedenmayer**, 1977), Dominican Republic (**Pulitzer-Finali**, 1986), Guadalupe (**Alcolado & Busutil**, 2012), Bonaire (**Kobluk & van Soest**, 1989), Brazil (Fernando de Noronha Archipelago, **Mothes & Bastian**, 1993; Alagoas state, **Muricy *et al*.**, 2011), Jamaica (**Lehnert & van Soest**, 1998, 1999), Cuba (**Alcolado**, 1999), Colombia (Urabá).

Comments

The material examined from Urabá fits with recent descriptions of *Spirastrella coccinea* (Duchassaing & Minchelotti, 1864) (see **Wiedenmayer**, 1977). This species occurs sympatrically with an orange morphotype, which is assigned here to*S. hartmani* Boury-Esnault *et al*., 1999 described below, as it bears smaller tylostyles (297-477 x 6.5-12.9 µm) and spirasters that reach smaller sizes (down to 5.8 µm) than *S. coccinea* (red morphotype).

Spirastrella hartmani Boury-Esnault, Klautau,Bézac, Wulff & Solé-Cava, 1999

PL. 1(B), Fig. 5.

Synonymy in **Wiedenmayer**, 1977: 162 (as *Spirastrella cunctatrix*). In addition:

*Spirastrella hartmani***Boury-Esnault *et al.***, 1999: 46 (holotype: MNHN-NBE-D.1469; YPM 21026 and 21027; type loc.: San Blas Island, Panamá);**Muricy *et al*.**, 2008: 60;**Zea *et al*.**, 2009;**Muricy *et al*.**, 2011:70 (Brazilian records);**Hajdu *et al*.**, 2011: 98; **Moraes**, 2011.

Spirastrella coccinea; of the authors cited by **Hechtel**, 1965: 54 [NON*S. coccinea* (Duch. & Mich., 1964), a valid species; NON*S. coccinea*; **Dickinson**, 1945 =*S. sabogae* Boury-Esnault *et al*., 1999].

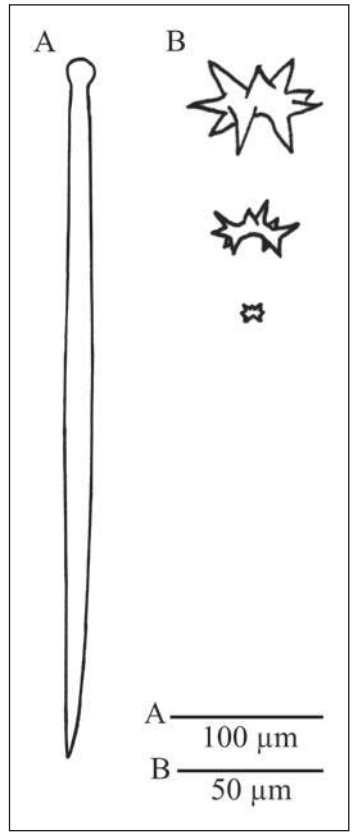

Figura 5. *Spirastrella hartmani* Boury-Esnault *et al*., 1999.Spicules.(A) Tylostyle; (B) Spirasters.

Spirastrella cunctatrix; **Wintermann-Kilian & Kilian**, 1984: 130; **Pulitzer-Finali**, 1986: 90,fig. 21; **Alcolado**, 1999: 121 [NON*S. cunctatrix* Schmidt, 1968 and other authors from the Mediterranean, a valid species].

Material

INV-POR 0576: Cabo Tiburón (st.n. 1), dead coral, calcareous terrace after cliff, 9 m, 28 Sep. 1995, coll. S. Zea.

Description

Thicklyencrusting, 1.5-3.0 mm thick. Color orange (NCG 132c-Orange Rufous)*in vivo* and light brown (NCG 39-Cinnamon) in alcohol. Consistency leathery. Surface smooth to the touch, showing branching surface canals converging toward scattered oscula, elevated in a vein-like pattern.

Spicules: tylostyles, spirasters.

Tylostyles, straight, thicker at the middle and thinnerbelow the tyle, 297-477 x6.5-12.9 µm (n=7); spirasters, 5.8-62.1µm (n=6).

Distribution

According to **Wiedenmayer** (1977): Dry Tortugas and West coast of Florida, Gulf of Mexico (South-West of the Apalachee Bay), Jamaica, Bahamas (also in **Pulitzer-Finali**, 1986; **Zea *et al***., 2009), Bermuda, North Carolina. In addition: St. Thomas (**Boury-Esnault *et al***., 1999), Colombia (Santa Marta, **Wintermann-Kilian & Kilian**, 1984; Urabá), Cuba (**Alcolado**, 1999), Brazil (**Muricy *et al***., 2008; **Muricy *et al***., 2011; **Hajdu *et al***., 2011; **Moraes**, 2011).

Comments

Spirastrella hartmani Boury-Esnault*et al*., 1999, was cited from Santa Marta, Colombia but not described in detail by **Wintermann-Kilian & Kilian** (1984, as *Spirastrella cunctatrix*). The material examined from Urabá broadly fits with recent descriptions of *S. hartmani* [see **Wiedenmayer**, 1977 (as *S. cunctatrix*), **Boury-Esnault *et al*.**, 1999]. Further comments in*S. coccinea* above.

Demospongiae "Lithistids"
Family Azoricidae Sollas, 1888
Genus ***Leiodermatium*** Schmidt, 1870

Leiodermatium aff.***pfeifferae***(Carter, 1873)

Pl. 2, Fig. 6.

Synonymy in **Sollas**, 1888: 319 (as *Azorica pfeifferae*). In addition:

*Leiodermatium pfeifferae;***Rützler**, 1986: 126, fig. 34;**Alcolado**, 2002: 59;**Muricy *et al***., 2011: 142 (Brazilian records); (?) **Kelly-Borges & Valentine**, 1995(Oceania).

Material

INV-POR 0570: Sapzurro Cove (st.n. 2), under a pagoda-like coral overhang, reef base, 18 m, 28 Sep. 1995, coll. J.A. Sánchez.

Description

Massive, flabellate, forming a shallow horizontal plate, about 1.5 cm high, 4 cm wide, with walls 3 mm thick, with undulated margins. It presents a small area of attachment to the substratum. Color cream-white alive. Consistency stony hard. Microhispid surface at exposed areas. Inconspicuous openings. The skeleton consists of a regular reticulation of rhizoclone desma spicules. The ectosome is formed by perpendicular tufts of oxeamore than 1 mm high.

Spicules: rhizoclone desmas, diactine oxeas.

Rhizoclone desmas, non tuberculated, some with bifid zygomes, 166-485 x 19-28.5 µm (n=5); smooth desmas as developmental stages; very long (broken in slide) diactine oxeas, fragments up to 1406 x 12.9 µm.

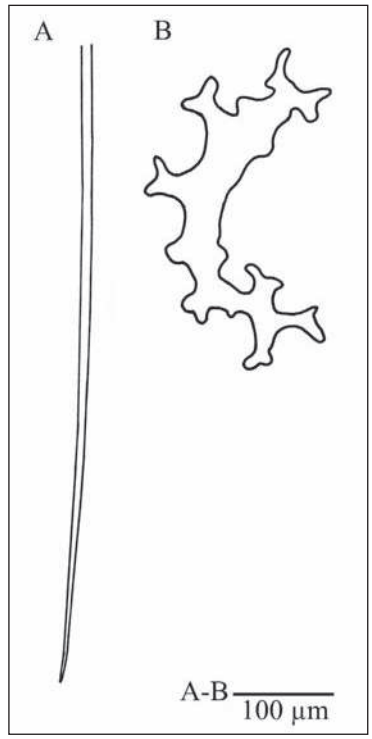

Figura 6. *Leiodermatium* aff. *pfeifferae* (Carter, 1873). Spicules. (A) Detail of diactine oxea; (B) Rhizoclone desma.

Distribution

Eastern Atlantic: according to **Carter** (1876) and **Sollas** (1988), from Madeira to the coast of Portugal and the Cape Verde Islands. Western Atlantic: according to **Sollas** (1888): Amboina, Bermuda (also in **Rützler**, 1986), Brazil (Bahia; also in **Muricy *et al***., 2011), Cape St. Vincent. Additionally: Cuba (**Alcolado**, 2002),Colombia (Urabá). Indo-Pacific: Oceania (**Kelly-Borges & Valentine**, 1995).

Comments

The habit of the specimen from Urabá is very similar to that drawn by **van Soest & Stentoft** (1988) as *Leiodermatium lynceus* Schmidt, 1870. However, those authors report smaller oxea (190-230 x 1 µm vs. broken fragments up to 1406 x 12.9 µm in Urabá) and a smooth surface (hispid in Urabá). The habit of *L. pfeifferae* (Carter, 1873) is also very similarbut the type was describedas a large sponge (dimensions: 29 x 23 cm), covered externally by tubercles (*fide* **Sollas**, 1888) that areabsent in the specimen from Urabá (dimensions: 4 x 1.5 cm). In spite of these differences, they are thought to be conspecific as both wall thickness (about 3 mm) and oxea dimensions(*cf.* **Carter**, 1876 and **Sollas**, 1888, 750-1814 x 8.5 µm in *L. pfeifferae*) are very similar. Moreover, **Sollas** (1888) reportedinconspicuous openings and hispidation of 500 µm, similar to the one reported here(approx.1 mm in height). In addition, the appearance of the rhizoclone desmas is very similar, especially, in regard to the occurrence of bifid zygomes. Although recent authors onthe Caribbean (see **Rützler**, 1986) use the name *L. pfeifferae*fortheir material, this assignment is tentative untilits conspecificity witheastern Atlantic populations, the area in which the species was originally described, is confirmed.

Order Poecilosclerida Topsent, 1928
Suborder Microcionina Hajdu, van Soest & Hooper, 1994
Family Microcionidae Carter, 1875
Subfamily Microcioninae Carter, 1875
Genus ***Clathria*** Schmidt, 1862
Subgenus ***Thalysias*** Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1864

Clathria (Thalysias) virgultosa (Lamarck, 1814)

PL 1(C), Fig. 7.

Synonymy in **Hooper**, 1996: 411. In addition:

Microciona juniperina; **Alcolado**, 1976: 5.
Thalysias juniperina; **Rathe Peralta**, 1981: 17.
Clathria (Thalysias) virgultosa;**Lehnert & van Soest**, 1998: 87, fig. 16.
Clathria virgultosa;**Alcolado**, 1999: 122; 2002: 64; **Zea *et al***., 2009.
Clathria clathrata; **Alcolado**, 1976: 5 (*fide* **Alcolado**, 2002: 64)

Material

INV-POR 0553: Isla Terrón de Azúcar (st.n. 7), calcareous algae, dead sides of coral, calcareous terrace, 6-7 m, 30 oct. 1995, coll. S. Zea.

Description

Thicklyencrusting. Red in color (NCG 12-Geranium) with dark purple tones (NCG 8-Carmine). Consistency rubbery and elastic. Surfaceuneven, with low tuberculessurrounded by vein-like branching surface canals, white in color, converging towards the scattered oscules.Ectosome contracts out of the water. The specimen is covered in part by the sponge *Monanchora arbuscula* (Duchassaing & Michelotti). A massive individual was also seen in the field, approx. 10 cm thick.

Spicules: styles, tylostyles, acanthostyles, toxas, rhaphidiform toxas, palmate isochelae.

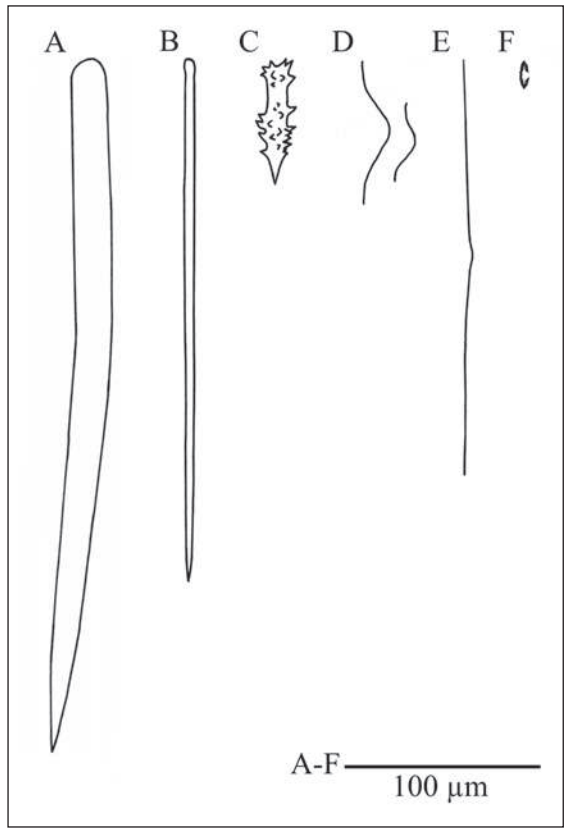

Figura 7. *Clathria (Thalysias) virgultosa* (Lamarck, 1814). Spicules. (A) Style; (B) Tylostyle; (C) Acanthostyle; (D) Toxas; (E) Rhaphidiform toxa; (F) Palmate isochelae.

Styles, thick, curved, smooth heads, 278-*344.4(34.7)*-399 x 9.5-*17.6(3.3)*-23.8 µm; tylostyles, straight, fusiform, wide range of sizes, tyles conspicuous in smaller sizes, but less conspicuous in larger ones, 124-*298.8(70.8)*-375 x 2.4-*5.7(1.9)*-9.5 µm; acanthostyles, spines highly dispersed or absent on neck, 54.1-*66.2(5.8)*-77.1 x 9.2-*13.3(3.1)*-20.7 µm; toxas, 28.8-*69.2 (15.1)*-89.7 µm; rhaphidiform toxas, 181-*281.2(96.9)*-551 µm (n=12);palmate isochelae, 11.2-*17.8(1.4)*-20.1 µm (n=19).

Distribution

According to **van Soest** (1984): St. Thomas, Florida, Guadaloupe, Puerto Rico, Cuba (also in **Alcolado**, 1976; 1999), Yucatán. In addition: Bahamas (**Zea *et al***., 2009), Dominican Republic (**Rathe Peralta**, 1981), Colombia (Santa Marta, **Wintermann-Kilian & Kilian**, 1984; Urabá), Jamaica (**Lehnert & van Soest**, 1998).

Comments

Clathria (Thalysias) virgultosa (Lamarck, 1814) was cited from Santa Marta, Colombia but not described in detail by **Wintermann-Kilian & Kilian** [1984, as *Thalysias juniperina*(Lamarck, 1814)]. The material examined from Urabá is broadly consistent with the description of**van Soest** [1984, as *Rhaphidophlus juniperinus* (Lamarck, 1814)]. Nonetheless, toxa are not as small (8-*42.5*-76 in St. Thomas and Florida vs. 28.8-*69.2*-89.7 µm in Urabá).

Clathria (Thalysias) minuta (van Soest, 1984). Fig. 8.

Synonymy in **Hooper**, 1996: 410 and**Muricy *et al***., 2011: 147. In addition:

Clathria minutus; **Alcolado**, 1999: 122.
Clathria (Thalysias)?minuta; **Zea *et al***., 2009.

Material

INV-POR 0548: Sapzurro Cove (st.n. 4), crevices between colonies of *Siderastrea siderea*, reef flat of *S. siderea*, 2-3 m, 29 Sep. 1995, coll. S. Zea.

Description

Thinlyencrusting, 1 mm thick, 2-3 cm in diameter. Color scarlet red (NCG 14-Scarlet). Consistency soft, fragile. Osculesare not apparent. The specimen consists of tiny fragments.

Spicules: styles, tylostyles, acanthostyles, toxa, palmate isochelae.
Styles, slightly curved with densely spined heads, 309-*430.8(69.4)*-603 x 5.7-*10(1.4)*-11.9 µm; tylostyles, straight with microspined heads, 143-*309.2(66.5)*-387 x 2.4-*4.3(0.5)*-5.7 µm, acanthostyles, entirely spined, 80.8-*121.6(34.7)*-183 x 4.8-*10.5(1.9)*-14.3 µm; toxa, not abundant, 43.7-*79.4(14.5)*-97.8 µm (n=20); palmate isochelae, 16.7-*18.3(0.6)*-19.6 µm.

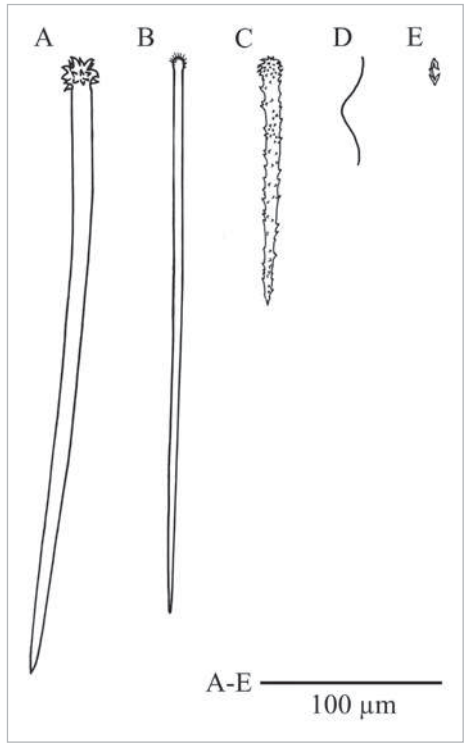

Figura 8. *Clathria (Thalysias) minuta* (van Soest, 1984).Spicules. (A) Styles; (B) Tylostyles; (C) Acanthostyles; (D) Toxa; (E) Palmate isochelae.

Distribution

Bahamas (**Zea *et al***., 2009), Curaçao (**van Soest**, 1984), Northeast (Fernando de Noronha Archipelago) to Southeastern Brazil (Arraial do Cabo, **Hooper**, 1996; **Muricy *et al***., 2011), Cuba (**Alcolado**, 1999), Colombia (Urabá). Also reported from Tropical West Africa (**van Soest**, 1993).

Comments

Unlike the original description of *Clathria (Thalysias) minuta* (**van Soest**, 1984, as *Raphidophlus minutus*), the specimen from Urabá doesnot bear a small category of smooth tylostyles (147-*191.5*-258 x 1.5-*2.1*-2.5 µm). Moreover, its microspined acanthostyles show a wider size range (142.5-*309.2*-387.1 x 2.4-*4.3*-5.7µm), reaching much smaller sizes than the original (294-*322.6*-361 µm). These discrepancies may correspond toa geographical variation in spicule size and shape, as theassumedly greater concentration of dissol-

ved silicain the Gulf of Urabá, produced by the Atrato River discharge, may increase the production of spicule ornaments, as well as, the appearance of accessory siliceous elements.

Suborder **Myxillina** Hajdu, van Soest & Hooper, 1994
Family **Coelosphaeridae** Dendy, 1922

Genus ***Lissodendoryx*** Topsent, 1892
Subgenus ***Lissodendoryx*** Topsent, 1892

Lissodendoryx (Lissodendoryx) strongylata van Soest, 1984
Fig. 9.

Synonymy:
*Lissodendoryx strongylata***van Soest**, 1984: 58, pl. V 4-5, fig. 21 (holotype: ZMAPOR. 3508; paratype: ZMA POR.3509; type loc.: Piscadera Baai, Curaçao).

Material

INV-POR 0541: Cabo Tiburón (st.n. 1), growing within beds of the algae *Amphiroa* spp., calcareous terrace after cliff, 9 m, 28 Sep. 1995, coll. S. Zea.

Description

Exhalant fistules, approx.4.0-5.5 mm wide, with walls 0.5 mm thick. Color lilac *in vivo*, white-transparent when preserved in alcohol. Fistules are papyraceous, fragile, easy to tear. They were observedemerging within beds of algae (*Amphiroa* spp.). It is not clear if they arose from an encrusting or massive base.

Spicules: tylotes, strongyles, sigmas, arcuate isochelae.

Tylotes, elongated heads, barely perceptible, similar in shape to strongyles but thinner, 171-*177.7(9)*-200 x 2.4-*4.3(0.5)*-4.3 µm; strongyles, 152-*165.8(8.1)*-181 x 4.3-*5.2(0.5)*-5.7 µm; sigmas, 23-*26.3(2)*-29.9 µm; arcuate isochelae, 16.1-*19.2(3.2)*-27.6 µm.

Distribution

Curaçao (**van Soest**, 1984), Colombia (Urabá).

Comments

The material examined here differs from the original description of *Lissodendoryx strongylata* van Soest, 1984, in terms of habit (fistulose vs. thick masses of amorphous shape in the holotype) and color (lilac vs. brick-red in the holotype), characteristics which, together with spiculation (especially the possession of strongyles instead of straight styles), distinguish *Lissodendoryx strongylata* from other congeneric species (*cf*. **van Soest**, 1984; **Zea & van Soest**, 1986). Nevertheless, the close relationship between this species and the material of Urabá is evident by the possession of the same spiculation. It is possible then that the holotype was an amorphous mass of dark skin that had lost its transparent fistules,such as those of the specimen of Urabá. Unfortunately, the nature of the sponge basethat supports the fistules of the Urabá specimen (massive or encrusting) is unknown.

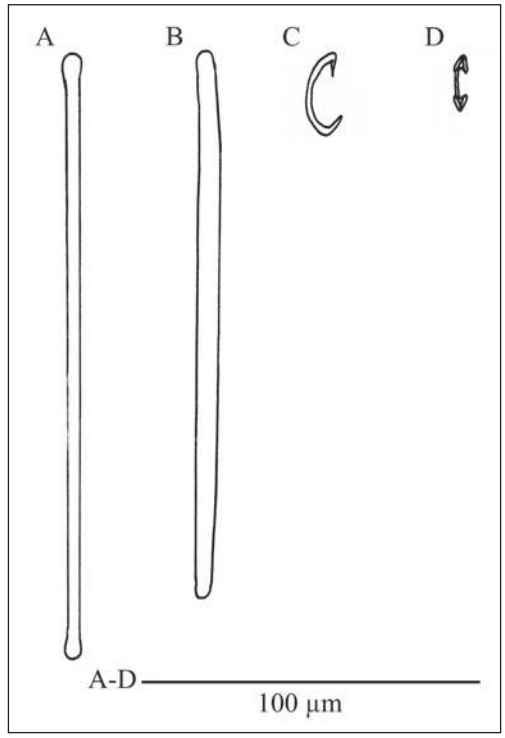

Figura 9. *Lissodendoryx strongylata van* Soest, 1984. Spicules. (A) Tylotes; (B) Strongyles; (C) Sigmas; (D) Arcuate isochelae.

Lissodendoryx strongylata is here assigned to the subgenus *Lissodendoryx* Carter, 1882, despite of the strongylote nature of its choanosomic spicules [contrary to the styloids typical for the subgenus (*cf*. **van Soest**, 2002)]. The remaining spicule complement, including ectosomal tylotes, sigmas and arcuate isochelae as microscleres, and lack of asmaller category of echinating acanthostyles,are characteristic of this subgenus. The combination of ectosomaltylotes and choanosomal strongyles in *L. strongylata* is a feature that seems not to occur in any of the five subgenera proposed by **van Soest** (2002) for the genus *Lissodendoryx.*

Order Halichondrida Gray, 1867
Family Desmoxyidae Hallmam, 1917
Genus ***Myrmekioderma***Ehlers, 1870

Myrmekioderma rea (de Laubenfels, 1934).
Pl. 1(D), Fig. 10

Synonymy in **Muricy *et al***., 2011:67. In addition:

*Viles(?) strongyloxea***Alcolado & Gotera**, 1986: 5, figs. 5b, 6 (synonymy suggested by **Díaz *et al***., 1993).

Myrmekioderma rea; **Zea *et al***., 2009.

*Myrmekioderma styx***de Laubenfels**, 1953: 523, fig. 3; de Rosa-Barbosa, 1995: 120, figs. 1-11; Alcolado, 2002: 63.

[NON *Myrmekioderma styx*; **Díaz *et al***., 1993: 303 (and many other authors, see also list in **Muricy *et al***., 2011: 96) = *Myrmekioderma gyroderma* (Alcolado, 1984)] (see table 2 and below)].

Material

INV-POR 0556: Isla Terrón de Azúcar (st.n. 7), pavement, calcareous terrace after coastal cliff, 6-7 m, 30 Sep. 1995, coll. S. Zea.

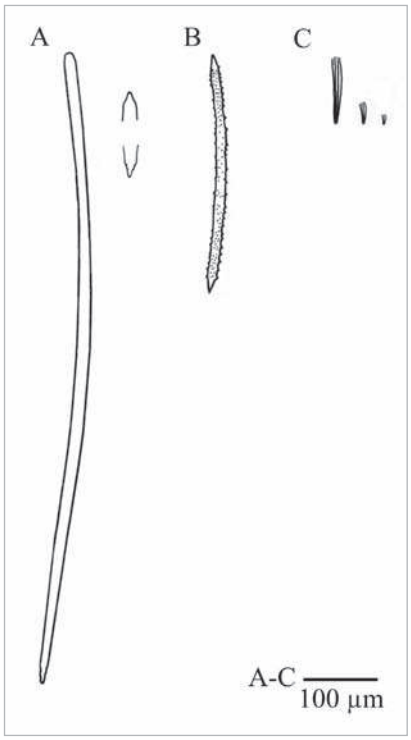

Figura 10. *Myrmekioderma rea* (de Laubenfels, 1934). Spicules. (A) Typical style and detail of apices from an oxeote form; (B) Acanthoxea, (C) three sizes of trichodragmata.

Description

Massive, approx. 5 cm in diameter. Color orange *in vivo* (NCG 17-Spectrum Orange), cream in alcohol (NCG 54-Cream color). Consistency firm, somewhat compressible but friable with force. Irregular surface with very low mounds and areas with tiny folds,elongated as protuberances,forming valleys difficult to discern. At the top, there are three oscula, poorly differentiated (possibly damaged by preservation), 1.5 to 3 mm in diameter. Observed filling crevices and densely fouled, with some free areas.

Spicules: styles, acanthoxea, raphides in trichodragmata

Styles, curved, slender, often as oxea or strongyloxea with blunt tips, 735-*913(86.4)*-1130 x 7.7-*12.9(2.6)*-19.4 µm; acanthoxea, with fewer spines toward the center, 299-*333.5(25.7)*-380 x 8.6-*11.4(2.4)*-14.3 µm; rhaphides in trichodragmata, straight, some sinuous, 38.0-*87.9(31.8)*-133 x 5.7-*9.0(1.9)*-11.9 µm, in three size ranges: 92.6-133 x 5.7-11.9 µm (n = 8) vs. 38.0-61.8 x 9.5-11.9 µm (n = 5) vs. 19-28.5 x 4.8-9.5 µm (n = 5).

Distribution

Puerto Rico (**de Laubenfels**, 1934), Mexico (**de Laubenfels**, 1953), Venezuela, Bahamas (**Diaz *et al.***, 1993; **Zea *et al***., 2009), Barbados (**van Soest & Stentoft**, 1988, **Diaz *et al.***, 1993), Cuba (**Alcolado & Gotera**, 1986; **Alcolado**, 1999; 2002), Brazil (**de Rosa-Barbosa**, 1995; **Muricy *et al***., 2011), Jamaica (**Lehnert & van Soest**, 1998), Colombia (Urabá).

Comments

Even though the material studied from Urabá bears longer styles/oxea/strongyloxea than other Caribbean areas [735-*913*-1130 x 7.7-*12.9*-19.4 µm in Urabá vs. 260-*600*-800 x 5-*11*-20 µm in several areas (**Diaz *et al.*** 1993)], they are as thin as characteristic for the species. A related species, *M. gyroderma,*bears characteristic stouter oxeas [570-1125 x 8-45 µm in **Diaz *et al.***(1993) as *M. stix,* and 180-1000 x 1-31µm in **Alcolado** (1984)]. In a similar way, the 2-3 sizes of trichodragmata reported here (2 in **van Soest & Stentoft**, 1988, but 1 in **Diaz *et al.*** 1993) are as thin as characteristic for the species (4.8-11.9 µm in Urabá vs. 3-10 µm in other Caribbean areas, see **Diaz *et al.*** 1993). In contrast, they are wider in *M. gyroderma*(8-32 µm, **Diaz *et al.*** 1993 as *M. stix*).

After revision of holotypes, *Myrmekioderma rea* (de Laubenfels, 1934) and *M.styx* de Laubenfels, 1953, were found to be conspecific (K. Ruetzler, USNM, *in litt.*). On the basis of the descriptions, **Alcolado** (2002) had previously concluded that they were different.On the other hand, other Caribbean authors used *M. styx* erroneously for the other species commonly found in Caribbean reefs known now as *M. gyroderma* (Alcolado, 1984) (**Castellanos *et al.***, 2003).Those speciescan be differentiated by growth form (filling crevices or buried in sand and rubble in *M. rea* vs. massive and exposed

in *M. gyroderma*),non-fouled surface areas (showing circular grooves that form characteristic warts when contracted in *M. rea* vs. elongated meandering grooves in *M. gyroderma*), and principal spicules (thinner,slender styles/oxea/strongyloxeain *M. rea* vs. wider,stout oxea in *M. gyroderma*) (**Zea *et al.***, 1999).

Family Dictyonellidae van Soest, Díaz & Pomponi, 1990
Genus ***Svenzea*** (Alvarez, Erpenbeck & Alvarez, 2002)

Svenzea flava (**Lehnert & van Soest**, 1999)
PL. 1(E), Fig. 11.

Synonymy:
*Pseudaxinella(?) flava***Lehnert & van Soest**, 1999: 151, figs. 25-30 (holotype: ZMA POR 13563, type loc.: Discovery Bay, Dairy Bull, Jamaica).

Svenzea flava; **Zea *et al***., 2009.

Material

INV-POR 0537: Cabo Tiburón(st.n. 1), dead coral, calcareous terrace after cliff, 9 m, 28 Sep. 1995, coll. S. Zea.

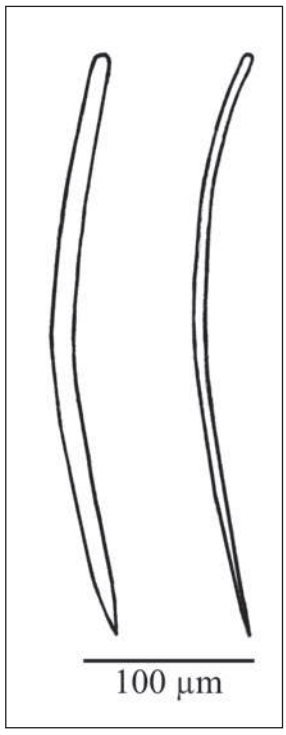

Figura 11. *Svenzea flava* (Lehnert & van Soest, 1999). Style spicules.

Description

Massive,cavernous sponge. Color olive yellowish-green externally (NCG 50-Yellowish Olive Green, 49-Greenish Olive), darker on the sides and underneath the green (NCG 31-Marron, possibly due to pigments produced by associated cyanobacteria), cream internally (NCG 54 -Cream Color). Whole specimen turned cream when preserved in alcohol. Consistency soft. Smooth surface, pierced byfields of pores, 0.5-3 mm in diameter, some of them covered by a thin organic veneer.

Spicules: styles
Styles, evenly curved, thick and thin (the latter tend to thin towards the head), some stepped tips, 290-*354.4(31.8)*-409 x 4.8-*10.9(3.3)* -14.3 µm; a few styles attain 428 µm in length.

Distribution

Jamaica (**Lehnert & van Soest**, 1999), Bahamas (**Zea *et al***., 2009), Colombia (Urabá),

Comments

The material examined from Urabá agrees broadly with the original description of *Pseudaxinella(?) flava* Lehnert & van Soest, 1999. A related species is *Svenzea tubulosa* (Alcolado & Gotera, 1986). Both species share a similar skeletal organization (iso- or anisotropic reticulation, with multispicular ascending tracts) and the same spicules (styles only), but are easily distinguished by habit (massive in *S. flava* vs. tubular in *S. tubulosa*), and in spicule shape and robustness (width: 2-14.3 µm in *S. flava* vs. 12-21.4 µm in *S. tubulosa*)(see **Alcolado & Gotera**, 1986, **Lehnert & van Soest**, 1999).

*Pseudaxinella(?) flava*is here tentatively assigned to the genus *Svenzea* Alvarez *et al.*, 2002, especially because of its overall resemblance to *S. zeai* (Alvarez *et al.*, 1998), with which it shares asimilar shape and consistency, a reticulation of styles, and lack of ectosomal specialization. Nevertheless, as stated by **Alvarez *et al.*** (2002), a definitive assignment of *Pseudaxinella(?) flava* to *Svenzea* is not possible due to its skeletal organization (different to the typical uni- paucispicular reticulation of*Svenzea*) and apparent absence of granular cells and large embryos/larvae.

Svenzea tubulosa (Alcolado y Gotera, 1986)
PL. 1(F), Fig. 12.

Synonymy:
*Scopalina(?) tubulosa***Alcolado & Gotera**, 1986: 6, figs. 5c, 7 (holotype: IdO 353; typeloc.: Playa Baracoa, north-west of Habana province, and Habana city, Cuba).

Pseudaxinella tubulosa; **Alcolado**, 1999: 121; **Alcolado**, 2002: 63.

Svenzea tubulosa; **Zea *et al***., 2009.

Material

INV-POR 0550: Sapzurro Cove (st.n. 6), dead coral, slope of reef buttress, 16 m, 29 Sep. 1995, coll. S. Zea.

Description

Tubes arising from cracks and crevices, 10 cm high, 13-15 mm wide, with 2-5 mm-thick walls. Tubes are wider at the apex, having an elongated, bean-shaped apical oscule, up to 17 mm in diameter, sometimes divided. Color brown externally (NCG 31-Maroon), faded to cream at sides, base and internally (NCG 54-Cream Color). Turns cream when preserved in alcohol. Consistency firm, somewhat compressible, easy to tear. Micro-verrucose surface, rough to touch, with scattered smaller openings, 1.3 mm in diameter; only one attained 3.6 mm in diameter and was covered by a skinny organic pinacoderm.

Spicules: styles
Styles, straight, with a basal bend (similar to a rhabdostyle but less pronounced), 323-*382.4(29.5)*-413 x 13.3-*18.1(2.4)*-21.4 μm.

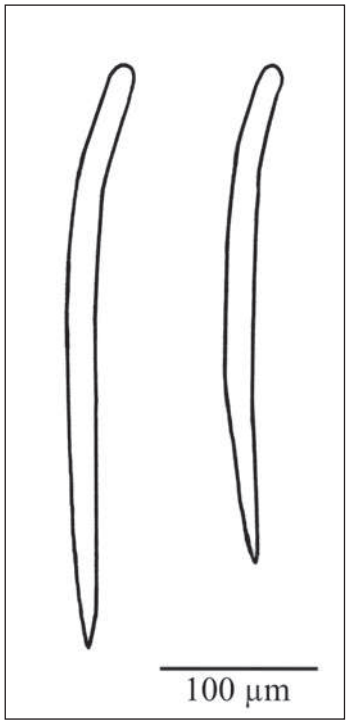

Figura 12. *Svenzea tubulosa* (Alcolado & Gotera, 1986). Style spicules.

Distribution

Cuba (**Alcolado & Gotera**, 1986; **Alcolado**, 1999; 2002), Bahamas (**Zea *et al***., 2009), Colombia (Urabá).

Comments

Spiculesfrom the material of Urabá are wider than those from the original description (12-15 μm in Cuba vs. 13.3-21.4 μm in Urabá) (see **Alcolado & Gotera,** 1986). Those authors did not describe the surface of their material, which is micro-verrucose in Urabá.As stated above, *S. flava* and *S. tubulosa* are similar species with dubious generic assignment, being herein tentatively assigned to *Svenzea* Alvarez *et al*., 2002. See more comments above under *Svenzea flava*.

Family Halichondriidae Gray, 1867
Genus ***Hymeniacidon***Bowerbank, 1859

Hymeniacidon caerulea Pulitzer-Finali, 1986

PL. 3(A), Fig. 13.

Synonymy:
Laxosuberites coerulea; **de Laubenfels**, 1936b: 148 [NON *Terpioscoerulea* Carter, 1882 = *Terpios fugax* Duchassaing & Micheloti, 1864 *fide* **Rützler & Smith**, 1993].

Hymeniacidon caerulea **Pulitzer-Finali**, 1986: 117, fig. 118 (holotype: MSNG 47693; type loc.: La Parguera, Puerto Rico); **Díaz *et al.***, 1993: 297, figs. 25, 31; **Alcolado**, 2002: 63.

Material

INV-POR 0558: Isla Terrón de Azúcar(st.n. 8), under coral and pavement, calcareous terrace, 6-8 m, 30 Sep. 1995, coll. S. Zea.

Description

Massive, growing on coralline algae and rubble. Cavernous interior.Color dark blue (NCG 90-Blue Black, 73-Indigo) *in vivo*, green-bluish when preserved in alcohol (NCG 63-Paris Green). Consistency fragile, easy to tear.Smooth to the touch. Rare oscula, up to 4 mm in diameter, and smaller pores, up to 1.5 mm in diameter.

Spicules: styles
Styles, slightly but evenly curved that tend to thin towards the head, 232-*429.6(122.6)*-613 x 4.8-*9(3.8)*-16.6 μm.

Distribution

Florida (Dry Tortugas, **de Laubenfels**, 1936b), Puerto Rico (**Pulitzer-Finali**, 1986), Cuba (**Alcolado**, 1999; 2002), Colombia (Urabá).

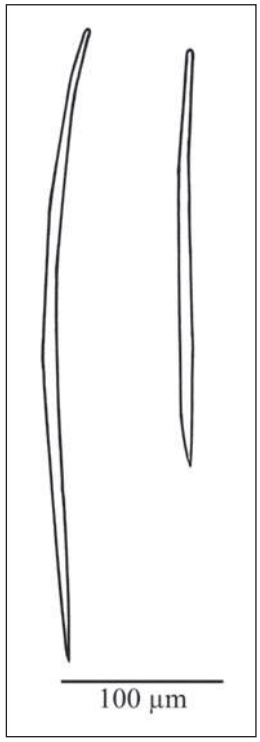

Figura 13. *Hymeniacidon caerulea* Pulitzer-Finali, 1986. Style spicules.

Comments

In agreementwith**Diaz *et al***. (1993) this material is assigned to *Hymeniacidon caerulea* Pulitzer-Finali, 1986, due to its blue color, which distinguishes it from other congeneric species. However, the massive habit of the specimen from Urabá is an innovation for the species, which usually fills cracks and crevices under rocks. Also different is the thinning at the basal end of the styles recorded here (see **Pulitzer-Finali**, 1986; **Diaz *et al.,*** 1993).

Order Agelasida Hartman, 1980
Family Agelasidae Verril, 1907
Genus ***Agelas*** Duchassaing & Michelotti, 1864

Agelas citrina Gotera & Alcolado, 1987

PL. 3(B), Fig. 14.

Synonymy:
Agelas citrina **Gotera & Alcolado**, 1987: 1, figs. 1-2 (holotype: IdO 645, type loc.: west margin of the Gulf of Batabanó, Cuba); **Alcolado**, 2002: 61 (checklist);**Zea *et al*.**, 2009;**Alcolado & Busutil**, 2012: 69.

Material

INV-POR 0551: Sapzurro Cove (st.n. 6), under laminar coral, slope of reef buttress, 16 m, 29 Sep. 1995, coll. S. Zea.

Description

Massive, approx. 20 cm in diameter. Orange color (NCG 16-Chrome Orange) *in vivo*, lighter at the base (NCG 17-Spectrum Orange). Color brown when preserved in alcohol (Raw Umber 23-NCG). Consistency rubbery and compressible, difficult to tear. Conulose surface, each conule up to 5 mm high, 3-6 mm apart, covered by a thick, transparent, skinny organic veneer, which looks glossy over valleys between conules. Solitary oscula or in clusters inside depressions. The specimen gives off a sulfursmell.

Spicules: acanthostyles
Acanthostyles, verticillated, 162-*263.2(58.4)*-363 x 7.1-*13.8 (3.3)*-19 µm, having 13-*21.8 (4.2)*-26 regular whorls per spicule, and 4-5 spines per whorl; spine development varies between spicules, from well-developed to tiny nubs that arehardly noticeable.

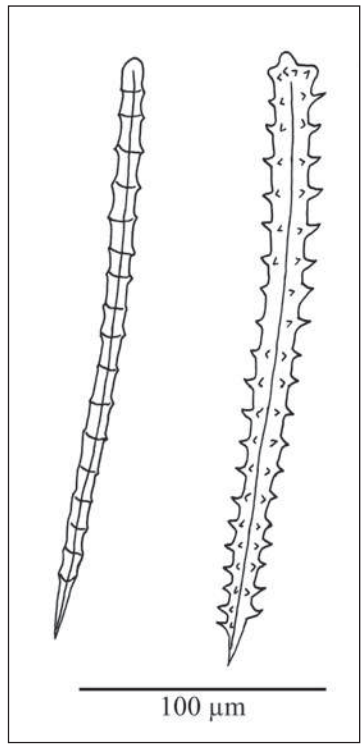

Figura 14. *Agelas citrina* Gotera & Alcolado, 1986.Acanthostyle spicules.

Distribution

Cuba (**Gotera & Alcolado**, 1987; **Alcolado**, 2002), Guadalupe (**Alcolado & Busutil**, 2012), Bahamas (**Zea *et al*.**, 2009), Colombia (Urabá).

Comments

This material is consistent with the original description of *Agelas citrina*from Cuba (**Gotera & Alcolado**, 1987), except for the height of the conules (4-5 mm in Urabá vs. 2-3 mm in Cuba). Further differences in spicule size (102-218 x 10-13 µm in Cuba vs. 162-364 x 7.1-19 µm in Urabá), being much larger in Urabá than in Cuba,in correspondence withtheconditions in Urabá that promotehypersilicification. At any rate, it is possible to assign the material examined here to *Agelas citrina*from features such as a conulose surface, a rotten smell, and the presence of long spicules, all of whichdistinguishit from other *Agelas*species.

Order Haplosclerida Topsent, 1928
Suborder Haplosclerina Topsent, 1928
Family Chalinidae Gray, 1867
Genus ***Haliclona*** Grant, 1835

Subgenus ***Halichoclona***de Laubenfels, 1932

Haliclona (Halichoclona) vansoesti de Weerdt, Kluijver & Gomez, 1999

PL. 3(C), Fig. 15.

Synonymy:
Haliclona (Halichoclona) vansoesti **de Weerdt *et al*.**, 1999: 47, figs. 1-3 (holotype: ZMAPOR 13391, type loc.: Piscadera Baai, Curaçao).

Material

INV-POR 0540: Cabo Tiburón (st.n. 1), dead coral, calcareous terrace after cliff, 9 m, 28 Sep. 1995, coll. S. Zea.

Description

Lobated,massively encrusting. Color light blue *in vivo*, almost white (NCG 74-Cyanine Blue) to cream-transparent when preserved in alcohol. Consistency firm, but brittle. Slightly raised oscula, approx. 5 mm in diameter, scattered over the surface.

Spicules: Oxea
Oxea, hastate, 166-*200(12.8)*-214 x 4.8-*9(1.4)*-11.9 µm.

Distribution

Curaçao, Jamaica, St. Vincent, Martinica (**de Weerdt *et al.*,** 1999), Colombia (Urabá).

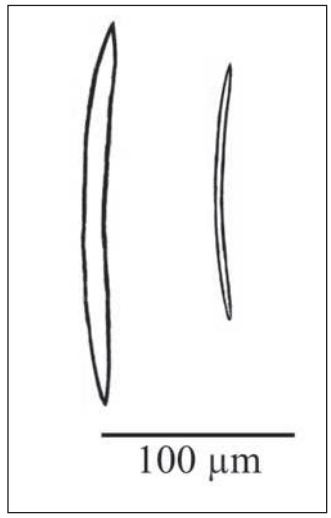

Figura 15. *Haliclona (Halichoclona) vansoesti*de Weerdt, Kluijver & Gomez, 1999. Oxea spicules.

Comments

The material studied here is consistent with the original description of *Haliclona (Halichoclona) vansoesti* de Weerdt *et al*., 1999. This species was originally described as having the choanosome light purple and the ectosome white semitransparent. Although in Urabá the specimen had a bluish tone, its color was very similar to that originally reported [see Pl. 3(C)]. For a better understanding of the species refer to the original description.

Order Dictyoceratida Minchin, 1900
Family Thorectidae Bergquist, 1978
Subfamily Thorectinae Bergquist, 1978
Genus ***Smenospongia*** Wiedenmayer, 1977

Smenospongia conulosa Pulitzer-Finali, 1986

PL. 3(D), Fig. 16.

Synonymy:
*Smenospongia conulosa***Pulitzer-Finali**, 1986: 179, fig. 86 (holotype: MSNG 47711, type loc.: La Parguera, Puerto Rico); **Lehnert & van Soest**, 1998: 94, **Alcolado**, 1999: 123; 2002: 70; **Zea *et al*.**, 2009.

Material

INV-POR 0544: Sapzurro Cove (est.n. 2), dead coral, reef base, 16-18 m, 28 Sep. 1995, coll. S. Zea.

Description

Massive, flabellate. The color of the specimen collected was bright light green *in vivo* (NCG 161-Pistachio), with lighter

shades of brown internally (NCG 22-Burnt Umber) becoming dark brown, almost black, when preserved in alcohol (NCG 19-Dusky Brown). Other individuals seen and photographed [Pl 3(D)] were dark, brownish green. Consistency compressible, elastic, easyto tear. Oscules are slightly elevated and aligned along ridges, approx. 13 mm in diameter, surrounded by a smooth membranous rim. Several exhalant canals converge inside atria. The surface is abundantly covered by blunt conules, up to 3 mm in height, spaced approx. 2.5 mm, not connected by ridges. Between conules there are openings flush with the surface, 1-2 and 4-7 mm in diameter. The specimen gives off a sulfur smell and releases mucus.

Skeleton:
Regular reticulation of spongin fibers, orange in color, which lack apith or any foreign material inside. Although thick and thin fibers are distinguishable, they are interconnected, being not differentiated as primary or secondary. Fibers 12.9-64.5 μmin diameter. Reticulation with meshes 86-518 μm in diameter, which are obscured by pigment granules(?). Some meshes are partially obscured,forming circular shapeswith the appearance of ascending fascicles, 60-250 μmin diameter.

Figura 16. *Smenospongia conulosa* Pulitzer-Finali, 1986. Skeleton.Spongin fiber network.

Distribution

Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic (**Pulitzer-Finali**, 1986), Jamaica (**Lehnert & van Soest**, 1998), Cuba (**Alcolado**, 1999: 2002), Bahamas (**Zea *et al***., 2009), Colombia (Urabá),

Comments

The description of this material is broadly consistent with the original description of *Smenospongia conulosa* Pulitzer-Finali, 1986. However, the bright light green color of some specimen from Urabá contrasts with the darker tones of brown and olive green seen for the species here and in other Caribbean areas (cf. **Pulitzer-Finali**, 1986, **Lehnert & van Soest**, 1998). Whether these color morphotypes are different species remains to be determined.**Zea *et al***. (2009) have tentatively separated the two color morphotypes as *S. conulosa* (dark green) and *Smenospongia* sp.-parrot green (light green).

Family Dysideidae Gray, 1867
Genus ***Pleraplysilla*** Topsent, 1905

Pleraplysilla aff.***spinifera*** Schulze, 1878
Fig. 17.

Synonymy in **Cook & Bergquist**, 2002: 1063 (as *Pleraplysilla spinifera*).

Material

INV-POR 0547: Sapzurro Cove (st.n. 4), dead coral, reef flat of *Siderastrea siderea*, 2-3 m, 29 Sep. 1995, coll. S. Zea.

Description

Thinly encrusting. Color black *in vivo*, dark brown when preserved in alcohol (NCG 28-Olive Brown). Consistency soft, easy to tear. Conulose surface.

Skeleton:
Organic, notably pigmented. Erect fibers 52-100 μm in diameter, completely filled with spicule fragments (foreign material), as no free sponging was evident around them. Some ramifications were observed, but not anastomosing.

Distribution

According to **Cook & Bergquist**(2002): English Channel, Portugal, Western Mediterranean and Adriatic (Lesina, the type locality). In Addition: Colombia (Urabá).

Comments

According to **George & Wilson** (1919) and **van Soest** (1978), *Pleraplysilla minchini*Topsent, 1905, was originally

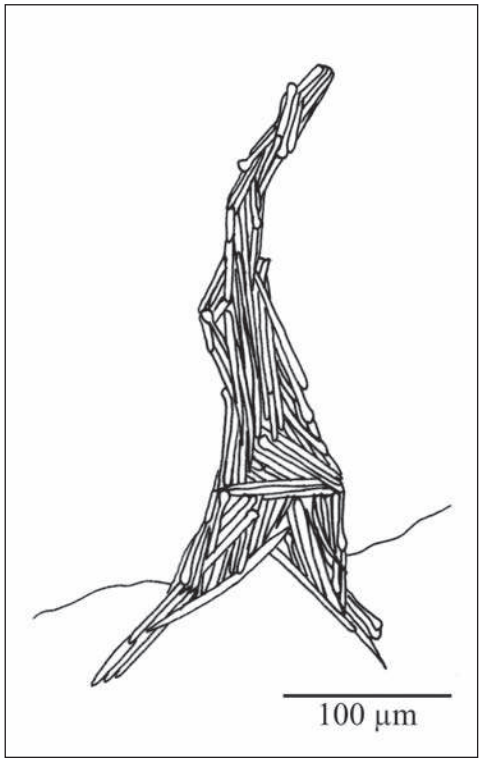

Figura17. *Pleraplysilla* aff. *spinifera* Schulze, 1878. Skeleton. Skeletal fiber filled with foreign material.

described as a2 mm-thick encrustation, chocolate color, conulose surface, conules 2 mm apart, dendritic skeleton, fibers 100-110 µm in diameter, and few ramifications. This description is consistentwith the specimen studied from Urabá, although it bears thinner fibers (52-100 µm).

Pleraplysilla stocki van Soest, 1978, the only other *Pleraplysilla* species described so far from the Caribbean (Puerto Rico), is clearly distinguished by habit (massive vs. thin encrusting in Urabá), color (alive reddish violet vs. black in Urabá), oscules (conspicuous vs. unconspicuous in Urabá) and fiber diameter (80-300 µm vs. 52-100 µm in Urabá) (see **van Soest**, 1978).

It is possible, however, that a further record of *Pleraplysilla stocki*, also from Puerto Rico, by **Pulitzer-Finali** (1986, irregularly massive 7x5x4 cm, black *in vivo*, shades of brown in spirit, conulose surface, dendritic fibers 40-120 µm in diameter, abundantly cored by foreign material and protruding conspicuously from the conules, branching and anastomosing rather frequently, forming few meshes) corresponds to the variation found in Urabá. Interestingly, **Pulitzer-Finali** (1986) notes that the pale yellow color of his specimen's fibers, is the same color which is observed in the fibers of *Pleraplysilla minchini and P. spinifera*, but different to that recorded originally for *P. stocki* (dark purple).

As *Pleraplysilla minchini* Topsent, 1905 is currently recognized as a junior synonym of *P. spinifera* Schulze, 1879 (**Cook and & Bergquist**, 2002), the material examined here is tentatively assigned to *P. spinifera,* until its conspecificity with eastern Atlantic populations, the area in which the species was originally described, is proven. If the specimens are not conspecific, then *P. minchini* could be the valid name.

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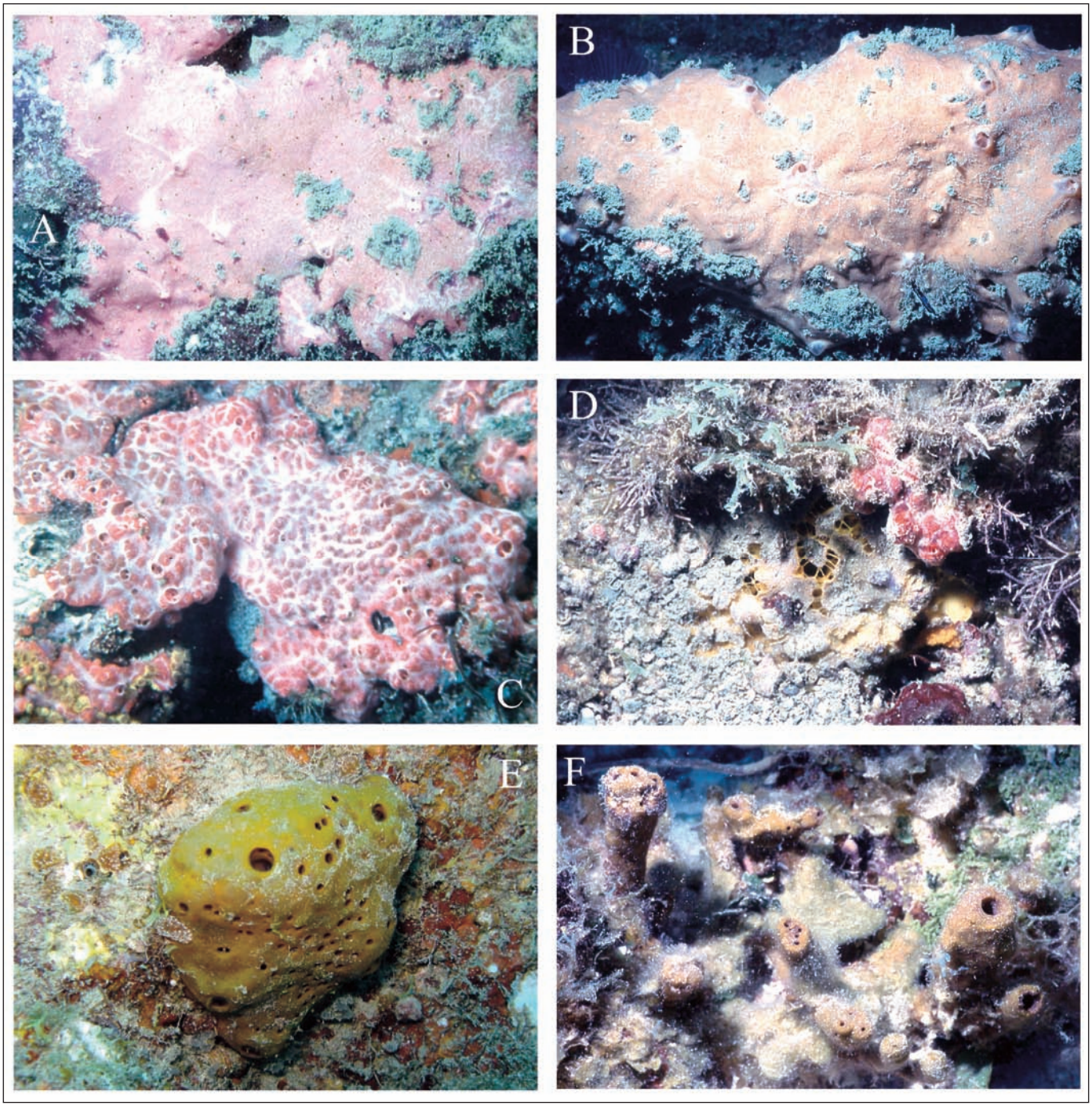

Plate 1. Underwater close-up photographs of the studied sponges from several areas of the Colombian Caribbean. (A) *Spirastrella coccinea* (Duchassaing & Minchelotti, 1864), Santa Marta Bay, El Morro. (B) *Spirastrella hartmani* Boury-Esnault *et al*., 1999, Santa Marta Bay, Punta de Betín.(C) *Clathria (Thalysias) virgultosa* (Lamarck, 1814), Nenguanje Bay, Santa Marta area. (D) *Myrmekioderma rea* (de Laubenfels, 1934), Chengue Bay, Santa Marta area. (E) *Svenzea flava* (Lehnert & van Soest, 1999), Cartagena, Islas del Rosario, Bajito del Medio. (F)*Svenzea tubulosa* (Alcolado & Gotera, 1986), Serrana Bank, San Andrés Archipelago. Width of field approx. 16.4 cm.

Plate 2. *Leiodermatium* aff. *pfeifferae* (Carter, 1873). (A) Photograph of preserved specimen (INV-POR 0570) from North-West Gulf of Urabá.

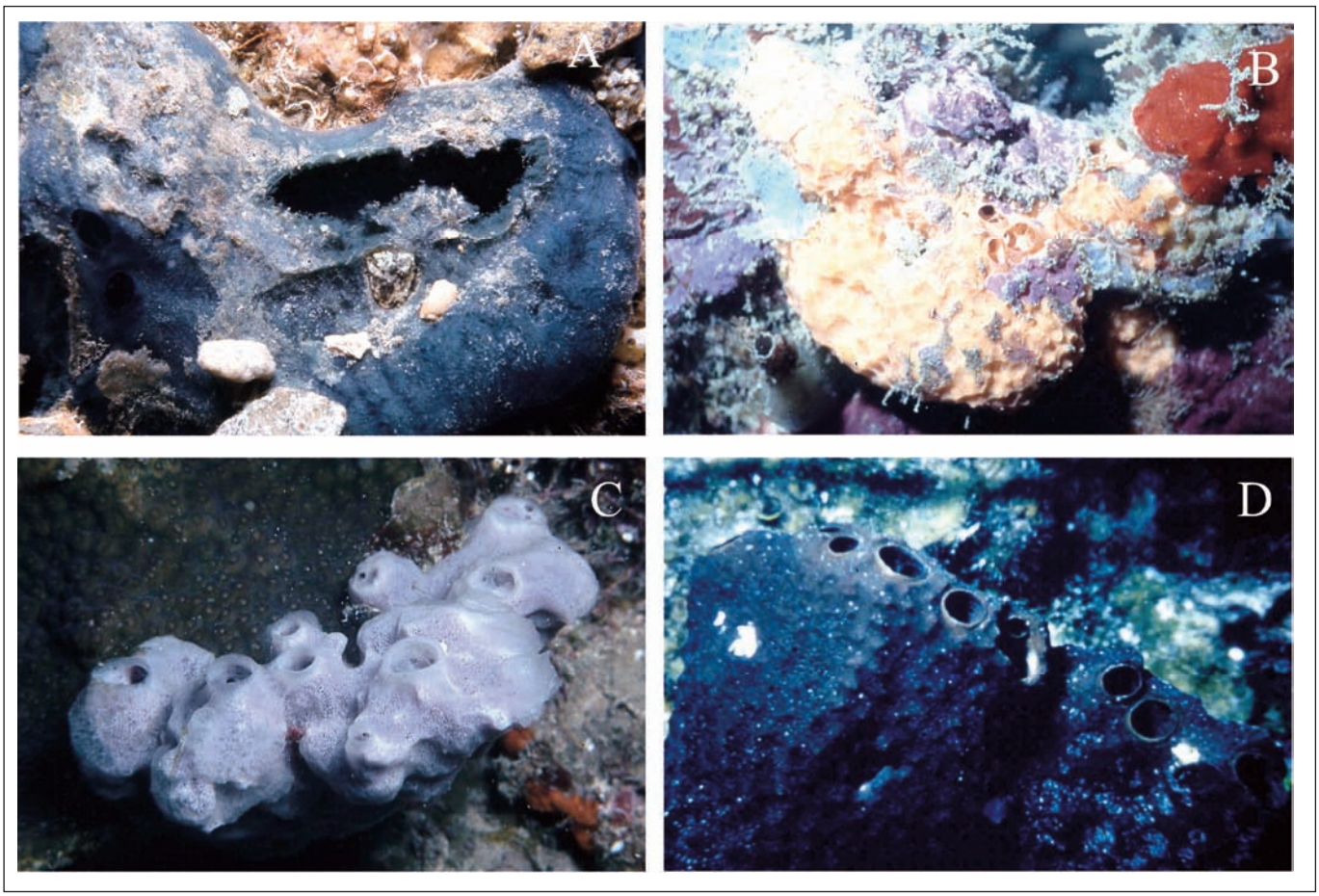

Plate 3. Underwater close-up photographs of the studied sponges from several areas of the Colombian Caribbean. (A) *Hymeniacidon caerulea* Pulitzer-Finali, 1986, Santa Marta Bay, Punta de Betín. (B) *Agelas citrina* Gotera & Alcolado, 1986, North-West of the Gulf of Urabá. (C)*Haliclona (Halichoclona) vansoesti*de Weerdt, Kluijver & Gomez, 1999, Cartagena,Islas del Rosario, Tesoro Island. (D) *Smenospongia conulosa*Pulitzer-Finali, 1986, dark specimen, North-West of the Gulf of Urabá.Width of field approx for (A) aprox.7.2 cm; for the others aprox. 16.4 cm.