Two new species of gymnosomatous pteropods from the Gulf of California (Gymnosomata: Pneumodermatidae)

Dos nuevas especies de pterópodos gimnosomados del Golfo de California (Gymnosomata: Pneumodermatidae)

Orso Angulo-Campillo* and Gerardo Aceves-Medina


RESUMEN

Antecedentes: Los Gymnosomata es un grupo de moluscos adaptado a la vida pelágica, que incluye unas 47 especies válidas en todo el mundo. En arrastres de zooplancton realizados en el Golfo de California durante enero de 2007, se recolectaron especímenes de dos especies diferentes de Gymnosomata con características morfológicas que no pertenecían a ninguna de las especies previamente descritas. Objetivos: Describir con base en las características de la rádula, dos nuevas especies de moluscos gimnosomados recolectados en la porción central del Golfo de California, México. Métodos: Diez especímenes de Gymnosomata fueron obtenidos de arrastres de zooplancton usando un Sistema de redes Bongo. Todos los organismos descritos se identificaron en estadio adulto. Tres especímenes fueron disectados y su masa bucal fue removida y disuelta en hidróxido de sodio al 10% hasta que la rádula quedara sin el tejido que la rodea. Posteriormente, la rádula fue montada para fotografías de microscopía electrónica. Resultados: Se describieron dos nuevas especies, Pneumoderma cicimarensis sp. nov. y Pneumodermopsis tacoi sp. nov. Conclusiones: Pneumoderma cicimarensis sp. nov., tiene una morfología similar a Pneumoderma pacificum Dall, 1871, pero difiere en la presencia de un lóbulo en la porción media del ala, la ausencia de cromatóforos en el cuerpo y en la forma de los dientes radulares. Pneumodermopsis tacoi sp. nov., tiene una rádula similar a la de Pneumodermopsis ciliata (Gegenbaur, 1855), pero difiere significativamente en el número de hileras de la rádula y en la forma de los dientes centrales.

Palabras clave: holoplanktonic molluscs, new species, Gymnosomata, Pneumoderma, Pneumodermopsis

ABSTRACT

Background: The Gymnosomata is a group of mollusks adapted to pelagic life, which includes about 47 valid species worldwide. Zooplankton tows in the Gulf of California during January 2007 led to the collection of specimens of two different species of Gymnosomata with morphologic characters that did not belong to any species previously described. Goals: To describe, based on radular characteristics, two new species of gymnosomatous mollusks collected at the central portion of the Gulf of California, Mexico. Methods: Ten specimens of Gymnosomata were obtained with zooplankton tows using a Bongo net system. All the organisms described were identified as adult stages. Three specimens were dissected, and their buccal mass was removed and dissolved in 10% sodium hydroxide until the radula was isolated from the surrounding tissue. Posteriorly the radula was mounted for scanning electron micrographs. Results: Two new species were described, Pneumoderma cicimarensis sp. nov. and Pneumodermopsis tacoi sp. nov. Conclusions: Pneumoderma cicimarensis sp. nov. has a similar morphology to Pneumoderma pacificum Dall, 1871, but differs in the presence of one lobe on the median portion of the wing, a lack of chromatophores in the body and the shape of the radular teeth. Pneumodermopsis tacoi sp. nov. has a similar radula to Pneumodermopsis ciliata (Gegenbaur, 1855), but differs significantly in the number of rows of the radula and the shape of the central tooth.

Keywords: holoplanktonic molluscs, new species, Gymnosomata, Pneumoderma, Pneumodermopsis
INTRODUCTION

The Gulf of California is a hydrographically complex region. It possesses strong environmental gradients and latitudinally is associated with convergence in its central region, which results in highly diverse environments due to the mix of temperate, subtropical, and tropical species in a relatively small area (Riginos, 2005). With its high number of microhabitats, the region also has a high number of endemic marine species (Briggs, 1974, Brinton & Towsend, 1980; Brusca & Findley, 2005). For poorly known groups the possibility of finding new species increases, such as in the case of gymnosomatous pteropods.

The Gymnosomata is one of two groups within Pteropoda (Jörg et al., 2010, Schrödl et al., 2011) that has adapted for pelagic life (Lalli & Gilmer, 1989). The Gymnosomata, which have no shells, and the Thecosomata, most of which have shells. The division between these two holoplanktonic groups of molluscs is justified by other anatomical characteristics as well (Pelseneer, 1887). The absence of a shell in gymnosomes results in most of the specimens contracting into indistinguishable forms after preservation and all taxonomic features are altered. Despite this problem, the Gymnosomata include about 47 valid species contained in four families (Gofas, 2018). Pneumodermatidae (Pelseneer, 1857) is the most species with 18 species worldwide (5 Pneumoderma, 13 Pneumodermopsis) (Spoel et al., 1997, Bouchet & Gofas, 2018a, b). The distinctive characteristics of Pneumodermatidae are the presence of suckers on the ventral side of the prostomulum on the anterior portion of the buccal cavity, a lateral gill on the right side of the body, a jaw and pigmented skin (Pelseneer, 1887). Only four species are registered in the Gulf of California, one belonging to the genus Pneumoderma (Cuvier, 1805). These are Pneumoderma pacificum Dall, 1871 and three belong to Pneumodermopsis Keferstein, 1862, i.e., Pneumodermopsis canthophora Pruvoit-Fol, 1924, Pneumodermopsis ciliata (Gegenbaur, 1855) and Pneumodermopsis macrochira Meisenheimer, 1905 (Angulo-Campillo et al., 2011).

Zooplankton tows in the Gulf of California were performed to obtain a collection of specimens of Gymnosomata with morphologic characteristics that did not belong to any species previously described. Two new species of gymnosomes collected from the central portion of the Gulf of California, Mexico, were described here based on radular characteristics.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Ten specimens of Gymnosomata were obtained from the central region of the Gulf of California during an oceanographic survey in January 2007. The specimens were captured using oblique tows with Bongo nets of 505 μm mesh. Tows were made at a maximum depth of 200 m. The specimens were preserved in 95% ethanol and deposited at the Department of Invertebrate Zoology and Geology of the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco (CASIZ). The external features were examined and drawn using a dissecting microscope with a camera lucida. All the organisms described here were identified as adult stages using as indicative the presence of a well-developed lateral gill as well as the presence of a developed gonad. Three specimens were dissected, two specimens for Pneumoderma cimicarentis sp. nov. and one for Pneumodermopsis taoi sp. nov. The buccal mass was removed and dissolved in 10% sodium hydroxide until the radula was isolated from the surrounding tissue (Geiger et al., 2007); later, the radula was mounted for scanning electron micrographs (SEMs) produced on a Hitachi S-3000N scanning electron microscope at CIBNOR.

RESULTS

Family Pneumodermatidae Pelseneer, 1857

Genus Pneumoderma Cuvier, 1805

Pneumoderma cimicarentis sp. nov. (Figs 1a-f)

Type species: Pneumodermon pacificum Dall, 1871: 139; 37°8’ N 136°10’ W, Coll.: Dall, reg. no. 301.

Previous references: Pneumoderma sp. Angulo-Campillo et al., 2011.

Etymology: The specific name cimicarentis is taken from the acronym CICIMAR (Centro Interdisciplinario de Ciencias Marinas), which refers to the institution where the authors completed their Ph.D.

Type Material: Holotype: Central portion of the Gulf of California (27°49’22” N, 111°24’14” W), 4.3 mm body length, collected by Orso Angulo and Gerardo Aceves, 21 January 2007. (CASIZ 178438).

Paratypes: two specimens, 4.2 and 2.8 mm body length (CASIZ 178439), central portion of the Gulf of California (26°45’2” N, 110°53’4” W), one specimen 3.1 mm body length, collected by Orso Angulo and Gerardo Aceves, 22 January 2007. (CASIZ 178440).

Additional material: two specimens 3.1 and 3.0 mm (dissected), collected on 22 January 2007 from near shore waters west of Santa Rosalia, Baja California Sur, Mexico (26°25’22” N, 110°32’12” W), by Orso Angulo and Francisco Dominguez.

Type locality: Central portion of the Gulf of California (27°49’22” N, 111°24’14” W), caught in tows made between 200 m depth and the sea surface.

Geographic distribution: Known only to inhabit in the Gulf of California.

Description: External morphology: Body color: translucent; head: cream colored. Visceral mass: dark. Body: cylindrical; rounded anteriorly when extended, and barrel shaped when contracted (Fig. 1a). Head differentiated from the body. Wings subquadrate, slightly notched at their inner posterior edge with one lobe on the median portion of the wing (Fig. 1b). Small chromatophores in the head. Two lateral arms with two suckers each on the mouth region. Lateral footlobes short, reaching 1/4 length of the median footlobe, which is long and pointed when extended, reaching one third the length of the trunk. The viscera can be seen through the body walls, reaching two-thirds the length of the trunk. A long lateral gill with a dorsal spot situated on the upper portion. The lateral gill extends up to two thirds the length of the body where it reaches the margin of the posterior gill, which is simple (without ornamentations) and fringed, well-marked regular undulations (Figs 1c-d). Radula (Figs 1e-f): The radula formula is 3.0.3 with nine rows (Fig. 1e). The radular teeth have a large, curved, and pointed central cusp. On each side of the central cusp there are 11 to 13 smooth, shorter denticles (Fig. 1f). Denticles are slightly curved inwards, with long ridges that extend to the base of the central cusp.
Figures 1a-f. Pneumoderma cicimarensis sp. nov. a) Ventral view of live specimen, holotype, 4.3 mm long (CASIZ 178438). b) Anatomical sketches drawn with the aid of a camera lucida. c) Close-up of the dorsal portion showing the footlobes and wing lobes. d) Anatomical sketches of the dorsum. e) Radula. f) Detail of teeth. Cr = Cromatophore; go = Gonad; ht = Heart; lfl = Lateral foot lobe; lg = Lateral gill; lta = Lateral arm; mfl = Median foot lobe; pg = Posterior gill; vs = viscera; wl = Wing lobe; wn = Wing.
Remarks: The placement of *Pneumoderma cicimarenensis* sp. nov. in the Pneumodermatidae is based on the presence of a lateral gill, differentiation of the cephalic region and presence of chromatophores, while the presence of a dorsal glandular spot is characteristic of the genus (Pelseneer 1857). The other four species are not found in the eastern Pacific and they do not have a wing lobe (Table 1). *P. cicimarenensis* sp. nov. is unique within the genus with the presence of one lobe on each wing; this characteristic has not been described in any other member of the family or gymnosome. Another characteristic feature is the absence of chromatophores on the trunk. *P. pacificum* differs from *P. cicimarenensis* sp. nov. in coloration; *P. pacificum* is purple, and chromatophores extend through the entire body. In addition, the form of the teeth and radula formulae is different; in *P. cicimarenensis* sp. nov. the radula formula is 3.0.3 and teeth are hook-shaped with serrated edges that extend to the base of the central cusp, while in *P. pacificum* it is 4.0.4, and teeth are also hook-shaped, but slimmer with no serrations or edges (Spoel et al., 1997) (Table 1).

**Genus Pneumoderma** Keferstein, 1862

**Pneumoderma cicimarenensis** sp. nov. (Figs 2a-d)

Type species: *Pneumoderma ciliatum* Gegenbaur, 1855: 74. Type locality: not located.

Previous references: *Pneumoderma* sp. Angulo-Campillo et al., 2011, Moreno-Alcántara et al., 2014.

Etymology: The specific name *tacoi* is given in honor to Enrique González, teacher and mentor of both authors, who is known among his friends as Taco.


Paratypes: two specimens, 2.9 mm and 2.6 mm body length (CASIZ 178442), same locality as the holotype.

Additional material: one specimen 2.5 mm body length (dissected), same locality.

Type locality: Northwest of Guaymas, Sonora (27°29′42″ N, 111°24′38″ W), caught in tows made between 200 m deep and the sea surface.

Geographic distribution: Know in the Gulf of California and Gulf of Tehuantepec.

Description: External morphology: Body color: cream, semi-transparent. Visceral mass: brown. Body cylindrical and barrel shaped (Fig. 2a). Head differentiated from the body. Small wings. Small chromatophores in the head. Two lateral suckers arms. Lateral footlobes: short, reaching 1/4 the length of the median footlobe, which is long and thick. Viscera visible through the body wall. A well-developed lateral gill present with a dorsal spot situated on the upper portion. Posterior gill: simple and clearly fringed (Fig. 2b). Radula (Figs 2c-d): The radula formula 3.1.3 (in 13 rows). Lateral teeth: long, slender, and hook-shaped (Fig. 2c). Median teeth: bicuspid (Fig. 2d); base: simple with no ornamentations.

Remarks: The placement of *Pneumoderma taccioi* sp. nov. in the Pneumodermatidae is based on the presence of a lateral gill, differentiation of the cephalic region and presence of chromatophores. Due to preservation effects, it was impossible to determine the number of suckers on the lateral arms, thus the description is based on the radula formula. Presence of central teeth accommodates within the *Pneumoderma*. A previous report of *Pneumoderma* from the North Pacific includes *P. ciliata* and *P. paucidens* (Boas, 1886) (Spoel et al., 1997). In *P. ciliata* the number of lateral teeth varies from 5.1.5 to 6.1.6, with 18 to 25 rows, and with tricuspid median teeth (Spoel & Pafort-Van Lersel, 1982). The teeth shape of *P. paucidens* is similar to that of *P. taccioi* sp. nov., both species have bicuspid median teeth without a central cusp. However, the radula of *P. paucidens* as illustrated in Spoel et al. (1997) compared with the radula of *P. taccioi* sp. nov. shows differences between them since the lateral teeth in *P. taccioi* sp nov. are larger and slender, and the bicuspid teeth are larger. In addition, *P. paucidens* has only a median arm with a large sucker, whereas *P. taccioi* sp. nov. has two lateral arms with small suckers. Remaining species of this genus have a higher number of lateral teeth, except *P. polycotyla* (Boas, 1886) and *P. spoeli* Newman & Greenwood, 1988, which have 2 lateral teeth. However, *P. spoeli* has 24 lateral arms suckers and *P. polycotyla* is distributed only in the Atlantic and Mediterranean (Table 2).

### Table 1. Meristic characteristics of *Pneumoderma* species.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Lt</th>
<th>Lam</th>
<th>RF</th>
<th>HH</th>
<th>Chr</th>
<th>WI</th>
<th>Distribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>P. cicimarenensis</em> sp. nov</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3-0-3</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>Gulf of California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>P. pacificum</em> (Dall, 1871)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>4-0-4</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>Cosmopolitan of warm waters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>P. violaceum</em> d’Orbigny, 1834</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>Warm waters Atlantic and Mediterranean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>P. degraaffi</em> Spoel &amp; Pafort-van Lersel, 1982</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>3-0-3</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>N Atlantic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>P. heronensis</em> Newman &amp; Spoel, 1989</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6-0-6</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>P. mediterraneum</em> Van Beden, 1838</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7-0-7</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>Atlantic, Mediterranean, Indo-Pacific</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Data obtained from Spoel et al. (1997), number of valid species based from Bouchet and Gofas (2018a).
Figures 2a-d. *Pneumodermopsis taoi* sp. nov. a) Dorsal view of preserved specimen holotype, 3.1 mm length (CASIZ 178441); b) Anatomical sketches; c) Radula; d) Rachidian. Cr = Cromatophore; lfl = Lateral foot lobe; lg = Lateral gill; lta = Lateral arm; mfl = Median foot lobe; pg = Posterior gill; wn = Wing.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported by the Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología through the projects FOSEMARNAT-2004-01-C01-144, SAGARPA S007-2005-1-11717. Laboratory work and data analyses were also supported by the Instituto Politécnico Nacional through scientific initiatives SIP20080918, SIP20090303, SIP20100667, SIP20110643, SIP20120878, SIP 20180256 and CONABIO HA-012. GAM wishes to thank CICIMAR-IPN/COFAA and EDI authorities for their grants and support, as well as the Sistema Nacional de Investigadores-CONACyT for its grant. OJAC wishes to thank the Programa de Apoyo a Doctores de CONACyT, as well as CONACyT, and the Programa Institucional de Formación de Investigadores (PIFI) for fellowship support. We thank the crew, students, and researchers who participated on the R/V ‘El Puma’ for their cooperation in collecting biological samples. We thank Dr. Carlos Robinson (ICMyL-UNAM) who authorized us to use the data and samples obtained during the CAPEGOLCA cruise and published in this study. This work was also partially funded by the Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM, PAPIIT IN219502, IN210622), and the Centro Interdisciplinario de Ciencias Marinas (Instituto Politécnico Nacional, SIP 2005–2007 research projects). Many thanks to Jaime Gomez, Francisco Domínguez, and the helpful comments of Marta Pola, Keith Bayha, and Donald W. Johnson. The SEM work was conducted at CIBNOR.

REFERENCES


