

Paraonidae (Polychaeta) from the Capbreton Canyon (Bay of Biscay, NE Atlantic) with the description of eight new species

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SUMMARY: Nineteen species of paraonid polychaetes, belonging to five genera, were collected from bathyal depths at the Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, NE Atlantic. *Levinsonia kantaurensis* n. sp., *Aricidea sardai* n. sp., *A. bifurcata* n. sp., *A. mirunekoa* n. sp., *A. maialenae* n. sp., *A. nekanae* n. sp., *Paradoneis bathyilvana* n. sp. and *P. mikeli* n. sp., are new to science; *Aricidea (Allia) antennata*, *Levinsonia flava*, *Paradoneis drachi* and *Paraonides myriamae* are new records for the Atlantic, and *Paradoneis eliasoni* to the Iberian coasts.

Keywords: Polychaeta, Paraonidae, new species, Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay.

RESUMEN: PARAONIDAE (POLYCHAETA) DEL CAÑÓN DE CAPBRETÓN (GOLFO DE VIZCAYA, ATLÁNTICO NE) CON LA DESCRIPCIÓN DE OCHO NUEVAS ESPECIES. – Durante un estudio sobre las comunidades bentónicas de los fondos batiales del cañón de Capbreton, Golfo de Bizkaia, Atlántico NE, se recolectaron 19 especies de poliquetos paraonidos. *Levinsonia kantaurensis* n. sp., *Aricidea sardai* n. sp., *A. bifurcata* n. sp., *A. mirunekoa* n. sp., *A. maialenae* n. sp., *A. nekanae* n. sp., *Paradoneis bathyilvana* n. sp. y *P. mikeli* n. sp. son nuevas para la ciencia; *Aricidea (Allia) antennata*, *Levinsonia flava*, *Paradoneis drachi* y *Paraonides myriamae* son nuevas citas para el Atlántico; y *Paradoneis eliasoni* se cita por primera vez para las costas ibéricas.

Palabras clave: Polychaeta, Paraonidae, nueva especie, Cañón de Capbreton, Golfo de Bizkaia.

INTRODUCTION

Deep-sea polychaetes are still largely unknown. Some environments peculiar to the deep sea, such as hydrothermal vents, mud volcanoes, methane clathrate deposits, and whale bones, are receiving a great deal of scientific attention, which is revealing a richness of species sometimes beyond expectations (e.g.: Desbruyères and Toulmond, 1998; Dahlgren *et al.*, 2004; Rouse *et al.*, 2004; Glover *et al.*, 2005; Desbruyères *et al.*, 2006; Ravara *et al.*, 2007; Hilário and Cunha, 2008; Pleijel *et al.*, 2008; Rouse *et al.*,

2008). However, although polychaete fauna represent the largest part of the deep-sea floor community there is little information on them in other deep sea regions, such as abyssal plains, continental rises, and canyons. On many occasions, the material is obtained as a by-product of other studies, and is not treated for taxonomic work. This leads to the specimens being in poor condition or fragmentary, which is usually useful for general faunistic surveys, but not for fine taxonomic research.

From 1987 to 1990, four oceanographic cruises were conducted in the Capbreton submarine canyon

onboard the RV-“Côte d’Aquitaine”. In these cruises, the bathyal macrofauna was carefully sampled and sorted, which yielded a large amount of polychaete specimens in excellent condition for fine taxonomic studies, which is evidenced by the increasing number of published papers based on this material (San Martín *et al.*, 1996; Aguirrezabalaga *et al.*, 1999, 2001, 2002; Núñez, *et al.*, 2000; Aguirrezabalaga and Ceberio, 2003, 2005a,b, 2006; Aguirrezabalaga and Carrera-Parra, 2006), and, in the present paper, by the good SEM pictures.

Among the Capbreton material, about 300 specimens of Paraonidae, a family well represented and highly diversified in deep-sea environments, were collected. Over the last years, the number of known species of this family has increased to about 100, mainly due to the use of finer mesh screens and numerous research projects that focus on the benthic diversity of the continental slopes and other deep-sea habitats (Blake, 1996). At the generic level Strelzov (1973), in his worldwide monograph, distinguished 6 taxa: *Aricidea* (with 4 subgenera: *Aricidea sensu stricto*, *Acesta*, *Allia* and *Aedicira*), *Cirrophorus* (including *Cirrophorus*, *Paradoneis* and *Paraonides*), *Paraonis*, *Paraonella*, *Sabidius* and *Tauberia*. Later, Katzmann and Laubier (1975) considered *Cirrophorus* and *Paradoneis* as two different genera, according to the presence/absence of a prostomial median antenna, as did Campoy (1981), Hartley (1981), Mackie (1991) and Blake (1996), among others. In turn, McLelland and Gaston (1994) followed Strelzov (1973). The genus *Tauberia* was synonymized

with *Levinsenia* (Melville, 1979) and the subgenus *Acesta* was renamed as *Acmira*, as the name *Acesta* was already in use for a genus of limilid molluscs (Hartley, 1981). Moreover, *Paraonides* was considered as a valid genus, with *Paraonella* as a junior synonym (Castelli, 1988). Thus, the family Paraonidae currently consists of 7 genera: *Aricidea* (with the subgenera: *Aricidea sensu stricto*, *Acmira*, *Allia* and *Aedicira*), *Cirrophorus*, *Levinsenia*, *Paradoneis*, *Paraonis*, *Paraonides* and *Sabidius*.

In this paper, we describe 19 paraonid species belonging to five genera found in Capbreton canyon: *Aricidea* (9 species), *Cirrophorus* (1 species), *Levinsenia* (3 species), *Paradoneis* (5 species) and *Paraonides* (1 species), with particular attention paid to *Levinsenia kantaurensis* n. sp., *Aricidea sardai* n. sp., *A. bifurcata* n. sp., *A. mirunekoa* n. sp., *A. maialenae* n. sp., *A. nekanae* n. sp., *Paradoneis bathyilvana* n. sp. and *P. mikeli* n. sp., which are new to science; as well as to *Aricidea antennata* Annenkova, 1934, *Levinsenia flava* (Strelzov, 1973), *Paradoneis drachi* Laubier and Ramos, 1974 and *Paraonides myriamae* Katzmann and Laubier, 1975, which are new records for the Atlantic Ocean; and *Paradoneis eliasoni* Mackie, 1991 a new record for the Iberian coasts.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The specimens were collected in the Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, NE Atlantic. Eighteen sta-

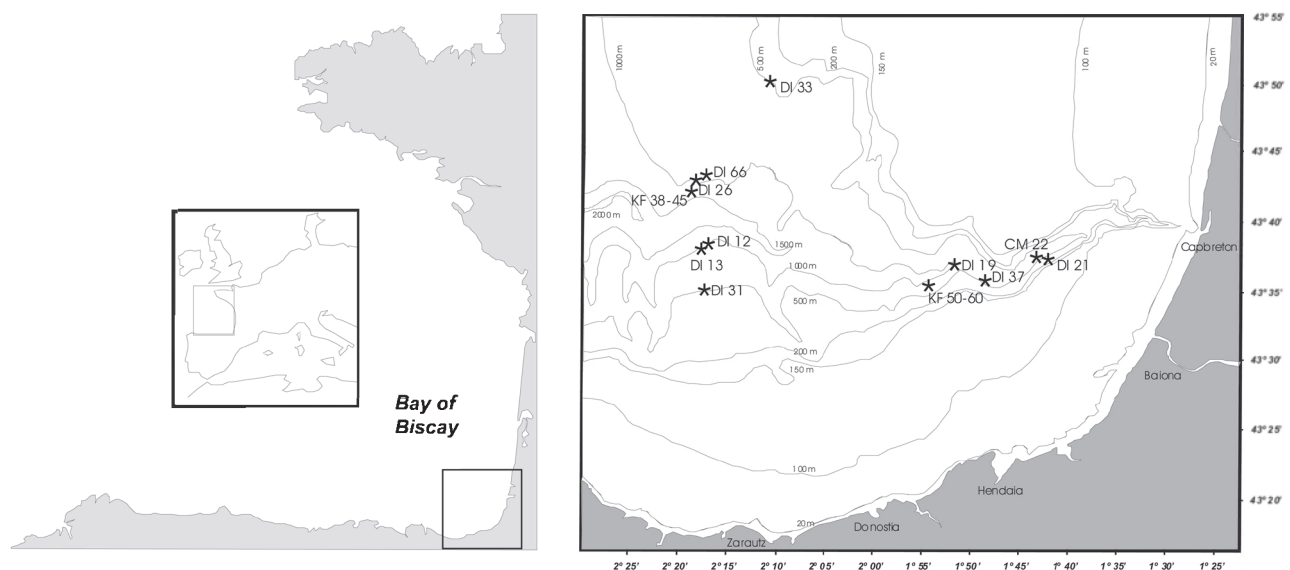


FIG. 1. – Map of Capbreton Canyon (Bay of Biscay) showing sampled stations with paraonid specimens.

TABLE 1. – Main characteristics of the sampling stations. Date format is day, month, year. DI, Sanders-Hessler epibenthic dredge; KF, Flusha box-corer.

Station	Date	Position at the beginning and the end of the tow on the sea floor	Depth (m)	Time of dragging (min)	Station	Date	Position	Depth (m)
DI 12	06/07/1988	43°38.57'N - 2°17.93'W	1012	20	KF 38	12/09/1989	43°41.90'N - 2°18.54'W	1003
		43°38.33'N - 2°18.11'W	1113		KF 41	12/09/1989	43°42.02'N - 2°18.30'W	1004
DI 13	06/07/1988	43°38.36'N - 2°18.03'W	1040	15	KF 42	12/09/1989	43°41.95'N - 2°18.41'W	1017
		43°38.08'N - 2°18.14'W	1007		KF 44	12/09/1989	43°41.95'N - 2°18.39'W	1025
DI 19	07/07/1988	43°37.48'N - 1°52.52'W	952	15	KF 45	12/09/1989	43°42.00'N - 2°18.35'W	1000
		43°37.46'N - 1°52.66'W	968		KF 50	14/09/1989	43°35.35'N - 1°55.15'W	1000
DI 21	07/07/1988	43°37.72'N - 1°41.83'W	580	15	KF 52	14/09/1989	43°35.27'N - 1°55.04'W	997
		43°37.43'N - 1°41.99'W	480		KF 57	14/09/1989	43°35.37'N - 1°54.90'W	995
DI 26	08/07/1988	43°42.89'N - 2°18.71'W	984	25				
		43°43.25'N - 2°18.80'W	1029					
DI 31	10/07/1988	43°35.87'N - 2°17.43'W	505	15				
		43°35.87'N - 2°17.73'W	512					
DI 33	10/07/1988	43°50.32'N - 2°10.90'W	495	15				
		43°49.78'N - 2°11.12'W	492					
DI 37	08/07/1988	43°36.25'N - 1°48.24'W	508	15				
		43°36.45'N - 1°48.10'W	576					
DI 66	16/09/1989	43°43.23'N - 2°17.51'W	1026	5				
		43°43.23'N - 2°17.60'W	1036					

tions (Fig. 1, Table 1) were dredged either with a Sanders-Hessler epibenthic dredge (DI) or a Flusha box-corer (KF). Samples were sieved through a 0.5 mm mesh and the sorted specimens were preserved in a 10% formaldehyde-seawater solution.

Additional type specimens were also studied: the holotype of *Aedicira mediterranea* Laubier and Ramos, 1974 (A 843), loaned by the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHN); the holotype of *Aricidea bulbosa* Hartley, 1984 (ZB.1983, 1774), loaned by the British Museum of Natural History (BMNH); and the paratypes of *Aricidea mariannae* Katzmann and Laubier, 1975 (13079), and *Aricidea pseudannae* Katzmann and Laubier, 1975 (13080), loaned by the Naturhistorisches Museum Wien (NMW).

The types and representative specimens of the species described here are deposited in the Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, Madrid (MNCN) and in the Sociedad Cultural de Investigación Submarina INSUB, Donostia (INSUB). In the examined material section, the number of specimens at each station is indicated between brackets. In the descriptions, “l/w” means ratio length / maximum width at base of branchiae, and “l” and “max. l” refer to the length and the maximum length of branchiae respectively. The indicated coloration always refers to preserved specimens. Question marks (?) under the descriptions of *Paradoneis mikeli* n. sp. and *Aricidea (Allia) sardai* n. sp. indicate that part of the material identified respectively as *Paradoneis lyra* and *Aricidea mediterranea*, in the given references, probably belongs to the newly described species. However,

this material was not revised in the present study, and is only presented as possibly belonging to the new species. Likewise, question marks in the species distribution designate the possible but unconfirmed presence of the new species in the indicated areas, based on the given references.

Terminology follows Strelzov (1973), Katzmann and Laubier (1975), Hartley (1981) and Blake (1996).

SYSTEMATICS

Family PARAONIDAE Cerruti, 1909

Genus *Levinsenia* Mesnil, 1897

***Levinsenia flava* (Strelzov, 1973)**
(Figs. 2 and 3)

Tauberia flava, Strelzov, 1973: 144-145, Fig. 65 A-C.

Material examined. 56 specimens from Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Ocean (coordinates in Table 1): CB88/DI12 (2), CB88/DI13 (1), CB88/DI26 (4), CB88/DI31 (16), CB88/DI33 (32), CB89/KF38 (1).

Description. All specimens incomplete. Body long, slender; wider anteriorly to thinner, filiform from midbody. Anterior segments short, much wider than long (two to three times); longer and biannulate (length = width) at postbranchial region, then cylindrical, longer than wide.

Prostomium conical, distally rounded, longer than wide, ending in a cylindrical sensorial organ, sometimes everted (Fig. 2A, 3A). Pair of nuchal organs as

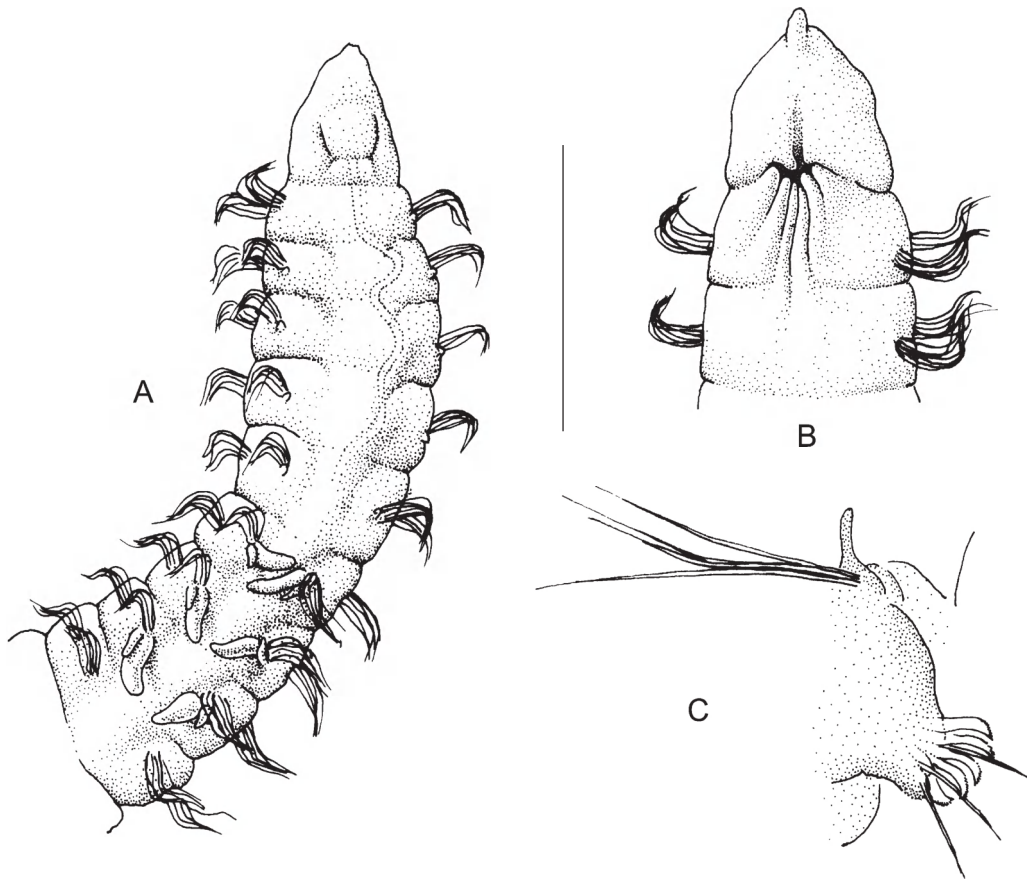


FIG. 2. – *Levinsenia flava*: A, anterior region, dorsal view; B, anterior region, ventral view; C, parapodium chaetiger 26. Scale bar: A 360 µm; B 100 µm; C 295 µm.

deep nuchal slits. Yellow-brownish pigmentation on each side of nuchal region (often lost in preserved specimens). Posterior buccal lip with six longitudinal folds, extending to chaetiger 2 (Fig. 2B).

First five notopodial postchaetal lobes (pre-branchial) short, rounded tubercles. In branchial segments longer, digitiform, distally rounded, becoming short again and rounded in postbranchial segments. In posterior segments short, but thinner, conical. Neuropodial postchaetal lobes absent (Fig. 2B).

Branchiae always starting from chaetiger 6, 3-5 pairs, very short ($l/w = 2-4$, mostly 2.5-3.5), cirri-form, distally rounded, without cilia (Fig. 2A, 3B); first and last usually shorter.

Modified ventral chaetae from chaetiger 13-18 (mostly 14-17), as 4-6 sigmoid hooks, strongly curved, arranged in a single row (Fig. 2C, 3C); hooks unidentate, with spinulate tuft on convex side, not reaching chaetal tip, orange-brownish pigmentation in some specimens; with 2-4 fine capillary accompanying chaetae. All other chaetae capillary.

Many specimens with orange-coloured anterior region.

Discussion. Our specimens agree well with the Strelzov (1973) description, the only difference being the number and size of branchiae. However, the original description was based on a single specimen, so the natural variability of the taxon was not reflected. According to Strelzov (1973), *Levinsenia flava* has three pairs of branchiae with a l/w of 2.8, and neuropodial hooks present from chaetiger 15. In our specimens, the number of branchiae varies between 3-5 and l/w between 2-4 (mostly between 2.5-3.5), while the neuropodial hooks appear mainly from chaetigers 14-17.

Distribution. New Guinea, 1790 m deep. Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, between 492-1113 m deep. First record for the Atlantic.

Levinsenia gracilis (Tauber, 1879)

Aonides gracilis, Tauber, 1879: 115.

Paraonis (Paraonis) gracilis, Cerruti, 1909: 468, 498, 504, Fig. g.-Pettibone, 1963:301-302, Fig. 79 A-D.

Paraonis gracilis, Uschakov, 1955: 286, Fig. 103 A-B.- Hartman, 1969: 75-76, Fig. 1-3.- Laubier and Ramos, 1974: 1098-1099.- Campoy, 1981: 23.

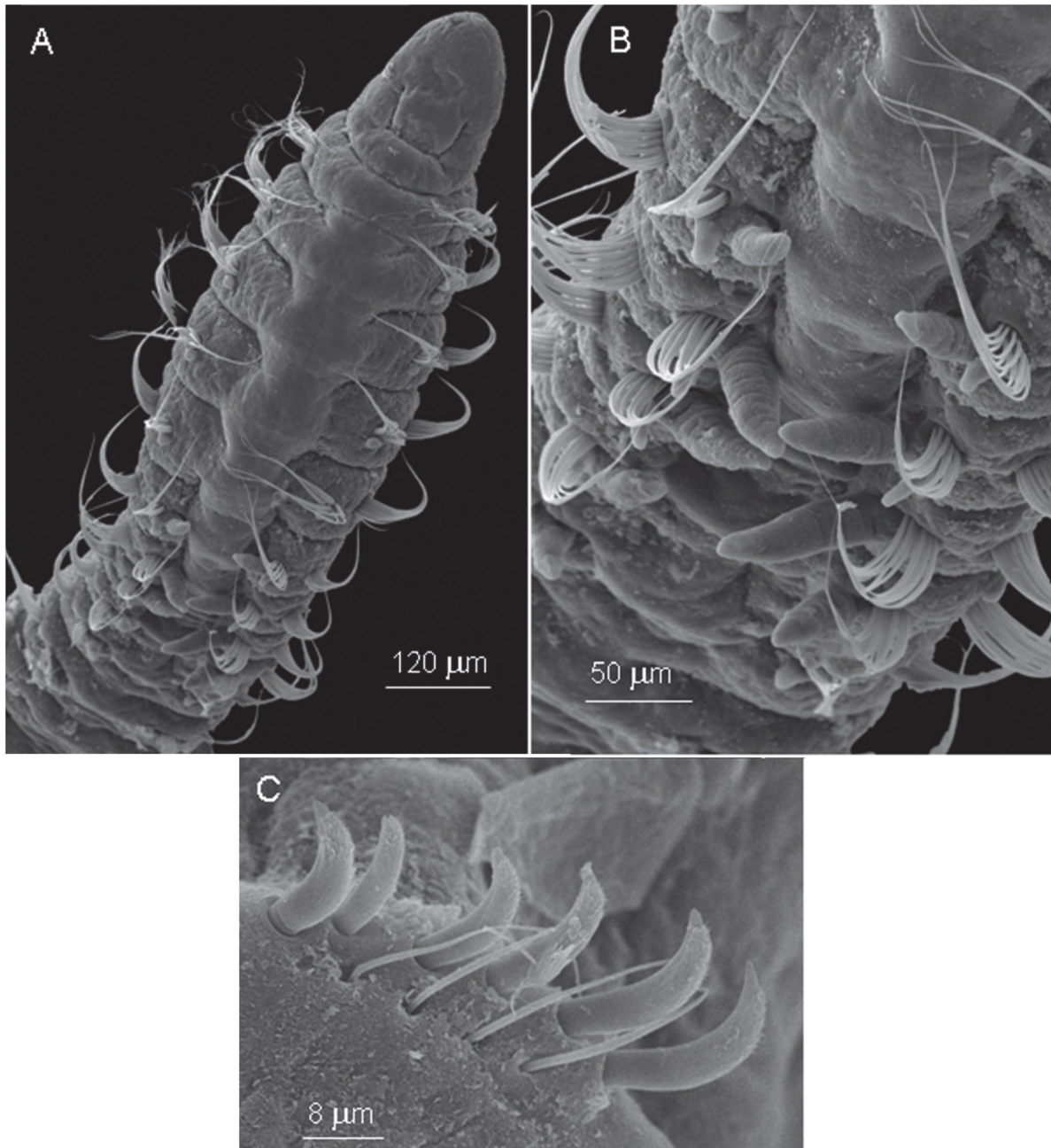


FIG. 3. – *Levensenia flava*: A, anterior region, dorsal view; B, branchial region; C, modified neurochaetae. Scale bar: A 120 µm; B 50 µm; C 8 µm.

Tauberia gracilis, Strelzov, 1973: 127-133, Figs. 54 A-F, 55 A-F, 56 A-D, 57 A-E.- Katzmann and Laubier, 1975: 569.

Levensenia gracilis, Hartley, 1981: 146.- Gaston, 1984: 2-51 – 53, Figs. 2-51, 52 A-C.- Blake, 1996: 33-34, Fig. 2.1 A-D.

Material examined. 36 specimens from Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Ocean (coordinates in Table 1): CB88/DI12 (2), CB88/DI13 (7), CB88/DI19 (5), CB88/DI21 (1), CB88/DI26 (3), CB88/DI31 (1), CB88/DI33 (13), CB89/KF42 (1), CB89/KF44 (1), CB89/KF52 (1), CB89/KF57 (1).

Discussion. Our specimens (only one complete) agree well with the descriptions by Strelzov (1973) and Blake (1996). They have the prostomium conical, 5-7 (mostly 5-6) prebranchial segments, 10-12

pairs of densely ciliated branchiae (l/w mostly between 3.5-4.5; l = mostly between 0.10-0.19 mm; max. l = 0.19 mm), neuropodial unidentate aciculate curved hooks from chaetiger 20-22, and pygidium conical with one pair of anal cirri.

Distribution. Cosmopolitan (Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, and Arctic Oceans, Mediterranean Sea) and eurybathic (from shallow sublittoral to abyssal depths).

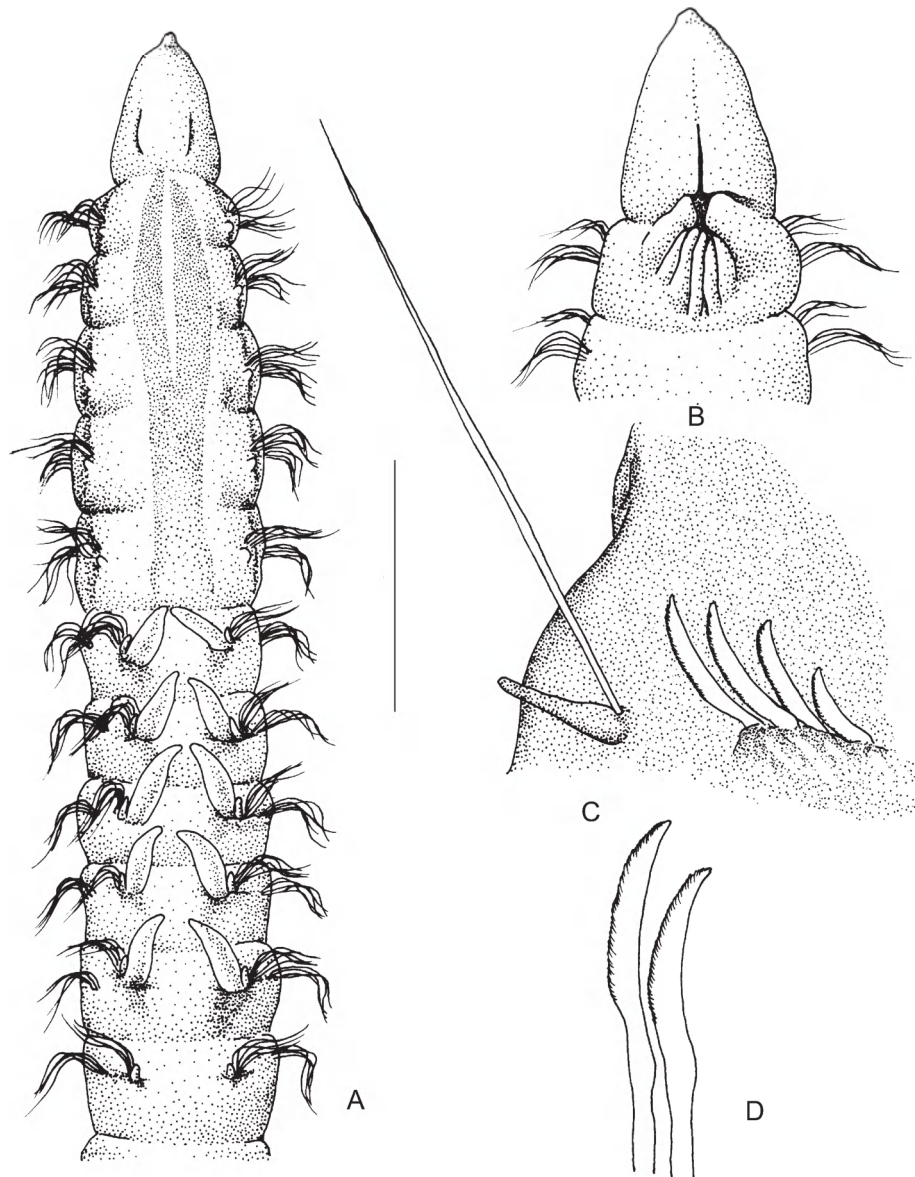


FIG. 4. – *Levisenia kantaurensis* n. sp.: A, anterior region, dorsal view; B, anterior region, ventral view; C, parapodium, chaetiger 29; D, modified neurochaetae. Scale bar: A 350 μ m; B 260 μ m; C 50 μ m; D 40 μ m.

***Levisenia kantaurensis* n. sp.**
(Figs. 4 and 5)

Material examined. 19 specimens from Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Ocean (coordinates in Table 1). CB88/DI12 (2), CB88/DI26 (1), CB88/DI31 (3), CB88/DI33: Holotype (MNCN 16.01/11200), one paratype (MNCN 16.01/11201), two paratypes (INSUB POL 331) and 5 specimens, CB88/DI37 (2), CB89/KF38 (1), CB89/KF45 (1).

Description. All specimens incomplete, 0.15–0.25 mm wide. Holotype maximum width (in branchial region) 0.22 mm, 11.7 mm long for 40 chaetigers.

Body long, slender, wider anteriorly to thinner, filiform from midbody.

Anterior segments short, twice as wide as long; longer in postbranchial region (length = width), then cylindrical, longer than wide.

Prostomium conical, rather longer than wide, ending in a cylindrical sensorial organ, sometimes everted (Fig. 4A, 5A). Pair of nuchal organs as deep nuchal slits. Posterior buccal lip with 6–7 longitudinal folds, extending to chaetiger 2 (Fig. 4B).

First five notopodial postchaetal lobes (prebranchial) short, rounded tubercles; branchial ones longer, digitiform, distally rounded; postbranchial ones again short, rounded, to short, thinner, conical when posterior-most. Neuropodial postchaetal lobes absent (Fig. 4B).

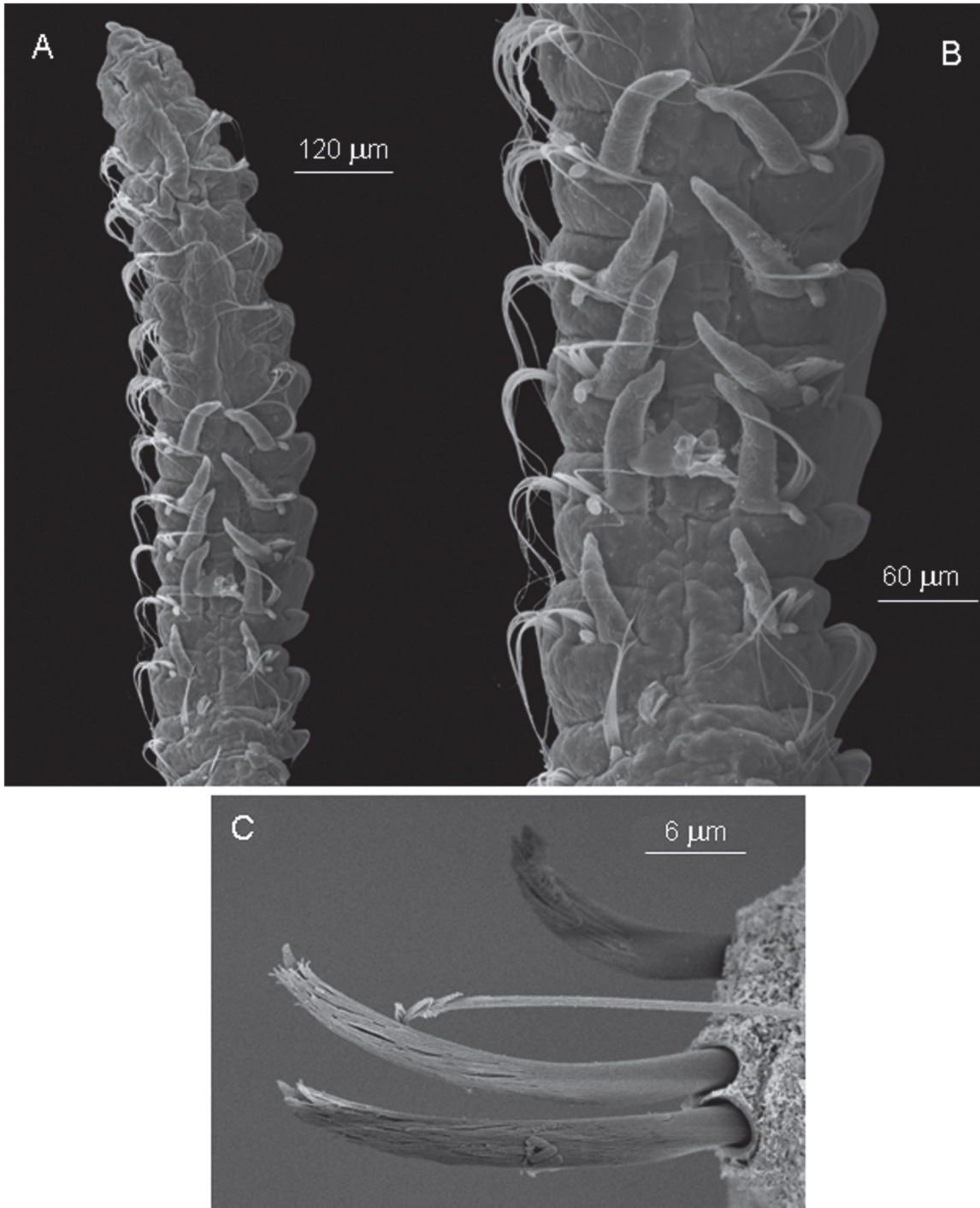


FIG. 5. – *Levinsenia kantaurensis* n. sp.: A, anterior region, dorsal view; B, branchial region; C, modified neurochaetae. Scale bar: A 120 µm; B 60 µm; C 6 µm.

Branchiae 5-6, starting from chaetiger 6; cirri-form, slightly ciliated, with rounded tip (l/w mostly between 2.6-3.5; l = mostly between 0.07-0.10 mm; max. l = 0.11 mm) (Fig. 4A, 5A,B).

Modified neurochaetae from chaetiger 12-16 (mostly from 14-16), up to 6 per fascicle, arranged in a single row (Fig. 4C, 5C). Neurochaeta as aci-

culate curved hooks projecting clearly from body, with expanded shaft, narrowing to a pointed tip, and a pubescent sheath on convex side of shaft, but not reaching end of chaetae (Fig. 4D, 5C); ventral-most hook more strongly curved than dorsal-most ones (Fig. 4C, 5C); 2-3 fine capillary chaetae accompanying the hooks. All other chaetae capillary.

TABLE 2. — List of species in the genus *Levinisitia* with some comparative morphological characteristics. * Species questionably belonging to this genus.

	Prebranc. chaetig. (n)	Branchiae (pairs)	Notopodial lobes of prebranchial, branchial, and postbranchial segments	Modified chaetae (chaetiger)	No. mod. chaetae per bundle	Shape of chaetae	Chaetigers (n)	Type locality	Source
<i>L. acutibranchiata</i> (Strelzov, 1973)	7	up to 12 short, acute tip	pre. very small, tuberculate; in bran. cirriform; post. shorter and conical	21	up to 7	thick, curved; hood on convex side developed	55+	Off Uruguay.	Strelzov (1973)
<i>L. antarctica</i> (Strelzov, 1973)	7	3 very short, blunt	in anterior segs. small, tuberculate; in bran. and post. short, cirriform	19	up to 5	thick, short; slightly protruding; hood on convex side;	37+	Kemp Coast, Antarctica, deep water.	Strelzov (1973)
<i>L. brevibranchiata</i> (Strelzov, 1973)	7	6 very short, blunt tip	in pre. and anterior post. short, tuberculate; in following post. short, slender, cirriform; in bran. long, thick, blunt, cirriform	22	up to 7	hooked, curved; strongly protruding; thickened hood on convex side;	75+	Sea of New Guinea, deep water.	Strelzov (1973)
* <i>L. canariensis</i> (Brito & Núñez, 2002)	—	0	cirriform, in the last 1-3 chaetigers	6	2-3	bidentate, distal tooth slender, slightly bent, subdistal tooth elongate; no hood	30-50	Tenerife, Canary Islands.	Brito and Núñez (2002); Giere <i>et al.</i> (2008)
* <i>L. duodecimbranchiata</i> Cantone, 1994	3	12	in pre. and bran. cirriform, shorter in the first two chaetigers (from figure)	42	?	acicular spines	42+	Terranova Bay, Antarctica, deep water	Cantone (1994)
<i>L. flava</i> (Strelzov, 1973)	5	3 very short, blunt tip	in pre. and post. very short; in bran. long, cirriform	15	up to 6	sickle-shaped; slightly protruding; well developed hood	55+	Sea of New Guinea, deep water.	Strelzov (1973)
<i>L. gracilis</i> (Tauber, 1879)	4-7	11-15 long, blunt tip	in pre. short, cirriform to digitiform; in bran. longer, and then become thinner and sometimes shorter	20-26	up to 7	hooked, long, slightly curved; strongly protruding; with thickened hood	100	Denmark.	Strelzov (1973); Hartmann-Schröder (1996)
<i>L. gracilis japonica</i> (Imajima, 1973)	8	22 long, acute tip	simple digitate; in bran. they are about a sixth as long as the accompanying branchia	40	5-7	thick, distally curved; without hood	95+	Sagami Bay, Japan.	Imajima (1973)
<i>L. gracilis minuta</i> (Hartmann-Schröder, 1965)	5	8-11 long, acute tip	short, digitiform in all segments; thinner in posterior segments	19	up to 5	acicular, slightly curved, with middle swelling; with hood	48	Punta Topocalma, Chile.	Hartmann-Schröder (1965)
* <i>L. hawaiiensis</i> Giere, Ebbe & Erséus, 2008	—	0	absent	6-7	3	bidentate, long, slender, subdistal tooth much smaller than distal one; no hood	48-52	Honolulu, Hawaii Islands.	Giere <i>et al.</i> (2008)
<i>L. kantauriensis</i> n. sp.	5	5-6 short, blunt tip	in pre. short, rounded tubercles; in bran. longer, digitiform, distally rounded; in post. become again short and rounded; in posterior segments short but thinner, conical	12-16	up to 6	hooked, long, slightly curved; strongly protruding; with thickened hood	20+	Capbreton Canyon.	present paper
<i>L. kirbyae</i> Lovell, 2002	7	13-14 long, acute tip	in pre. papillate; in bran. digitate, becoming shorter in post.	23	up to 8 double row in posterior chaets.	slender and near straight in upper part of bundle; thicker and more curved in lower part;	102+	Andaman Sea.	Lovell (2002)

<i>L. multibranchiata</i> (Hartman, 1957)	5	20-36 very long, blunt tip	in pre. short, tuberculate; on remaining segments very slender, short, cirriform	58	up to 6	acicular, slightly curved; with hood	75	Southern California.	Hartman (1967), Strelzov (1973); Blake (1996)
<i>L. oculata</i> (Hartman, 1957)	5-8	8-11 long, acute tip	in anterior bran. long, well developed; in posterior bran. and anterior post. short, tuberculate; in posterior post. slender, cirriform	15-16	up to 7	hooked, long, slightly curved; without hood	80+	Southern California.	Hartman (1967), Strelzov (1973); Blake (1996)
<i>L. oligobranchiata</i> (Strelzov, 1973)	5-7	up to 9 short, blunt tip	in pre. large, rounded tubercles; in bran. thick, conical truncated, distally rounded; in posterior bran. and post. strongly reduced or not visible	16-18	up to 6	hooked, long, slightly curved; with small hood	65+	Off Japan, deep water.	Strelzov (1973)
<i>L. reducta</i> (Hartman, 1965)	6-7	11-12 short, blunt tip	tuberculate on all segments; in pre. bigger; in bran. shorter; in post. thinner	27-31	4-7	strongly sickle-shaped, recurved; slightly protruding; marked hood	100	Off Dutch Guiana, deep water.	Hartman (1965); Strelzov (1973)
<i>L. uncinata</i> (Hartman, 1965)	—	0	very short, tuberculate on all segments, becoming cirriform towards end	13-18	up to 5	thick, sharply curved, acicular; with hood	55+	Off Bermuda, deep water.	Hartman (1965); Strelzov (1973)

Some specimens with orange-brownish pigmented hooks.

Etymology. The species name refers to the collecting site (Cantabrian Sea = Kantauri Itsasoa, in Basque).

Discussion. With the present new species, the genus *Levinsenia* includes 15 species and 2 subspecies that are considered valid (Table 2). Three *Levinsenia* species [*L. gracilis*, *L. oligobranchiata* (Strelzov, 1973) and *L. oculata* (Hartman, 1957)] are known to have less than 20 pairs of not very short branchiae; first prebranchial segment between segments 4-8; modified neurochaetae hooked, unidentate; and modified capillary chaetae absent. *Levinsenia kantauriensis* n. sp. is similar to *L. gracilis* in size and general shape of branchiae and in the modified neurochaetae. However, they differ mainly because the former has less densely ciliated branchiae than the latter. Moreover, *L. kantauriensis* n. sp. has 5 prebranchial segments, 5-6 branchial pairs and modified neurochaetae appearing mostly from chaetiger 14-16 (4-7, 10-15 and 20-26 in *L. gracilis* respectively).

Levinsenia kantauriensis n. sp. is distinguished from *L. oligobranchiata*, which has shorter branchiae and dorsal lobes on the posterior branchial segments, and modified neurochaetae with very poorly developed pubescence on the convex side of the shaft.

Levinsenia oculata differs from *L. kantauriensis* n. sp. mainly in number, size and shape of branchiae (more numerous, longer and narrower in the former), by the absence of pubescence sheath on the convex side of the shaft of the modified chaetae and by the presence of pigmented spots on the head in *L. oculata*.

Distribution. Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, between 492 and 1113 m depth.

Genus *Cirrophorus* Ehlers, 1908

Cirrophorus branchiatus Ehlers, 1908

(Fig. 6)

Cirrophorus branchiatus, Ehlers, 1908: 124-126, Fig. 5-9.- Day, 1967: 563, Fig. 24.3 A-E.- Laubier, 1966: 469-476.- Glémarec, 1966: 1049-1051, Fig. 1 A.- Strelzov, 1973: 108-111, Fig. 46 A-H.- Campoy, 1981: 21 Fig. 4 A.B.

Material examined. Fifteen specimens from Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Ocean (coordinates in Table 1). CB88/DI12 (3), CB88/DI13 (2), CB88/DI26 (6), CB88/DI31 (1), CB88/DI33 (2), CB89/KF42 (1).

Description. All specimens incomplete, measuring 0.3-0.4 mm wide (up to 0.44 mm).

Discussion. Our specimens agree well with the descriptions by Glémarec (1966) and Strelzov (1973), as they have the prostomium conical with a short club-shaped single antenna, 8-15

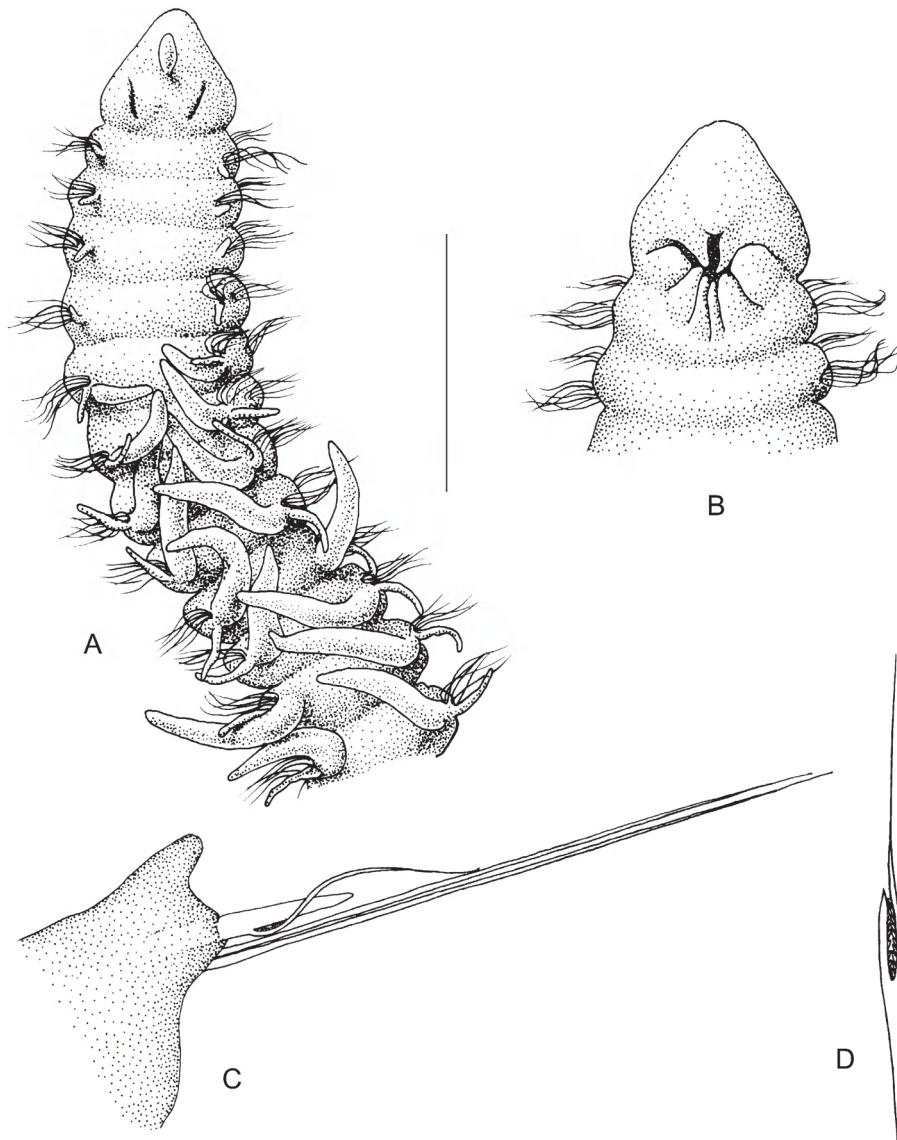


FIG. 6. – *Cirrophorus branchiatus*: A, anterior region, dorsal view; B, anterior region, ventral view; C, notopodium, chaetiger 21; D, lyriform dorsal modified chaeta, chaetiger 5. Scale bar: A 560 μ m; B 450 μ m; C 70 μ m; D 50 μ m.

pairs of ciliated branchiae (l/w mostly between 4–5.5; l = mostly between 0.25–0.35 mm; max. l = 0.39 mm) starting from chaetiger 5, and dorsal modified chaetae from chaetiger 5–7, first lyriform and then acicular with a long lateral filament (from chaetiger 10–13). In the studied specimens the number of branchial pairs is size dependent.

Distribution. North Atlantic, South Africa, California, Mediterranean, Sea of Japan, Red Sea. Between 8 and 2,780 m depth.

Genus *Paraonides* Cerruti, 1909
Paraonides myriamae Katzmann and Laubier, 1975 (Fig. 7)

Paraonides myriamae, Katzmann and Laubier, 1975: 572–575, Fig. 2 A–C.

Material examined. One specimen from Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Ocean (coordinates in Table 1). CB88/DI31.

Description. Specimen incomplete, 6.93 mm long, 0.24 mm wide for 42 chaetigers. Body thin and filiform, with short, wide anterior segments; more moniliform from midbody.

Prostomium conical, with a terminal sensory organ (Fig. 7A). Nuchal organs as a pair of deep nuchal slits in posterior part of prostomium. Posterior buccal lip with longitudinal folds starting from median part of chaetiger 1 (Fig. 7B).

Branchiae and neuropodial postchaetal lobes ab-

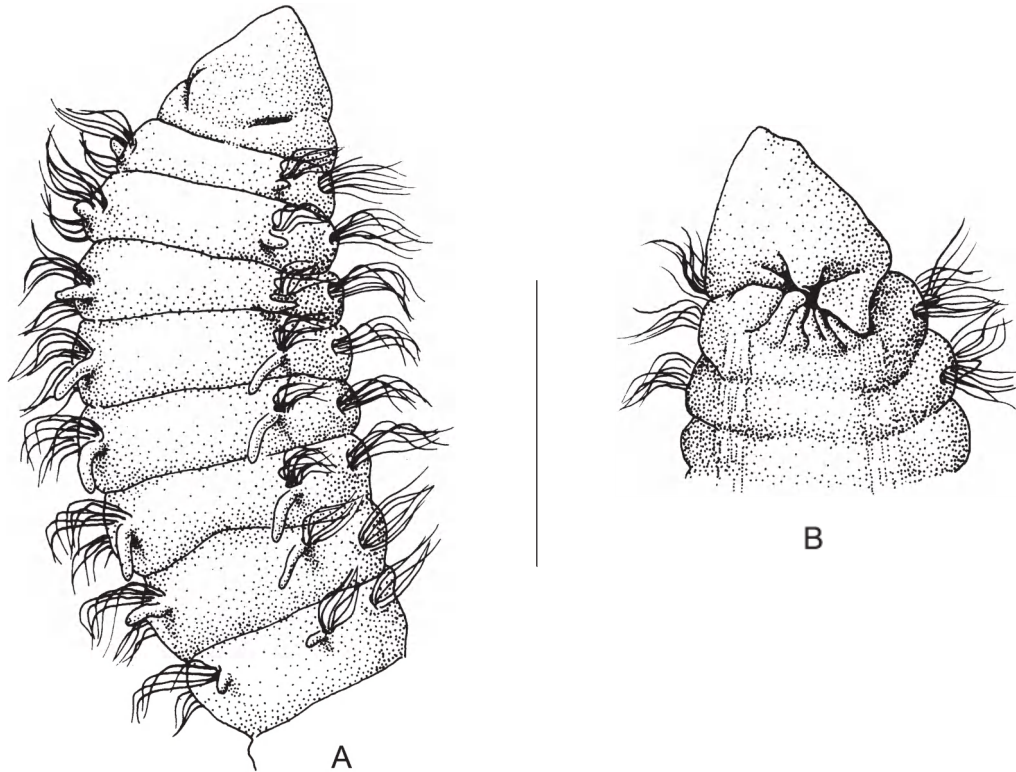


FIG. 7. – *Paraonides myriamae*: A, anterior region, dorsal view; B, anterior region, ventral view. Scale bar: A 265 μ m; B 250 μ m.

sent (Fig. 7A, B).

First notopodial postchaetal lobe very short; 2nd - 3rd slightly longer; 4th - 7th progressively longer; 8th - 42nd shorter, triangular (Fig. 7A).

All chaetae capillaries; dorsal-most neuropodial one in median and posterior segments longer.

Discussion: The specimen agrees well with the description by Katzmann and Laubier (1975).

Distribution. Adriatic, Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, 505 to 512 m depth. First record for the Atlantic.

Genus *Paradoneis* Hartman, 1965

Paradoneis armata Glémarec, 1966

Paradoneis armata, Glémarec, 1966: 1046-1049, Figs 1 B-C; 2 A-C.- Laubier, 1972: 259-262, Fig. 1A-C.
Cirrophorus armatus, Strelzov, 1973: 111-113, Fig. 47 A-E.

Material examined. One specimen from Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Ocean (coordinates in Table 1). CB89/DI66.

Description. Specimen incomplete, 4.47 mm long, 0.3 mm wide (branchial region) for 47 chaetigers. Prostomium conical, narrowing distally. 17 branchial pairs starting from chaetiger 4 (l/w

between 3.75-4; max. l = 0.16 mm). First segments with modified notochaetae lyriform; with typical acicular chaetae from chaetiger 16.

Discussion. Finding this species in the bathyal region of the Capbreton Canyon seems to confirm the deep-water record made by Amoureux (1982), who reported the species from the continental slope off Brittany, at 1200 meters.

Distribution. Northeast Atlantic (down to 1200 m depth), Mediterranean (10 to 180 m depth), Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay (1026 to 1036 m depth).

Paradoneis drachi Laubier and Ramos, 1974 (Fig. 8)

Paradoneis drachi, Laubier and Ramos, 1974: 1099-1102, Fig. 1 A-D.- Katzmann and Laubier, 1975: 569.

Material examined. One specimen from Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Ocean (coordinates in Table 1). CB88/DI37.

Description. Specimen incomplete, 3.5 mm long, 0.22 mm wide (branchial region) for 41 chaetigers.

Prostomium conical, as long as wide. Median antenna absent (Fig. 8A). One pair of nuchal organs as

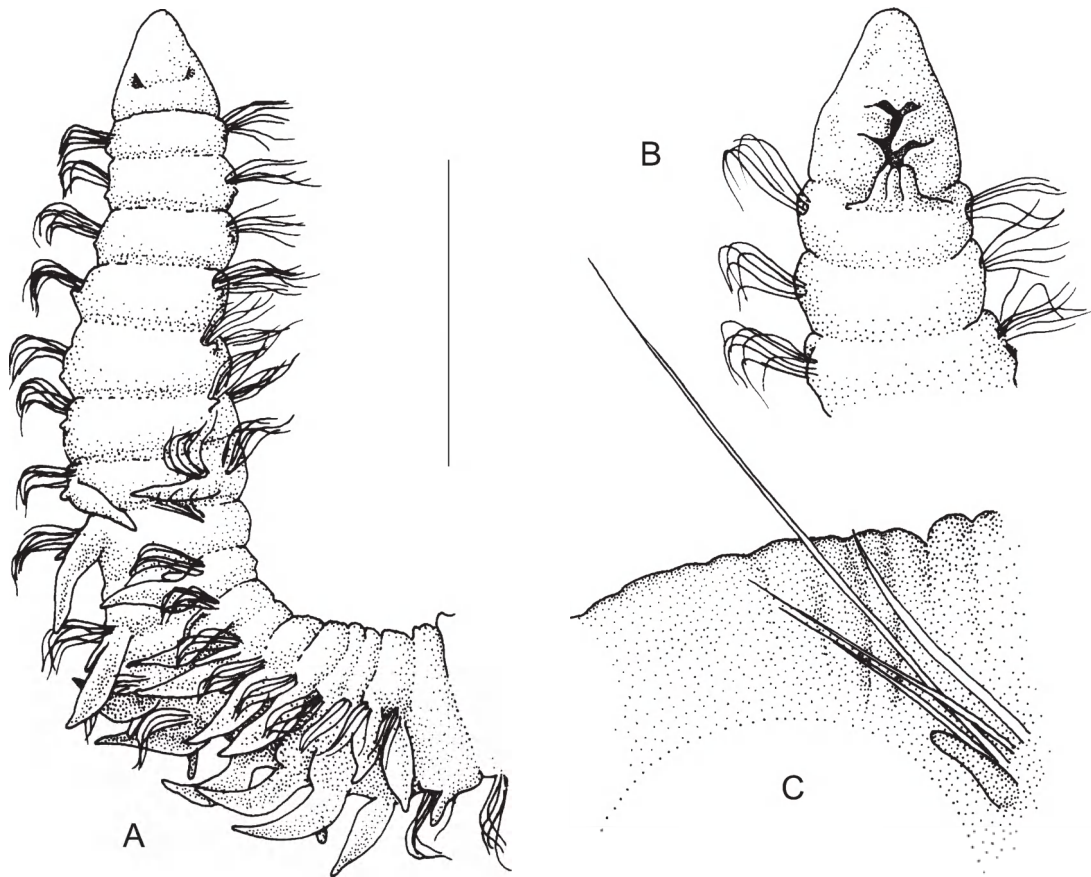


FIG. 8. – *Paradoneis drachi*: A, anterior region, dorsal view; B, anterior region, ventral view; C, notopodium, chaetiger 36. Scale bar: A 405 μm ; B 265 μm ; C 65 μm .

slits in posterior part of prostomium. Posterior buccal lip with longitudinal folds starting from anterior part of chaetiger 1 (Fig. 8B).

Branchiae, 10 pairs, wide, distally pointed, present from chaetiger 7 (l/w between 3.25–3.7; max. l = 0.13 mm); first and last pairs shorter (Fig. 8A).

Prebranchial notopodial postchaetal lobes short, ovoid; branchial long, cirriform; postbranchial short, triangular. Neuropodial postchaetal lobes absent (Fig. 8B).

From chaetiger 36, 1–2 notopodial modified chaetae, acicular, straight, ending in a smooth point (Fig. 8C).

Discussion. *Paradoneis spinifera* (Hobson, 1972) and *Paradoneis drachi* are characterized by having smooth acicular spines as modified notopodial chaetae, but differ in number of prebranchial chaetigers (4–5 and 6 respectively). Although Blake (1996) stated that both species could be the same, the specimen from Capbreton agrees well with the description of Laubier and Ramos (1974) and is here considered as *P. drachi*.

Distribution. Western Mediterranean – Rosas Bay, 115 m depth, Adriatic, 525 to 530 m depth. Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, 508 to 576 m depth. First record for the Atlantic.

***Paradoneis eliasoni* Mackie, 1991**
(Fig. 9)

Paradoneis eliasoni, Mackie, 1991: 152–154, Fig. 3B–C, 4 A–F, Fig. 5, Table 2.

Material examined. 3 specimens from Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Ocean (coordinates in Table 1). CB88/DI19 (1), CB88/DI26 (1), CB89/KF57 (1).

Description. Two anterior fragments and one almost complete specimen, 0.21–0.27 mm wide, 2.8–5.9 mm long for 28–55 chaetigers. Body slender, cylindrical, coiled when preserved.

Prostomium conical, rather longer than wide (Fig. 9A). Pair of nuchal organs as deep nuchal slits. Posterior buccal lip with two large tongue-shaped folds starting from buccal segment, and several narrower, longitudinal folds starting from first chaetiger (Fig. 9B).

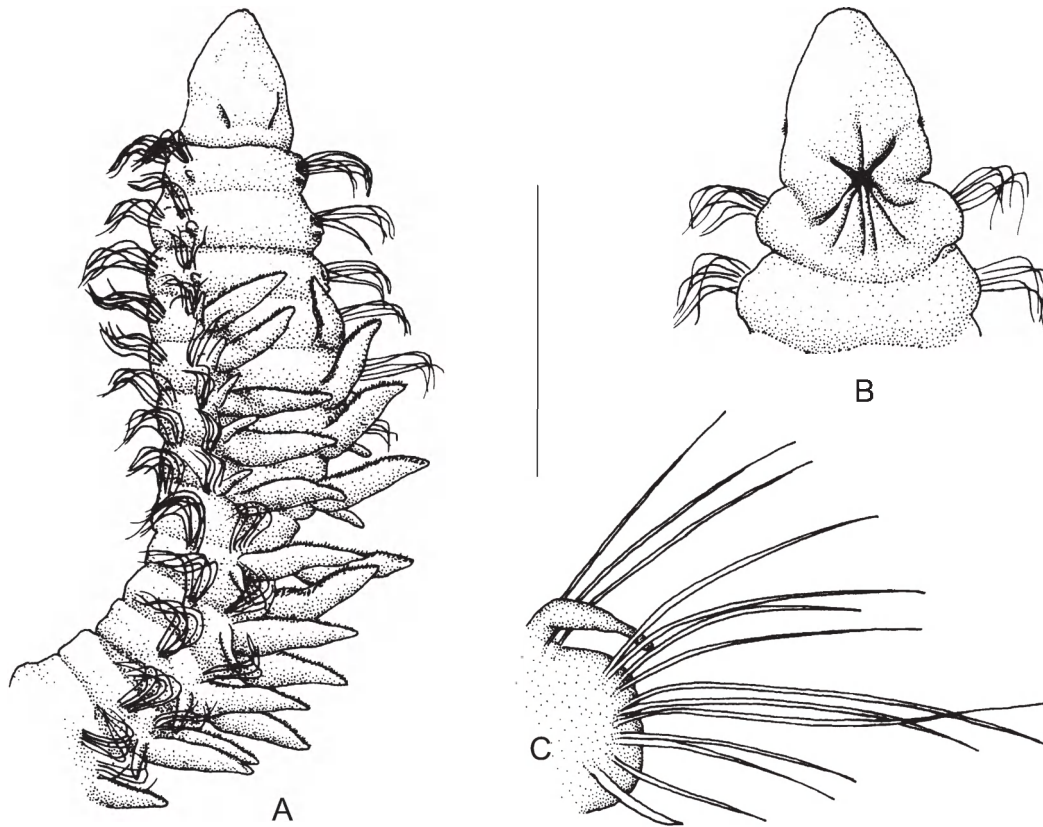


FIG. 9. – *Paradoneis eliasoni*: A, anterior region, dorsolateral view; B, anterior region, ventral view; C, parapodium, chaetiger 50. Scale bar: A 405 μ m; B 365 μ m; C 110 μ m.

First three notopodial postchaetal lobes short, rounded tubercles; on branchial region, more than two times longer, digitiform, distally rounded (Fig. 9A); on postbranchial region, similar in length but slightly more slender and pointed.

Branchiae from chaetiger 4, 10 pairs, ciliated, wide, foliaceous, distally pointed (l/w mostly between 3.3 and 4; l = mostly between 0.11 and 0.16 mm; max. l = 0.16 mm).

Anterior dorsal and ventral chaetae as limbated capillaries; with 1-3 lyriform notopodial chaetae with tines similar in thickness but differing in length, with inner edges spinulate, present from chaetiger 4-8, absent in many chaetigers; with a single ventral curved neuropodial hook on posterior segments (Fig. 9C).

Discussion. The studied specimens agree well with the description by Mackie (1991).

Distribution. Ørensund, Skagerrak, North Sea, Barents Sea. 110 to 681 m depth. Bay of Biscay. 952 to 1029 m depth, which confirms that *P. eliasoni* is also a deep-water species (Mackie, 1991).

***Paradoneis bathyilvana* n. sp.**
(Figs. 10 and 11)

Material examined. Three specimens from Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Ocean (coordinates in Table 1). CB88/DI33 (1), CB88/DI37: Holotype (MNCN 16.01/11202) and one paratype (MNCN 16.01/11203).

Description. Only one complete specimen; 0.15-0.19 mm wide. Holotype maximum width (in branchial region) 0.17 mm, 7.5 mm long for 66 chaetigers. Body long, cylindrical, slightly widened anteriorly, slender and moniliform from midbody.

Prostomium conical, rather longer than wide, distally rounded (Fig. 10A, 11B). One pair of nuchal organs as deep slits; behind them, each lateral side of peristomium brown coloured. Posterior buccal lip with longitudinal folds starting from chaetiger 1 (Fig. 10B).

Notopodial postchaetal lobes short, conical, of similar size, long and filiform in last chaetigers (Fig. 10A, 11B). Neuropodial postchaetal lobes absent (Fig. 10B).

Branchiae starting from chaetiger 5, 7-8 pairs, cylindrical, distally rounded (l/w mostly between 3

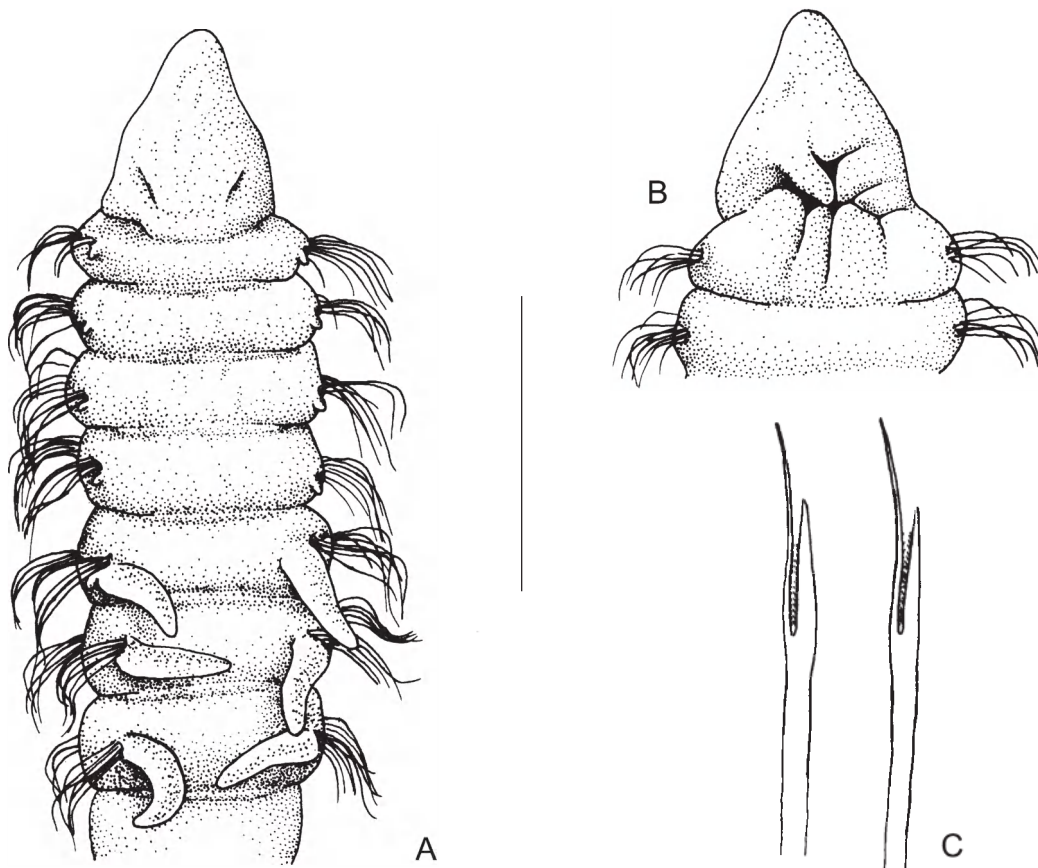


FIG. 10. – *Paradoneis bathyilvana* n. sp.: A, anterior region, dorsal view; B, anterior region, ventral view; C, lyriform dorsal modified chaetae, chaetigers 14 and 24. Scale bar: A 260 μ m; B 225 μ m; C 40 μ m.

and 3.5; l = mostly between 0.07 and 0.11 mm; max. l = 0.11 mm) (Fig. 10A, 11A,B).

Notopodial modified lyriform chaetae starting from chaetiger 5, numbering 2-3, with both tines of similar thickness but unequal length, one longer with thin filamentous tip, inner edges spinulate; one tine becoming much thicker and robust from chaetiger 10-11 (Fig. 10C, 11C). All other chaetae capillary, ventral ones finer and longer than dorsal ones.

Pygidium with three anal cirri of similar size: two dorso-lateral and one mid-ventral.

Etymology. The name of the species refers to its similarity to *Paradoneis ilvana*, combined with its different bathymetrical range.

Discussion. With the species described in the present paper, the genus *Paradoneis* includes 17 described species and 2 subspecies (Table 3). *Paradoneis bathyilvana* n. sp. is similar to *Paradoneis ilvana* Castelli, 1985, but is smaller and has fewer branchial pairs (7-8 vs. 11-13 respectively) starting at chaetiger 5 instead of 4.

Distribution. Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, between 492 and 576 m depth.

***Paradoneis mikeli* n. sp.**
(Figs. 12 and 13)

? *Paradoneis lyra*, Katzmann and Laubier, 1975: 569-572, Fig. 1 A-C (in part).

Material examined. 96 specimens from Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Ocean (coordinates in Table 1). CB88/DI12 (3), CB88/DI13 (1), CB88/DI26 (2), CB88/DI31: Holotype (MNCN 16.01/11204), one paratype (MNCN 16.01/11205), two paratypes (INSUB POL 332) and 82 specimens, CB88/DI33 (3), CB89/KF45 (1).

Description. Only three complete specimens, 0.19-0.58 mm wide. Holotype maximum width (in branchial region) 0.33 mm, 13.31 mm long for 66 chaetigers. Body long, anteriorly wider, cylindrical, becoming slender moniliform from midbody.

Prostomium conical, distally rounded (Fig. 12A, 13B). Pair of nuchal organs as deep nuchal slits, with peristomium lateral brownish coloured behind. Posterior buccal lip with 4-5 narrower longitudinal folds starting at chaetiger 1 (Fig. 12B).

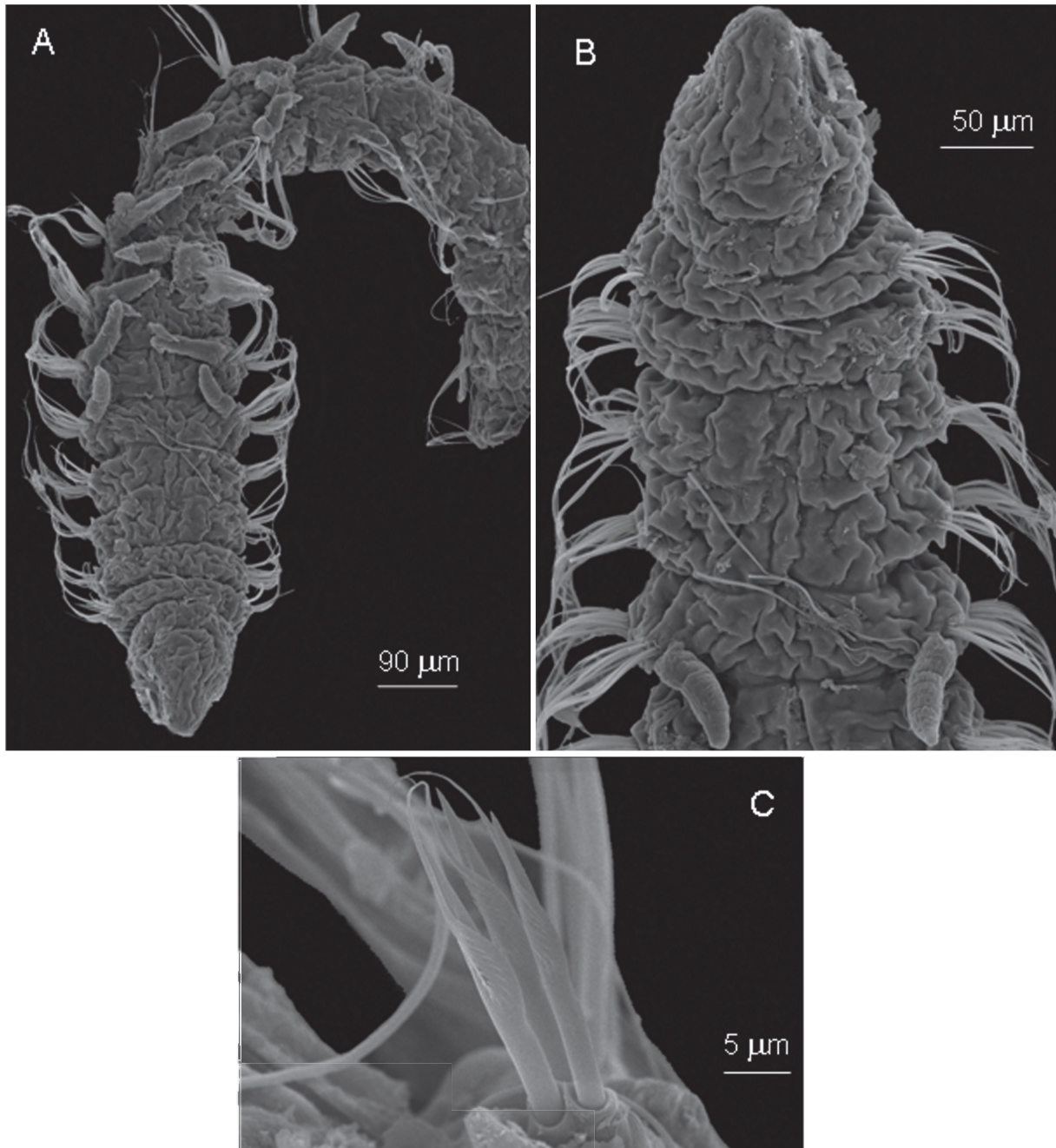


FIG. 11. – *Paradoneis bathylvana* n. sp.: A, dorsal view; B, anterior region, dorsal view; C, lyriform dorsal modified chaetae, posterior chaetiger. Scale bar: A 90 μ m; B 50 μ m; C 5 μ m.

First four notopodial postchaetal lobes (pre-branchial) short, conical-triangular, lengthening up to chaetiger 4; from chaetiger 5 (first branchial) longer, digitiform to slightly shorter, triangular in postbranchial region (Fig. 12F, 13D); longer, thinner, cirriform when posterior-most (Fig. 12C). Neuropodial postchaetal lobes absent (Fig. 12B).

Branchiae from chaetiger 5, up to 12 pairs in largest individuals, cylindrical, distally rounded,

always shorter than interbranchial width (l/w mostly between 3-4; l = mostly between 0.07 and 0.11 mm; max. l = 0.12 mm) (Fig. 12A, 13A-C).

Postbranchial segments triannulated, with one mid-dorsal fold (Fig. 12F, 13D).

Notopodial modified lyriform chaetae from chaetiger 4-6, 2-4 all along median and posterior region, decreasing in posterior-most segments, absent from 2-3 posterior-most chaetigers; both tines similarly thick, one short, one long with thin filamentous tip,

TABLE 3. – List of species in the genus *Paradoneis* with some comparative morphological characters. Species considered by some authors as being a junior synonym of *P. armata*.

	Prebranc. chaetig. (n)	Branchiae (pairs, tip)	Branchial length	Notopodial lobes of prebranchial, branchial, and postbranchial segments	Shape of notochaetae	Modified notochaetae (chaetiger)	Acicular neurochaetae (chaetiger)	Anal cirri	Chaetigers (n)	Type locality	Source
<i>P. abbranchiata</i> Hartman, 1965	0	—	—	inconspicuous in the anterior region; as long as the shortest chaetae in the posterior region	forked (lyrate)	7-17	?	?	75	Northwestern Atlantic Ocean, deep water	Hartman (1965); Strelzov (1973)
<i>P. armata</i> Glémarec, 1966	3	17-18 blunt	less than segment width	in pre. small; in bran. at most one fourth of branchial length, and reduced at the posterior bran.; in post. very small	forked (lyrate, acicular)	3-10 lyrate 17-18 acicular	—	3, long	95-140	Bretagne, Atlantic coast of France	Glémarec (1966)
<i>P. bathyilvana</i> n. sp.	4	7-8 blunt	equals distance between branchial bases	in pre. and bran. short, conical, similar size; in last chaetigers long and filiform	forked (lyrate)	5	—	3	66	Cape of Good Hope, deep water	present paper
<i>P. brumnea</i> (Hartmann-Schröder and Rosenfeldt, 1988)	3	12 blunt	less than segment width	in pre. small, oval, smallest in setiger 1; in bran. become longer, digitiform; in post. shorter again, being short digitiform to long oval	forked (lyrate)	3	?	?	26+	Joinville, Antarctica	Hartmann- Schröder and Rosenfeldt (1988)
<i>P. drachi</i> Laubier and Ramos, 1974	6	8 pointed	almost as long as segment width	in pre. short; in bran. very developed, shorter in the first, more than half of the branchia in the following; in post. become shorter, but longer than in pre.	spines	30	—	3, long	55	Bay of Roses, Spanish Mediterranean	Laubier and Ramos (1974)
<i>P. elixsoni</i> Mackie, 1991	3	6-12 acutely pointed	equals distance between branchial bases	in pre. low, tuberculate, increasing from chaetiger 1 to 3, digitiform from chaetiger 4 and in all bran. and post. regions, not decreasing in size, longer in posterior chaetigers	forked (lyrate)	4-8	in the posterior 25-35 neuropodia	3, long	38-97	Skagerrak	Mackie (1991)
<i>P. forticirrata</i> (Strelzov, 1973)	3	15-17 normally blunt	little less than segment width	in pre. massive; in bran. same length or shorter, thinner, gradually becoming longer; in post. long, cirriform, become shorter and in preanal segs. longer again	forked (lyrate)	4-6	—	3	up to 104	Pacific Ocean, deep water	Strelzov (1973)
* <i>P. harpagonea</i> Storch, 1967	3	10 round	about two thirds the segment's height (from figure)	in pre. and bran. not described or figured; in the last segments are long and filiform	forked (lyrate, acicular, harpoonlike)	3 lyrate 12 acicular later harpoonlike	—	3, + 1 pair of dorsal cirri of reduced segment	?	Red Sea	Storch (1967)
<i>P. ilvana</i> Castelli, 1985	3	8-13 rounded	slightly less than interbranchial width	in pre. and bran. short, rounded; in post. become longer, conical to triangular	forked (lyrate, acicular)	5-8 lyrate 12-13 acicular	—	3	50-80	Elba Island, Italy	Castelli (1985); Aguirrezabalaga and Gil (2008)

<i>P. juvenilis</i> (Hartmann-Schröder, 1974)	3	1 rounded	longer than segment width	in pre. and bran. absent; in post. present only in the last 2 chaetigers, filiform	forked (acicular)	4	—	3, + 2 pairs of dorsal cirri of reduced segs.	36	Umkomaas, South Africa	Hartmann- Schröder (1974)
<i>P. lyra</i> (Southern, 1914)	3	3-12 (14) blunt	equals distance between branchial bases	digitiform, increasing in length in pre. and of similar length in bran.; short after bran. digitiform to triangular, than longer, cirriform only in last chaets.	forked (lyrate)	1-6 (normally 3-4)	—	3, short	33-106	Ballynakill Harbour, Ireland	Mackie (1991)
<i>P. lyra capensis</i> (Day, 1955)	3	11-14 blunt	length equals two thirds the segmental width	in pre. not visible, minute; in chaet. 8 as minute papillae, increasing in size; in post. increasing in size; prominent digitiform in posterior segs.	forked (lyrate)	last few branchial segments	?	?	80	Knysna Estuary, South Africa	Day (1955, 1967)
<i>P. lyra guadalupensis</i> (Amoureux, 1985)	3	11-17	longer than segment width	in pre. oval, short; in bran. twice the length of the first 3; in post. equals the bran., except in the last 4-5 chaets. (not stated, but probably longer)	forked (lyrate)	3	?	?	30-100+	Manche-à-Eau, Guadeloupe	Amoureux (1985)
<i>P. magdalenaensis</i> (León-González, Hernández-Guevara and Rodríguez- Valencia, 2006)	4	10	last pairs equal distance between branchial bases; first ones shorter	short in pre.; long and thin in bran.; decreasing in post.	forked (acicular)	6	—	2 pairs of different size	53+	Magdalena Bay, Mexico	León-González <i>et al.</i> (2006)
<i>P. mikeli</i> n. sp.	4	up to 12 rounded	less than interbranchial width	in pre. short, conical-triangular, increasing in length; in bran. become longer, digitiform; in post., slightly shorter, triangular, becoming longer, thinner and cirriform in last segs.	forked (lyrate, acicular)	4-6	—	3	66	Capbreton Canyon, deep water	present paper
<i>P. nipponica</i> Imajima, 1973	3	23-26 blunt	slightly less than segment width	in pre. short, digitate; in bran. one eighth the length of the branchiae; in post. diminish to a small cone	forked (lyrate)	2	—	3	164	Aburatsubo Bay, Japan	Imajima (1973)
<i>P. peridonaensis</i> (McLelland and Gaston, 1994)	3	3-4 blunt	as long as segment width	in pre. short, tuberculate; in bran. prominent and uniform in length in chaets. 4-9; in post. progressively longer towards end of body, beginning at 3-5 chaets. to end	forked (lyrate)	3	—	3, + 3 pairs of dorsal cirri of reduced segs.	30-42	Perdido Key, Florida	McLelland and Gaston (1994)
<i>P. perkinsi</i> (McLelland and Gaston, 1994)	3	3-4 blunt	as long as segment width	in pre. and bran. absent or reduced, to small indistinct tubercles; in post. well developed in the last 2 chaets.	forked (acicular)	2	—	3, + 3 pairs of dorsal cirri of reduced segs.	23-37	Perdido Key, Florida	McLelland and Gaston (1994)
<i>P. spinifera</i> (Hobson, 1972)	4-5	12-20 tapering	as long as segment width	in pre. small and tuberculate, being the 5th cirriform; in bran. cirriform; in post. cirriform, becoming longer in far posterior segs.	spines	median segments	—	3	72	Puget Sound, Pacific USA	Hobson (1972)

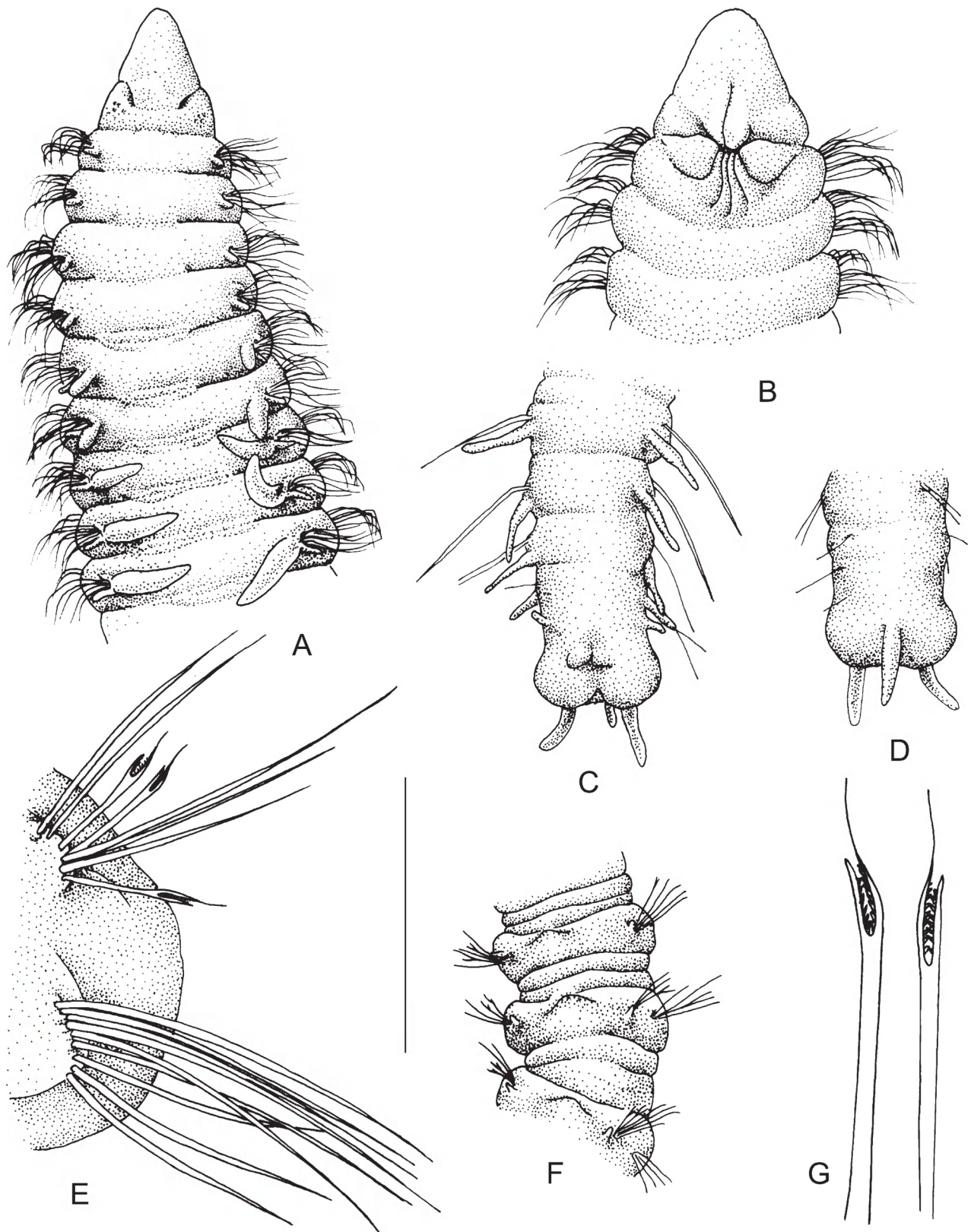


FIG. 12. – *Paradoneis mikeli* n. sp.: A, anterior region, dorsal view; B, anterior region, ventral view; C, posterior end, dorsal view; D, posterior end, ventral view; E, parapodium, chaetiger 31; F, postbranchial region, chaetigers 17-19, showing mid-dorsal folds; G, lyriform dorsal modified chaetae, chaetiger 31. Scale bar: A 590 μ m; B 325 μ m; C 250 μ m; D 250 μ m; E 100 μ m; F 500 μ m; G 40 μ m.

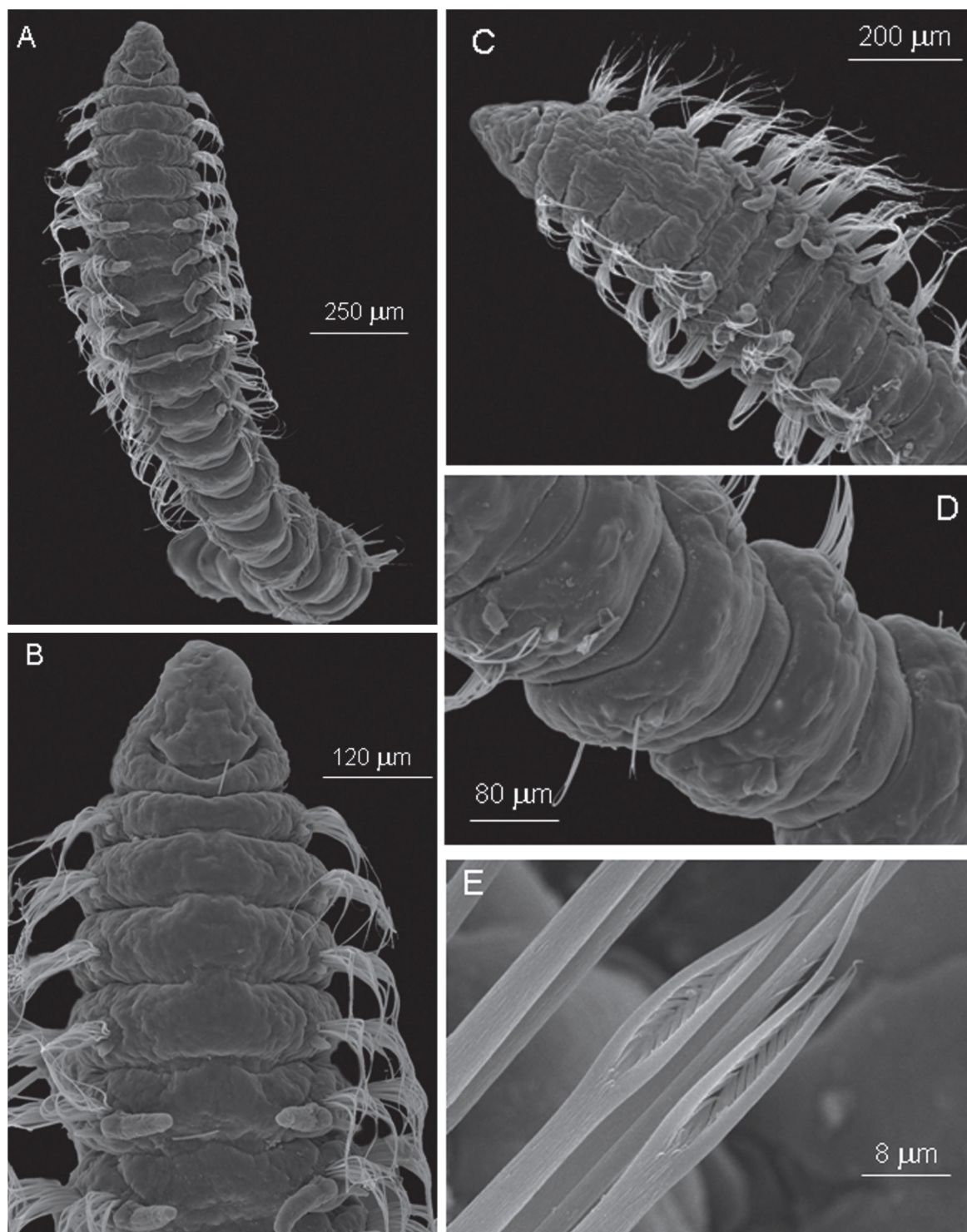


FIG. 13. – *Paradoneis mikeli* n. sp.: A, dorsal view; B, anterior region, dorsal view; C, anterior region, dorsal view; D, postbranchial region, dorsal view, showing mid-dorsal folds; E, posterior modified neurochaetae. Scale bar: A 250 μm ; B 120 μm ; C 200 μm ; D 80 μm ; E 8 μm .

both with inner edges spinulate (Fig. 12E,G, 13E). All other chaetae capillary.

Pygidium with two big spherical lobes, anus opening dorsally, and two mid-lateral cirri and one mid-ventral cirrus similar in size (Fig. 12C, D).

Etymology. This species is fondly dedicated to Mikel Agirrezabalaga Arraras.

Discussion. *Paradoneis mikeli* n. sp. is compared with other species of the genus in Table 3. The

specimens are very similar to *Paradoneis lyra*, but differ in having branchiae starting from chaetiger 5, with the single exception of the right side of one specimen, where they start at chaetiger 4 (Fig. 13C). *Paradoneis lyra* always has the branchiae starting at chaetiger 4 according to Mackie (1991), who re-described the species. However, this is not the case in some deep-water records of *Paradoneis lyra*, in which branchiae were reported to start at chaetiger 5. Pettibone (1963), in a collection of specimens from 1 to 1060 fathoms depth (1.8 to 1939 m), reported branchiae starting at chaetigers 4-5. In turn, all specimens collected by Amoureux (1982) from 500 to 2,000 m depth had branchiae starting at chaetiger 5, and Katzman and Laubier (1975) collected Mediterranean specimens with branchiae starting both at chaetigers 4 (40% of individuals) and 5 (60% of individuals) from 20 to 760 m depth. Although in some of the reported cases it is not possible to determine the exact bathymetric distribution of the two forms, we suggest that the form with 4 prebranchial chaetigers could be of deeper origin, thus corresponding to the new species described here.

Furthermore, branchiae are short (body width/branchial length >1.4 in most of the specimens), always shorter in *P. mikeli* n. sp. than in *P. lyra*, and never approximately equal to distance between branchial bases (Mackie, 1991). In addition, the typical subdermal brown eyes of *P. lyra* are absent in *P. mikeli* n. sp., and the number of lyriform chaetae is maintained until the last preanal segment (3-4 in the postbranchial region). Other differences are the presence of a fold in the mid-dorsum of the postbranchial segments and the bilobed pygidium with ventrally opening anus in *P. lyra* (Katzmann and Laubier, 1975), compared to dorsally opening in *P. mikeli* n. sp.

Paradoneis mikeli n. sp. is like *P. bathyilvana* n. sp., another deep-sea species, in having 4 prebranchial chaetigers.

Distribution. ? Mediterranean, ? Adriatic, ? off northeast America, ? off Brittany. Capbreton Canyon (Bay of Biscay), 492 to 1113 m depth.

Genus *Aricidea* Webster, 1879
Subgenus *Allia* Strelzov, 1973

Remarks. *Aricidea* (*Allia*) *mediterranea* (Laubier and Ramos, 1974), is a Mediterranean species mainly characterized by having branchiae from chaetiger

5, (like *Aricidea facilis* Strelzov, 1973 and *Aedicira oregonensis* Fauchald and Hancock, 1981) and by a short Y-shaped median antenna, which, according to Laubier and Ramos (1974), may be replaced by a shorter, smaller simple one that was considered a regenerated form. However, after collecting several more specimens between 275 and 540 m depth in the Adriatic, Katzmann and Laubier (1975) stated "... il faut noter les ressemblances de cette espèce avec *Aricidea* (*Allia*) *facilis* Strelzov, 1973,... *A. facilis* ne possède cependant ni antenne bifurquée, ni lobes neuropodieux".

In the present samples (as well as in others from the continental slope off Galicia), we found several individuals that agree well with the second form of *A. mediterranea* (i.e., with simple, short and distally inflated, club-shaped antenna).

In turn, there is a unique species of *Aricidea*, *A. (Allia) monicae*, which is characterized by its peculiar interparapodial small digitiform lobes, regularly cylindrical and distally rounded, present in some anterior segments and its very short, cylindrical, distally rounded antenna (Laubier, 1967). *A. monicae* was again collected from the French Mediterranean continental shelf (Guille, 1970), and also from Mediterranean bathyal depths (Carpine, 1970), during the Polymède mission (Laubier and Ramos, 1974), in the Bay of Rosas (Desbruyères *et al.*, 1972) and in the Adriatic (Katzmann and Laubier, 1975). However, it has always been described as having a short, simple, cirriform median antenna (Gaston and McLelland, 1996).

In our samples, 12 specimens from Capbreton (as well as several more from the continental slope off Galicia) agree well with the description of *A. monicae*. However, one individual, non-distinguishable from *A. monicae* in most relevant characters, had a bifurcated median antenna very similar to that of *Aricidea mediterranea* and *Aricidea* (*Aricidea*) *petacalcoensis* León-González, Hernández-Guevara and Rodríguez-Valencia, 2006.

Therefore, *Aricidea monicae*, like *Aricidea mediterranea*, also seemed to have two forms, the predominant one being that with a simple antenna (as our finding is the first reported with bifurcated antenna found). This finding also suggests that the simple antenna may not be the result of a regeneration as stated by Laubier and Ramos (1974).

Due to the taxonomic importance of the antenna in the Paraonidae, we have considered each form as a different species: *Aricidea* (*Allia*) *monicae* Laubier, 1967 and *Aricidea* (*Allia*) *sardai* n. sp. (with simple

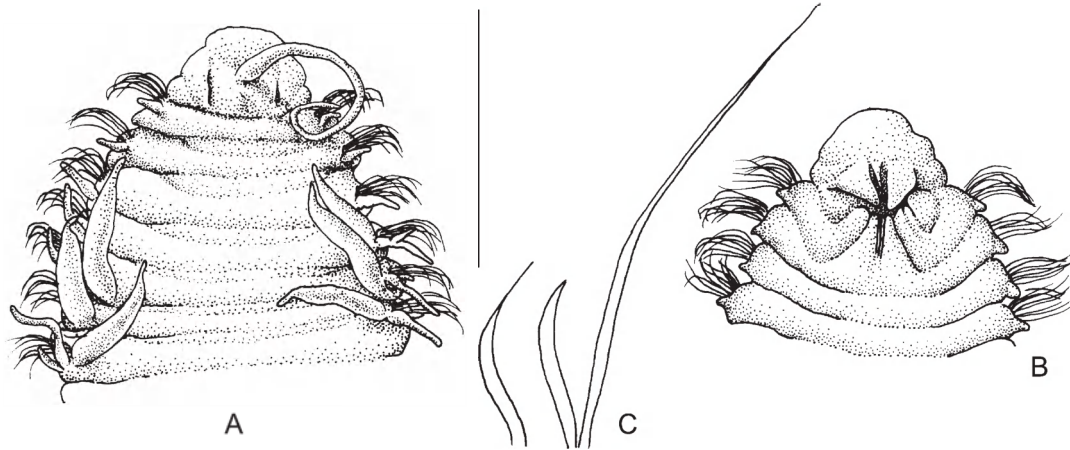


FIG. 14. — *Aricidea (Allia) antennata*: A, anterior region, dorsal view; B, anterior region, ventral view; C, modified ventral chaetae, chaetiger 39. Scale bar: A 820 μ m; B 850 μ m; C 60 μ m.

antenna) and *Aricidea (Allia) mediterranea* (Laubier and Ramos, 1974) and *Aricidea (Allia) bifurcata* n. sp. (with bifurcated antenna).

***Aricidea (Allia) antennata* Annenkova, 1934**
(Figs 14 and 19A-B)

Aricidea antennata, Annenkova, 1934: 658, Figs. 1C, 2, 3B.
Aricidea (Allia) antennata, Blake, 1996: 48-50, Fig. 2.10 A-C.
Aedicira antennata, Hartman, 1969: 51-52, Figs. 1-4.
Aricidea uschakovi, Uschakov, 1955: 287, Fig. 103 D-I. Imajima, 1973: 256-258, Fig. 1 A-K. Not Zachs, 1925.
Aricidea longicornuta, Berkeley and Berkeley, 1950: 53-55, Fig. 2.
Aricidea (Allia) quadrilobata, Strelzov, 1973: 88-91, Fig. 37 A-D (in part). Not Webster and Benedict, 1887.

Material examined. 13 specimens from Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Ocean (coordinates in Table 1). CB88/DI12 (4), CB88/DI13 (4), CB88/DI31 (1), CB88/DI33 (2), CB89/DI66 (1), CB89/KF41 (1).

Description. All specimens incomplete, up to 5.8 mm (mostly 2.12-5.56 mm) long, 1.01 mm (mostly 0.6-1.04 mm) wide for 39 (mostly 15-33) chaetigers. Body anteriorly enlarged, dorsoventrally flattened, dark brown.

Prostomium anteriorly rounded, trilobed, slightly wider than long, with median antenna long, slender, starting on mid-prostomium (Fig. 14A, 19A).

First two notopodial postchaetal lobes digitiform, becoming much longer, cirriform, from chaetiger 3 (Fig. 14A, 19A), to long, thin, filiform in posterior region; from first branchial segment, and in the following 7-8 chaetigers, notopodial postchaetal lobes biramous, with ventral branch much shorter (Fig. 19B). First 15-25 neuropodial postchaetal lobes well developed; prebranchial ones large, rounded, inflated (Fig. 14B), becoming progressively thinner, cirriform (Fig. 19B).

Branchiae starting at chaetiger 4, up to 15 pairs,

cylindrical, with distal end filiform (l/w mostly between 4 and 5.5; l = mostly between 0.25 and 0.38 mm; max. l = 0.39 mm) (Fig. 14A, 19A, B); posterior ones shorter.

Modified ventral chaetae of three types: simple, with filiform tip; and very long, curved aciculars with bristles on convex edge, with and without filiform tips (Fig. 14C).

Discussion. *Aricidea quadrilobata* Webster and Benedict, 1887 was first collected on the North American Atlantic coast. Since then, several similar species have been described: *A. uschakovi* Zachs, 1925, *A. antennata*, and *A. longicornuta* Berkeley and Berkeley, 1950 in the Pacific, and *A. annae* Laubier, 1967 in the Mediterranean. According to Strelzov (1973) all of them, except for *A. uschakovi*, should be considered as *A. quadrilobata* (including the most recent records of *A. uschakovi*). *A. quadrilobata* has biramous notopodial postchaetal lobes in the branchial region (Strelzov, 1973), a typical character of large individuals (width >0.6 mm). Conversely, Blake (1996) stated that *A. antennata* (from Pacific coasts) and *A. quadrilobata* (from Atlantic coasts) were different, the latter being characterized by a wide prostomium and simple notopodial postchaetal lobes, and the former by an anteriorly truncated prostomium, apparently trilobed, and biramous notopodial postchaetal lobes. All the specimens from Capbreton Canyon agree with *A. antennata*.

Distribution. Eastern Pacific, from Canada to southern California; Western Pacific, Japan, Sea of Okhotsk. Capbreton Canyon (Bay of Biscay). 492 to 1113 m depth. First record to the Atlantic.

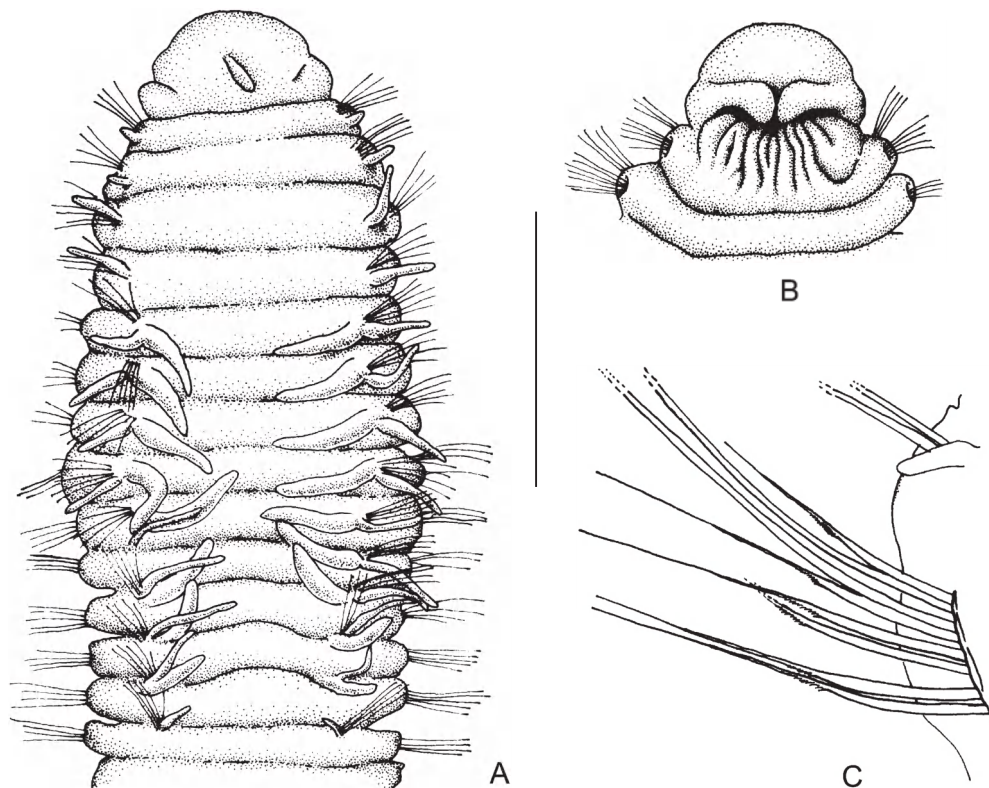


FIG. 15. – *Aricidea (Allia) sardai* n. sp. Holotype (MNCN 16.01/11206): A, anterior region, dorsal view; B, anterior region, ventral view; C, parapodium, chaetiger 67. Scale bar: A 415 μ m; B 410 μ m; C 95 μ m.

***Aricidea (Allia) sardai* n. sp.**
(Fig. 15)

? *Aedicira mediterranea*, Laubier and Ramos, 1974: 1134–1138 (in part).

Material examined. Two specimens from Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Ocean (coordinates in Table 1). CB89/KF50: Holotype (MNCN 16.01/11206) and one paratype (INSUB POL 333).

Description. All specimens incomplete. Holotype maximum width (in branchial region) 0.52 mm, 7 mm long for 67 chaetigers; paratype 4.3 mm long, 0.44 mm wide for 57 chaetigers. Body dorsoventrally flattened.

Prostomium wide, anteriorly rounded. A pair of nuchal organs as slits. Median antenna short, club-shaped, on mid-prostomium, non-reaching its posterior margin (Fig. 15A). Posterior buccal lip with several longitudinal folds from anterior margin of chaetiger 1 (Fig. 15B).

Branchiae starting at chaetiger 5, 8–9 pairs, cirriform, rather short, distally blunt (l/w mostly between 4 and 5; l = mostly between 0.08 and 0.15 mm; max. l = 0.16 mm) (Fig. 15A); last pair much shorter.

First two notopodial postchaetal lobes digitiform,

becoming larger, cirriform from chaetiger 3 (Fig. 15A), considerably decreasing in size between penultimate branchial and first postbranchial segments, keeping that size in all other segments. Neuropodial postchaetal lobes tuberculated from chaetiger 1 to 15.

Modified ventral chaetae from chaetiger 61, as capillary chaetae attenuated and prolonged in a fine, long distal filament, with a pubescent area at attenuation level (Fig. 15C).

Etymology. This species is named in honour of Rafael Sardá, in recognition of his work on polychaetes of the Mediterranean Sea.

Discussion. With the new species herein described, the total number of taxa in the subgenus *Aricidea (Allia)* increases to 30, including a subspecies (Table 4). *Aricidea (Allia) sardai* n. sp. is closely related to *Aricidea (Allia) facilis*, *Aricidea (Allia) mediterranea* and *Aedicira oregonensis*, and all have branchiae starting from chaetiger 5. The new species differs from *A. facilis* in that it has neuropodial postchaetal lobes (from chaetiger 1 to 25), chaetiger 2 is not part of the posterior buccal lip,

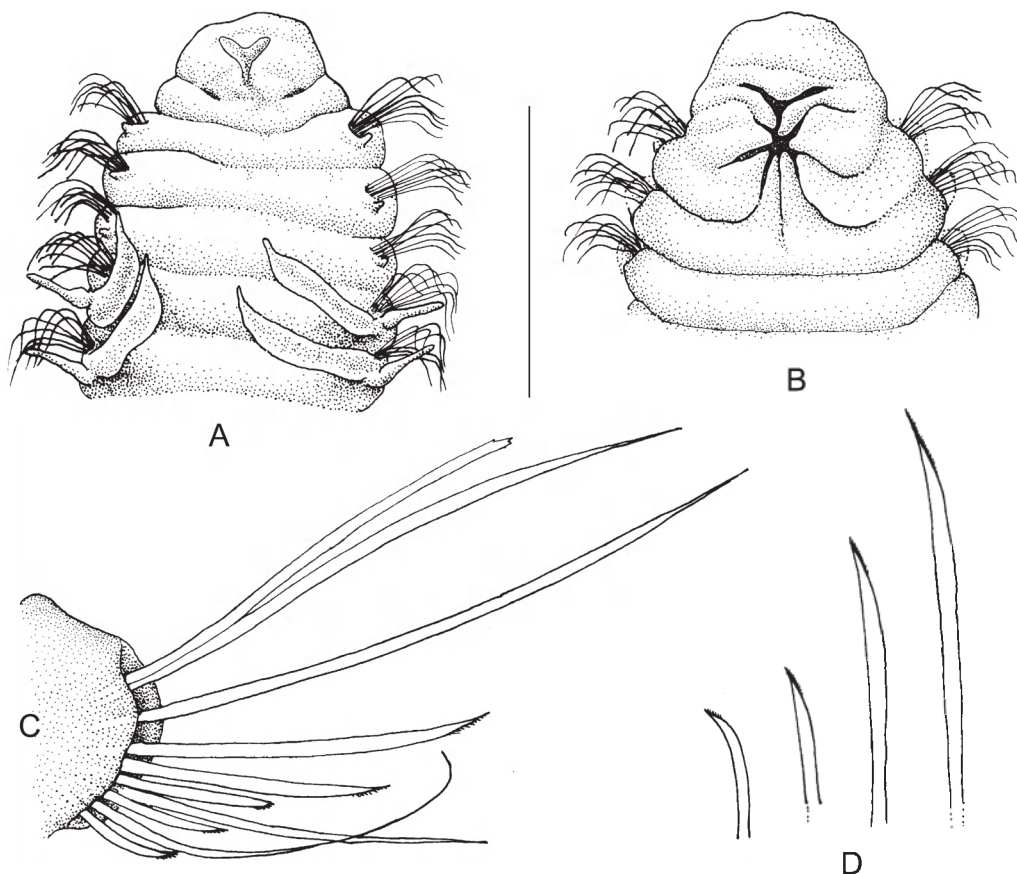


FIG. 16. – *Aricidea (Allia) bifurcata* n. sp. Holotype (MNCN 16.01/11207): A, anterior region, dorsal view; B, anterior region, ventral view; C, neuropodium, posterior chaetiger; D, modified ventral chaetae, posterior chaetiger. Scale bar: A 400 μ m; B 410 μ m; C 80 μ m; D 75 μ m.

the modified ventral chaetae are non-acicular, it has more branchiae, and in the starting segment of the abrupt reduction in size of the notopodial postchaetal lobes (between the penultimate branchial and the first postbranchial segments). *A. sardai* n. sp. is also easily distinguished from *A. oregonensis* because the latter has notopodial postchaetal lobes only from chaetiger 2 to about chaetiger 15–16.

The main difference between *A. sardai* n. sp. and *A. mediterranea* is the presence of a club-shaped median antenna, very similar to that of *A. facilis*, rather than a bifurcated one (see the Remarks section under *Aricidea (Allia)*). Moreover, in *A. sardai* n. sp., the first two notopodial postchaetal lobes are short and digitiform (only the first one is in *A. mediterranea*) and the reduction in size of the notopodial postchaetal lobes occurs between the penultimate branchial and the first postbranchial segments, and not between the first and second postbranchial segments, or even more posteriorly, as in *A. mediterranea*. Finally, the branchiae of *A. sardai* n. sp. are distally more blunt (not pointed, as in *A. mediterranea*).

Distribution. ? Mediterranean. Capbreton Canyon (Bay of Biscay). 1000 m depth.

***Aricidea (Allia) bifurcata* n. sp.**
(Fig. 16)

Material examined. One specimen, Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Ocean (coordinates in Table 1). CB88/DI33- Holotype (MNCN 16.01/11207).

Description. Holotype incomplete specimen, maximum width (in branchial region) 0.49 mm, 10.66 mm long for 41 chaetigers. Prebranchial and branchial regions wide, dorsoventrally flattened, becoming slender, filiform from mid-body to posterior end.

Prostomium clearly wider than long, distally rounded (Fig. 16A). Pair of nuchal organs as deep slits dividing the prostomium in two parts. Median antenna short, bifurcated, Y-shaped, located on mid-prostomium (Fig. 16A). Posterior buccal lip with folds starting at first two chaetigers (Fig. 16B).

Branchiae starting at chaetiger 4, eight pairs, cylindrical, tapering to thin, long tips (l/w mostly

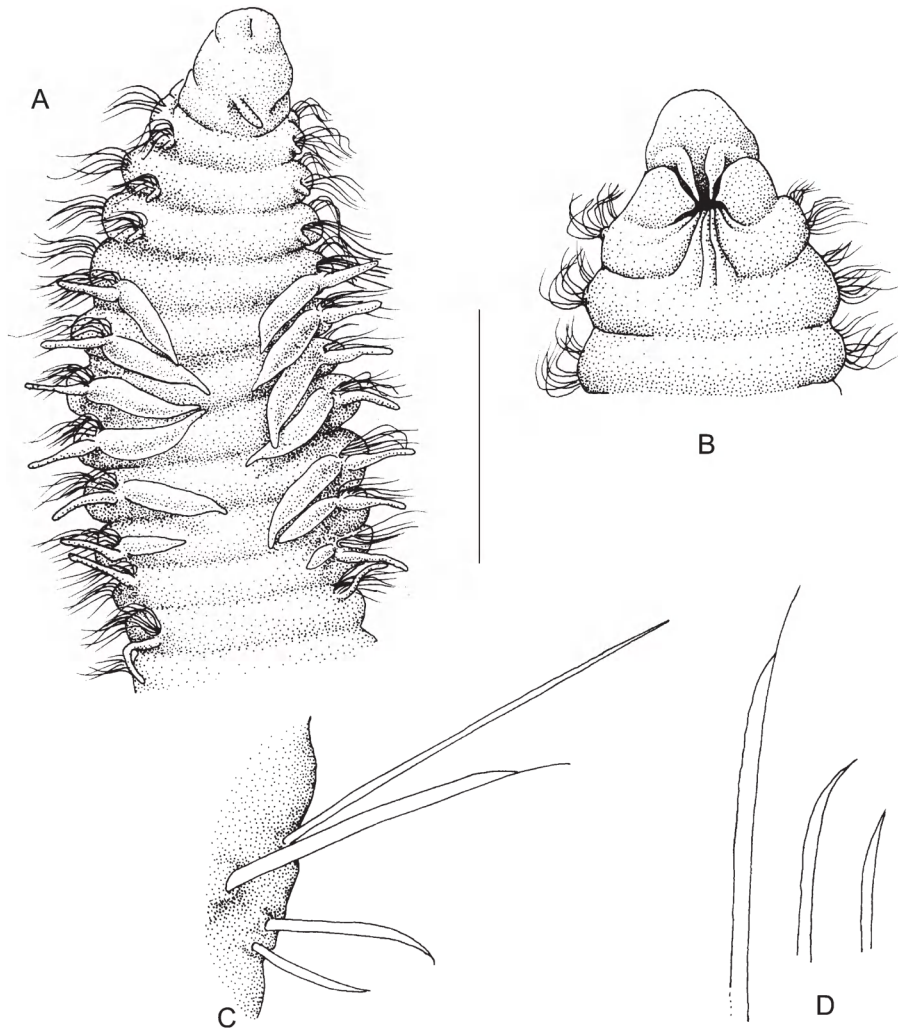


FIG. 17. – *Aricidea (Allia) monicae*: A, anterior region, dorsal view; B, anterior region, ventral view; C, neuropodium, chaetiger 44; D, modified ventral chaeta, chaetiger 44. Scale bar: A 470 μ m; B 455 μ m; C 90 μ m; D 70 μ m.

between 4.4 and 5.5; l = mostly between 0.11 and 0.22 mm; max. l = 0.22 mm); last two pairs distally blunt, rounded.

First three notopodial postchaetal lobes short, papilliform, becoming much longer, cirriform from chaetiger 4 (Fig. 16A); thin, filiform in postbranchial segments. Neuropodial postchaetal lobes absent.

Modified ventral chaetae from chaetiger 29, acicular, with distal end finely pilose (Fig. 16C, D).

Interparapodial cirriform lobes present, numbering 1 to 4, between chaetigers 8 and 17, and 3 to 4 between chaetigers 10 and 14.

Etymology. The species name refers to the shape of median antenna.

Discussion. *Aricidea bifurcata* n. sp. is compared with other taxa of the subgenus *Aricidea (Allia)* in

Table 4. The main morphological characters, interparapodial lobes included, resemble those of *Aricidea (Allia) monicae*, but can be distinguished by its bifurcated median antenna, very similar to the antennae of *Aricidea (Allia) mediterranea* and *Aricidea (Aricidea) petacalcoensis* (see the Remark section under *Aricidea (Allia)*).

Distribution. Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, 492 to 495 m depth.

***Aricidea (Allia) monicae* Laubier, 1967
(Fig. 17)**

Aricidea monicae, Laubier, 1967: 118-124, Fig. 6 A-E, 7 A-H.- Laubier and Ramos, 1974: 1117.- Katzmann and Laubier, 1975: 578.- Campoy, 1981: 20.

Aricidea (Allia) monicae, Strelzov, 1973: 72-74, Fig. 28 A-E.- Blake, 1996: 52-54, Fig. 2.12 A-F.- Gil and Sardá, 1999: 299-300.

Material examined. Thirteen specimens from Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Ocean (coordinates in Table 1). CB88/DI12 (5), CB88/DI13 (1), CB88/DI26 (1), CB88/DI31 (1), CB88/DI33 (4), CB89/DI66 (1).

Description. One complete specimen, 4.52 mm long, 0.49 mm wide (in branchial region), ranging from 0.46 to 0.58 mm wide. Median antenna short, cirriform on mid-prostomium. Branchiae starting from chaetiger 4, 6-8 pairs, cylindrical, distally pointed (l/w mostly between 4 and 5; l = mostly between 0.14 and 0.20 mm; max. l = 0.23 mm) (Fig. 17A). First three notopodial postchaetal lobes short; much longer, cirriform from chaetiger 4; thin, filiform in postbranchial segments (Fig. 17A).

Interparapodial cirriform lobes in some anterior segments. Ventral modified chaetae from chaetiger 27 to 29 (Fig. 17C).

Distribution. Bathyal (100 to 3000 m depth) in Atlantic (Portugal) and Adriatic Sea; 590 to 1745 m depth in California; 492 to 1113 m depth in Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay.

Aricidea (Allia) mirunekoa n. sp.
(Figs. 18 and 19 C,D)

Material examined. 16 specimens from Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Ocean (coordinates in Table 1). CB88/DI19 (1), CB88/DI21 (4), CB88/DI31: Holotype (MNCN 16.01/11208) and

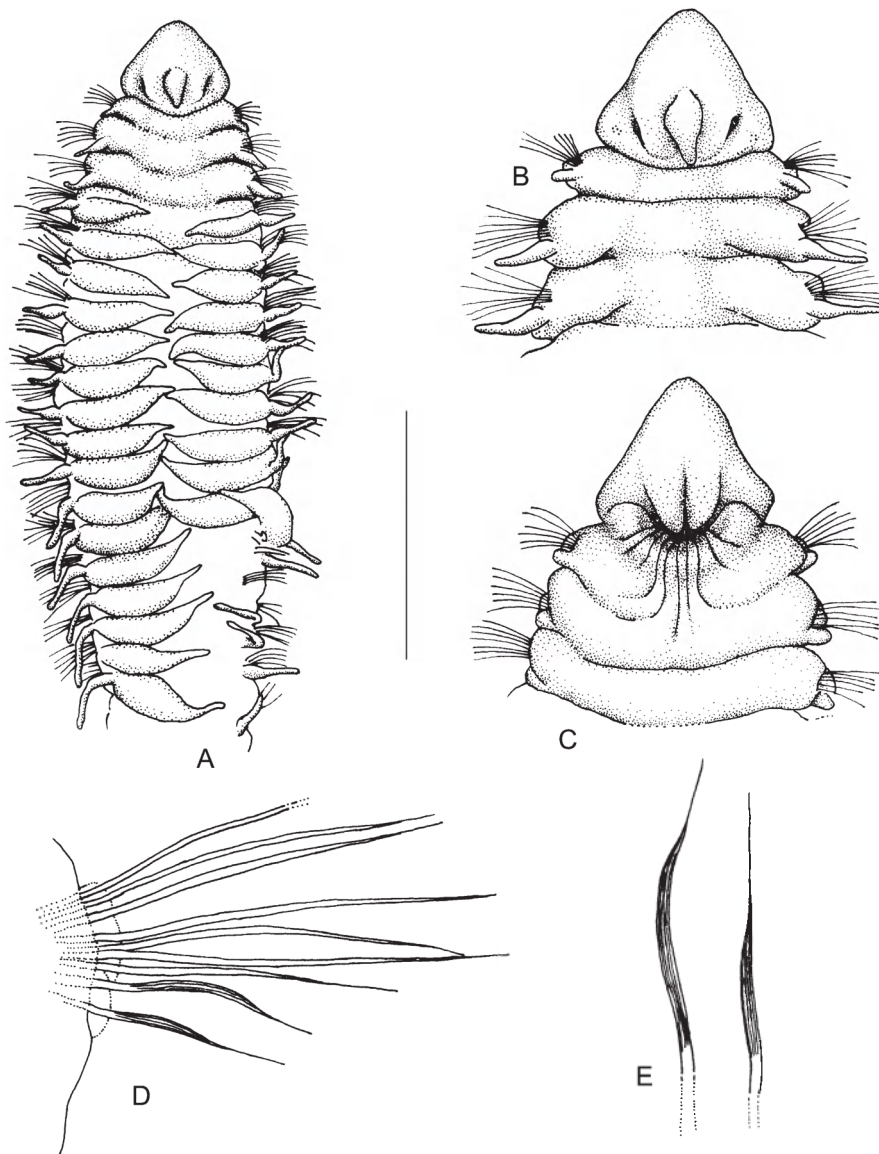


FIG. 18. — *Aricidea (Allia) mirunekoa* n. sp.: A-B, anterior region, dorsal view; C, anterior region, ventral view; Holotype (MNCN 16.01/11209) D, neuropodium, chaetiger 27; Holotype (MNCN 16.01/11209) E, modified ventral chaeta, chaetiger 27. Scale bar: A 415 μ m; B 425 μ m; C 425 μ m; D 80 μ m; E 55 μ m.

TABLE 4. – List of species in the subgenus *Aricidea* (*Allia*) with some comparative morphological characteristics. * Not including *A. (Allia) trilobata*, following Blake (1996), and *A. (Allia) nolani*, indeterminate.

	Antenna	Prebranc. chaetig. (n)	Branchiae (pairs)	Notopodial lobes of prebranchial and branchial segments	Neuropodial lobes	Modified chaetae (chaetiger)	Chaetigers (n)	Type locality	Source
<i>A. (Allia) aberrans</i> Laubier and Ramos, 1974	short, digitate; end at chaet. 0	3	12-15	on chaet. 1-2 reduced; well developed from third chaetiger; on branchial region very long, cylindrical	absent	2-3	15-25+	Mediterranean, deep water.	Laubier and Ramos (1974)
<i>A. (Allia) abyssalis</i> Laubier and Ramos, 1974	short, claviform; end at chaet. 0	0	0	on chaet. 1 reduced; longer from chaet. 2, similar but slightly shorter than chaet. 3; longer from chaet. 3, cylindrical until chaet. 12-13	absent	33-44	69	Mediterranean, deep water.	Laubier and Ramos (1974)
<i>A. (Allia) abbranchiata</i> Hartman, 1965	cirriform; end at chaet. 4-7	0	0	on chaetigers 1-2 short; longer, cirriform from third chaetiger	tuberculate; end at chaet. 2-4	12-15	75+	Atlantic Ocean, deep water.	Hartman (1965); Strelzov (1973)
<i>A. (Allia) albatrossae</i> Pettibone, 1957	short, subulate; end at chaet. 0	3	up to 30	on chaet. 1-3 almost conical, becoming progressively longer; of similar size in anterior part of branchial region; threadlike in posterior part of branchial region	tuberculate; end at chaet. 12-25	about 42	60+	North Atlantic.	Strelzov (1973)
<i>A. (Allia) alisdairi</i> Hasan, 1960	cirriform; end at chaet. 2	3	up to 43	well developed in anterior part of body	absent	?	120+	Karachi Coast.	Strelzov (1973)
<i>A. (Allia) antarctica</i> Hartmann-Schröder and Rosenfeldt, 1988	short; bottle-shaped, end at chaet. 0-1	3	8	on chaet. 1-2 short, ovoid; three times as long on third chaetiger, digitiform or cirriform; threadlike on branchial region	absent	18-19	81+	Joinville, Antarctica.	Hartmann-Schröder and Rosenfeldt (1988)
<i>A. (Allia) antennata</i> Annenkova, 1934	long, thin; end at chaet. 5-9	3	16-24	on chaet. 1-2 reduced; long and cirriform from third chaet.; from the first branchial segment, and in the following 7-8 chaetigers, biramous with the ventral branch much shorter.	round, becoming elliptical, and then elongated; end at chaet. 9-25	15-39	120	Sea of Okhotsk.	Strelzov (1973); Blake (1996)
<i>A. (Allia) bifurcata</i> n. sp.	short, bifurcate, Y-shaped; end at chaet. 0	3	8	on chaetigers 1 to 3 reduced; long and cirriform from fourth chaetiger	absent	29	41+	Bay of Biscay.	present paper
<i>A. (Allia) bryani</i> Gaston and McLelland, 1996	cirriform; end at chaet. 3	3	25-33	on chaetiger 1-2 digitiform; twice as long on chaet. 3 and thereafter	tuberculate; end at chaet. 18	60	?	Northern Gulf of Mexico.	Gaston and McLelland (1996)
<i>A. (Allia) bulbosa</i> Hartley, 1984	short, usiform; end at chaet. 0	3	21	digitiform on prebranchial segments, increasing in size to set. 4; on branchial segments also digitiform	tuberculate; end at chaet. 15	35	41+	Gulf of Suez.	Hartley (1984)
<i>A. (Allia) claudiae</i> Laubier, 1967	basally enlarged, sharply attenuated tip; end at chaet. 1-3	3	up to 16	on chaetiger 1-2 reduced; long and cirriform from chaet. 3	tuberculate; end at chaet. 9	postbranchial region	100+	Banyuls-sur-Mer, Mediterranean.	Laubier (1967); Strelzov (1973)
<i>A. (Allia) curviseta</i> Day, 1963	cirriform; end at chaet. 1	3	about 40	on chaetigers 1-2 reduced; longer and cirriform, basally enlarged, from third chaetiger and in the anterior branchial region	tuberculate; end at chaet. 20	59	85+	Agulhas Bank, South Africa.	Day (1963); Strelzov (1973)

TABLE 4 (cont.). – List of species in the subgenus *Aricidea* (*Allia*) with some comparative morphological characteristics. * Not including *A. (Allia) trilobata*, following Blake (1996), and *A. (Allia) nolani*, indeterminate.

	Antenna	Prebranc. chaetig. (n)	Branchiae (pairs)	Notopodial lobes of prebranchial and branchial segments	Neuropodial lobes	Modified chaetae (chaetiger)	Chaetigers (n)	Type locality	Source
<i>A. (Allia) roberti</i> Hartley, 1984	short, cylindrical; end at chaet. 1	3	22-26	on chaet. 1 short; slightly longer on chaet. 2; from chaet. 3 longer, skittle- shaped; progressively longer along branchial region	tuberculate; end at chaet. 17	36-50	60+	North Sea.	Hartley (1984)
<i>A. (Allia) sardai</i> n. sp.	short, club- shaped; end at chaet. 0	4	8-9	on chaetigers 1-2 reduced; long and cirriform from third chaetiger; decreasing in size considerably at the end of branchial region	tuberculate; end at chaet. 15	61	67+	Bay of Biscay.	present paper
<i>A. (Allia) suecica</i> <i>suecica</i> Eliason, 1920	cirriform; end at chaet. 3	3	15-30	long and cirriform from chaet. 1, slightly increasing in length from chaet. 1 to 3 and gradually throughout branchial region	tuberculate; end at chaet. 25	about 30	up to 104	Øresund.	Eliason (1920); Hartley (1984); Gaston and McLelland (1996)
<i>A. (Allia) suecica</i> <i>meridionalis</i> Laubier and Ramos, 1974	cirriform; end at chaet. 2	3	27	long and cirriform from chaet. 1, strongly increasing in length from chaet. 1 to 3 and gradually throughout branchial region	tuberculate; end about chaet. 30	34-58	107+	Gulf of Rosas, Catalonia.	Laubier and Ramos (1974)

4 specimens, CB88/DI37: one paratype (MNCN 16.01/11209), two paratypes (INSUB POL 334) and 3 specimens.

Description. All specimens incomplete, largest one 10.9 mm long, 0.84 mm wide for 25-30 chaetigers. Holotype fragmented, 1.8 mm long, 0.48 mm wide (in branchial region) for 20 chaetigers and 1.07 mm long for 7 chaetigers. Body wide, dorsoventrally flattened anteriorly, more slender at final part of branchial region.

Prostomium conical, distally rounded, slightly wider than long (Fig. 18A, B, 19C). Nuchal organs as a pair of oblique, deep slits. Two dark eyes, laterally at base of prostomium. Median antenna short, seldom reaching posterior margin of prostomium, wide, ovoid, distally digitiform (Fig. 18A,B, 19C). Posterior buccal lip with several longitudinal folds starting from chaetiger 1 and anterior part of chaetiger 2 (Fig. 18C, 19D).

Branchiae starting from chaetiger 4, up to 22 pairs, wide, foliaceous, distally pointed (l/w mostly between 2.6 and 3.5; l = mostly between 0.2 and 0.35 mm; max. l = 0.38 mm) (Fig. 18A, 19C); anterior ones slightly exceeding median body line; becoming progressively larger, with long, filiform tips; to as wide as body width when posterior-most.

First notopodial postchaetal lobe short, ovoid; becoming more than two times longer, cirriform from chaetiger 2 (Fig. 18B), progressively longer in branchial region to long, thin, filiform in posterior region (Fig. 18A, 19C). Neuropodial postchaetal lobes hemispherical in chaetigers 1-17 in large specimens (Fig. 18C).

Ventral modified chaetae from chaetiger 23 (only observed in one specimen), as modified capillary chaetae, short, with narrow region, slightly sigmoid, smooth, continuing in a straight, very fine terminal extension (Fig. 18D, E).

Etymology. This species is fondly dedicated to all members of the family Miru.

Discussion. *Aricidea mirunekoa* n. sp. closely resembles *Aricidea (Allia) bulbosa*, *Aricidea (Allia) hartmani* (Strelzov, 1968), *Aricidea (Allia) marianae* and *Aricidea (Allia) hartleyi* Blake, 1996 (Table 4). The new species is distinguished from *A. bulbosa* mainly by its median antenna, which is wider, ovoid, and not fusiform, and by its posterior buccal lip, which is formed by the first two chaetigers rather than by the first alone. *Aricidea mirunekoa* n. sp. differs from *A. hartleyi* by its median antenna, which is

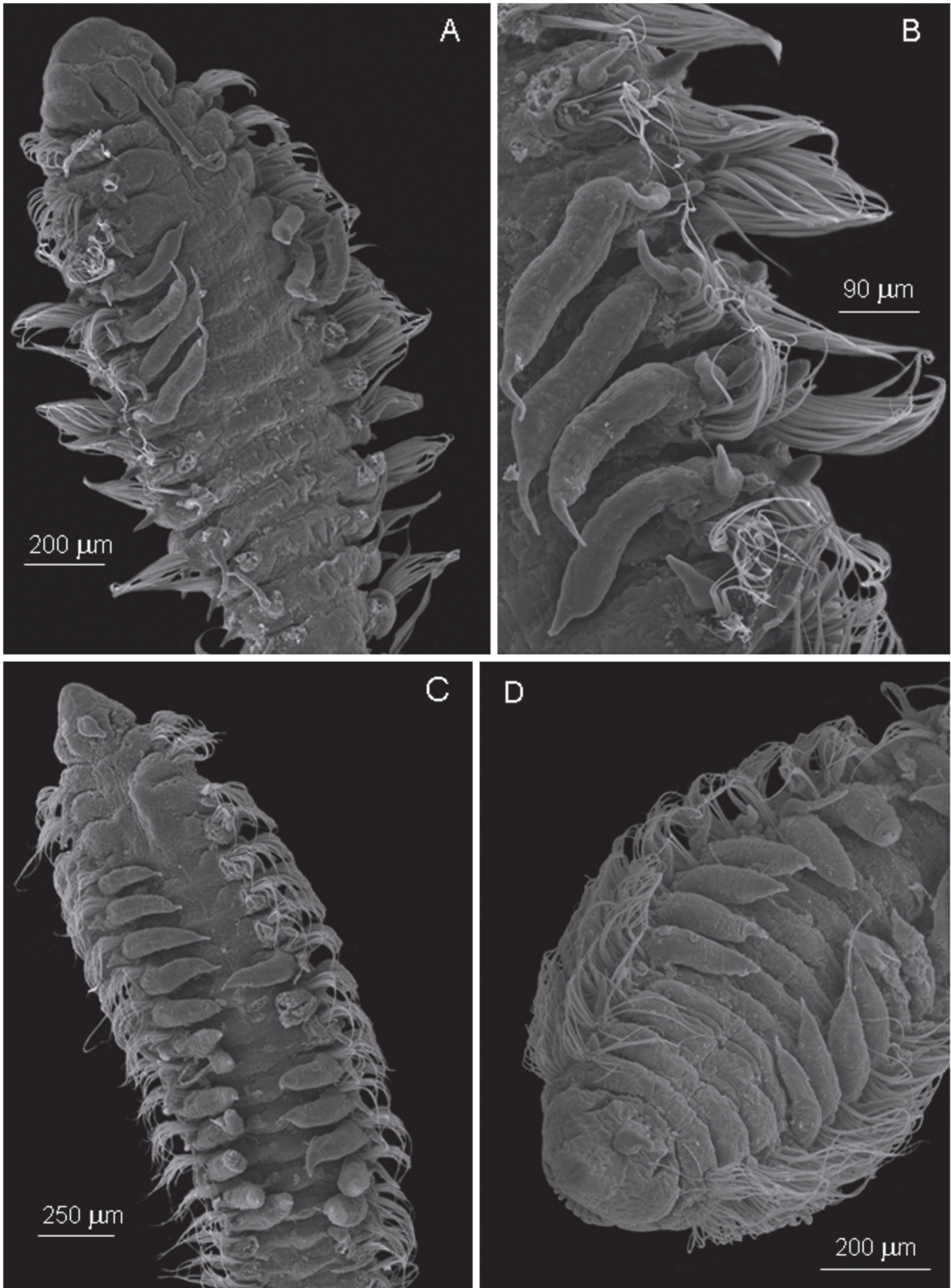


FIG. 19. – *Aricidea (Allia) antennata*: A, anterior region, dorsal view; B, branchial region, chaetigers 5-8, left side of animal. *Aricidea (Allia) mirunekoa* n. sp.: C-D, anterior region, dorsal view. Scale bar: A 200 µm; B 90 µm; C 250 µm; D 200 µm.

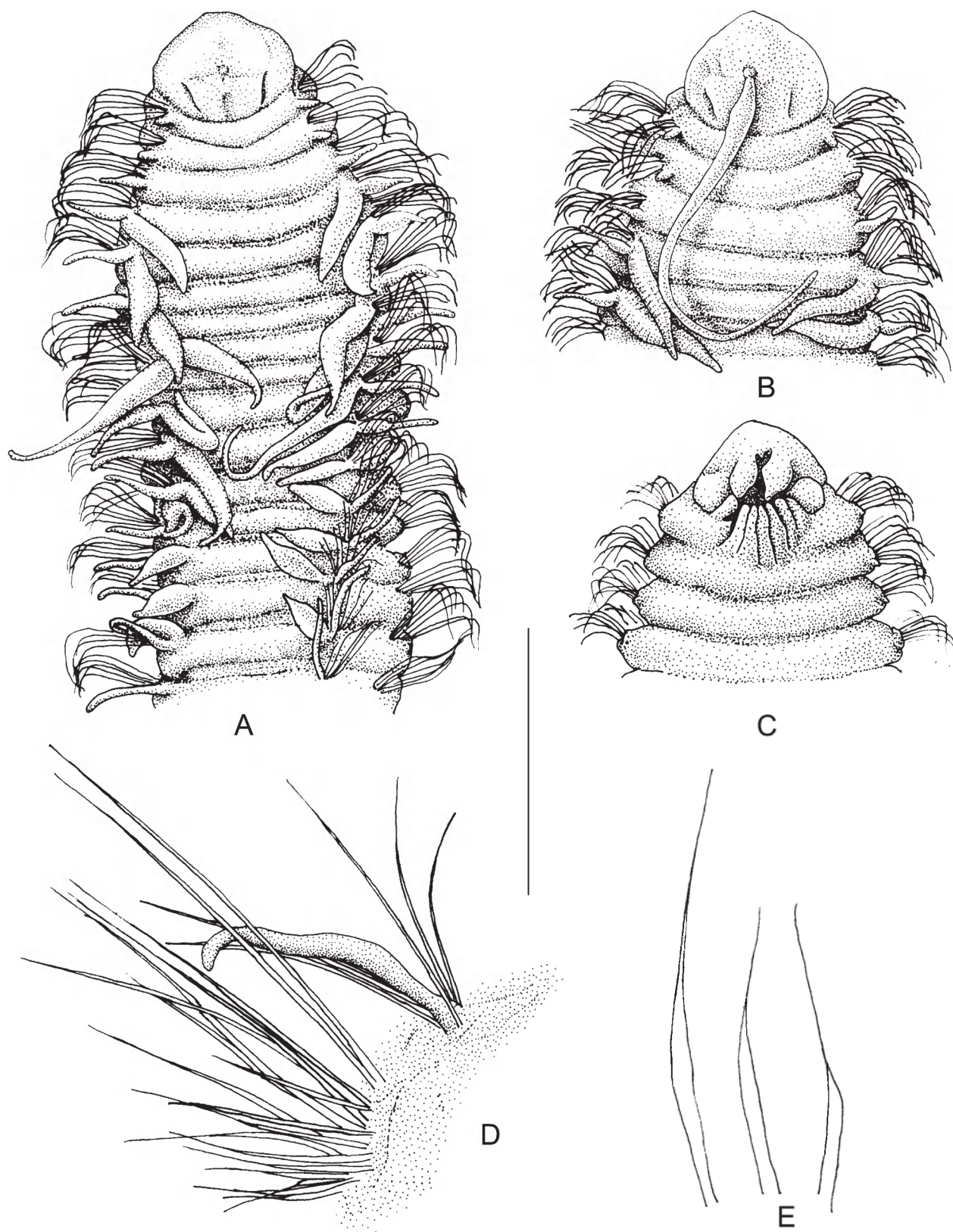


FIG. 20. – *Aricidea (Allia) maialenae* n. sp.: A, anterior region, dorsal view; B, anterior region, dorsal view; Holotype (MNCN 16.01/11211); C, anterior region, ventral view; D, parapodium, chaetiger 33; E, modified ventral chaeta, chaetiger 33. Scale bar: A 480 μ m; B 490 μ m; C 475 μ m; D 70 μ m; E 120 μ m.

enlarged in the median region (uniform in diameter in *A. hartleyi*), and by its branchiae, which are wider and with a long and filiform distal end. The main difference from *A. mariannae* and *A. hartmani* is in its notopodial postchaetal lobes, as only that of the first chaetiger is short (the first two in the two other species). In addition, it differs from *A. hartmani* by having larger branchiae, with elongated distal points, and an ovoid, shorter median antenna. All specimens of the new species have a median antenna similar to *A. mariannae* but much wider, which is also the case of the branchiae.

Distribution. Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, 480 to 968 m depth.

***Aricidea (Allia) maialenae* n. sp.**
(Figs. 20 and 23A,B)

Material examined. 13 specimens from Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Ocean (coordinates in Table 1). CB88/DI12 (3). CB88/DI13: Holotype (MNCN 16.01/11210), one paratype (MNCN 16.01/11211) and 3 specimens, CB88/DI19 (1), CB88/DI26 (2), CB89/DI66: two paratypes (INSUB POL 335).

Description. All specimens incomplete, largest one 4.25 mm long, 0.56 mm wide for 32 chaetigers, ranging from 1.49 to 4.06 mm long, 0.41 to 0.61 mm wide for 17-31 chaetigers. Holotype 3.87 mm long, 0.52 mm wide (in branchial region) for 31 chaetigers. Body dorsoventrally flattened, with enlarged anterior region.

Prostomium rounded, slightly wider than long (Fig. 20A,B, 23A, B). Median antenna inserted on mid-prostomium, very long, directed backwards, reaching chaetiger 9-10 (Fig. 20B, 23A, B); easily lost (9 of 13 specimens with visible scar of lost antenna) (Fig. 20A). Posterior buccal lip with 6-8 longitudinal folds starting from chaetiger 1 and anterior part of chaetiger 2 (Fig. 20C).

Branchiae starting from chaetiger 4, 9-12 pairs, cylindrical, with distal thin tips (l/w mostly between 2.5 and 4.5; l = mostly between 0.08 and 0.23 mm; max. l = 0.23 mm) (Fig. 20A, 23A, B), reaching maximum length (equal to interbranchial width) in branchial segments 5-6, with long, slender, filiform distal ends; shorter when posterior-most.

First two notopodial postchaetal lobes short; longer, cirriform from chaetiger 3; longer, slender in postbranchial region (Fig. 20A, B, D). Neuropodial postchaetal lobes reduced to hemispherical papilla, from chaetiger 1 to 11-13 (Fig. 20C).

Modified ventral chaetae from chaetiger 25-30, as modified capillary chaetae with a narrow sigmoid region, smooth, continuing in a straight terminal extension (Fig. 20E); 4-5 on each posterior segment, shorter, more sigmoid when more ventral (Fig. 20D).

Etymology. This species is fondly dedicated to Maialen Agirrezabalaga Arraras.

Discussion. *Aricidea (Allia) maialenae* n. sp. resembles *Aricidea (Allia) quadrilobata*, *Aricidea (Allia) antennata* and *Aricidea (Allia) pseudannae* (Table 4). It is distinguished from the first two species mainly in having hemispherical neuropodial postchaetal lobes and modified ventral chaetae of one kind (cirriform lobes and three kinds of modified ventral chaetae in *A. quadrilobata* and *A. antennata*) and from the last species in having a longer, backward directed median antenna, branchiae on the central branchial region longer and with longer and filiform distal end, and the folds forming the posterior buccal lip originating from chaetiger 1 and 2 (only from chaetiger 1 in *A. pseudannae*).

Distribution. Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, between 492 to 1113 m depth.

***Aricidea (Allia) claudiae* Laubier, 1967**
(Fig. 21 A)

Aricidea claudiae Laubier, 1967: 124-128, Fig. 9 A-E.- Laubier and Ramos, 1974: 1113.- Campoy, 1981: 19, Fig. 3 A-C. *Aricidea (Allia) claudiae*, Strelzov, 1973: 77-79, Fig. 31 A-G.- Katzmann and Laubier, 1975: 575.

Material examined. One specimen from Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Ocean (coordinates in Table 1): CB88/DI37.

Description. Specimen incomplete, 5.15 mm long, 0.44 mm wide (in branchial region) for 45 chaetigers. Prostomium triangular, with nuchal organs as a pair of deep slits. Median antenna as long as prostomium, directed backwards, reaching chaetiger 2 (Fig. 21A). Antenna cylindrical with distal end narrower (half width than in basal region). First two notopodial postchaetal lobes short, digitiform; longer, cirriform from chaetiger 3. Branchiae starting from chaetiger 4, 15 pairs, wide at base, with a distal cirriform filament. First branchial segment (chaetiger 4) with one big mid-dorsal rounded papilla (Fig. 21A). Modified ventral chaetae as capillary with distal end attenuated.

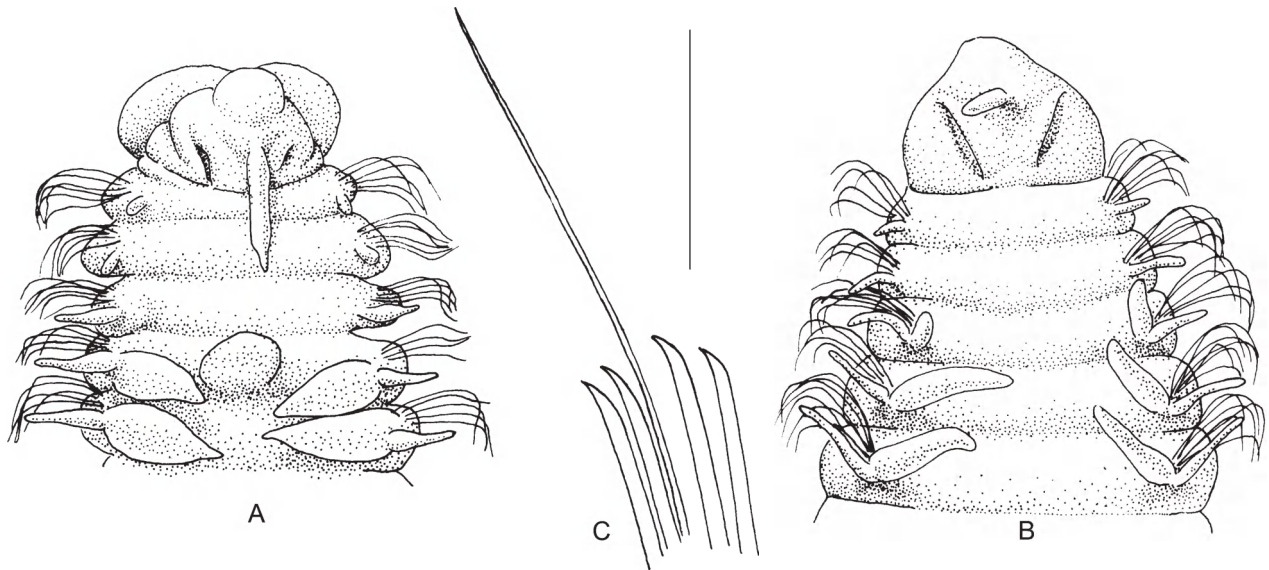


FIG. 21. – *Aricidea (Allia) claudiae*: A, anterior region, dorsal view. *Aricidea (Acmira) simonae*: B, anterior region, dorsal view; C, modified ventral chaetae, chaetiger 43. Scale bar: A 295 μ m; B 355 μ m; C 65 μ m.

Distribution. Mediterranean, Adriatic, Black Sea, NE Atlantic (Basque Coast): 20 to 150 m depth. Capbreton Canyon (Bay of Biscay): 508 to 576 m depth. The present record extends its bathymetric distribution from the continental shelf (as in Katzmann and Laubier, 1975) to the continental slope.

***Aricidea (Allia) nekanae* n. sp.**
(Figs. 22 and 23 C,D)

Material examined. 6 specimens from Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Ocean (coordinates in Table 1). CB88/DI33: Holotype (MNCN 16.01/11212), one paratype (MNCN 16.01/11213), one paratype (INSUB POL 336) and 3 specimens.

Description. All specimens incomplete, largest one 9.6 mm long for 51 chaetigers, smallest one 3.01 mm long for 15 chaetigers. Holotype 8.95 mm long, 0.55 mm wide (in branchial region) for 49 chaetigers. Anterior region wide, dorsoventrally flattened. Posterior region slender, cylindrical. Prostomium subtriangular, as wide as long, rounded at base, more conical distally (Fig. 22A, 23C, D). One pair of nuchal organs as deep slits. One pair of lateral eyes at base of prostomium. Median antenna short, slightly fusiform, distally rounded, on mid-anterior prostomium (Fig. 22A, 23D). Posterior buccal lip with several longitudinal folds starting from first two chaetigers (Fig. 22B).

First two notopodial postchaetal lobes well developed, digitiform (Fig. 22A, 23D); at least two times longer, cirriform from chaetiger 3; becoming

progressively longer, slender in branchial region to long, filiform in postbranchial region. Neuropodial postchaetal lobes as hemispheric tubercles in chaetigers 1 to 18/19 (Fig. 22B).

Branchiae starting from chaetiger 4, 19–21 pairs (l/w mostly between 2.2 and 2.8; l = mostly between 0.15 and 0.23 mm; max. l = 0.23 mm); first 7–9 pairs short, thick, distally rounded; next ones with tips distally thin, filiform; becoming more bulbous posteriorly. Inner part of branchiae with pigmented granules in two parallel rows (Fig. 22A, 23A).

Anterior dorsal and ventral chaetae limbate, capillary, sigmoid; 1–2 dorsal-most very fine, capillary in posterior segments, absent in most chaetigers.

Modified ventral chaetae from chaetiger 33–35, as modified capillary abruptly narrowing in distal part, tapering to a fine filament (Fig. 22C, D).

Pygidium unknown.

Etymology. This species is fondly dedicated to Nekane Arraras Garaikoetxea.

Discussion. *A. nekanae* n. sp. is compared with other taxa of the subgenus in Table 4. This new species differs from *Aricidea (Allia) bulbosa*, mainly in having a shorter antenna, located on the mid-anterior part of the prostomium, as well as in having a posterior buccal lip formed by the buccal segment and the first two chaetigers and by having the first branchial pairs distally rounded (as in *Aedicira belgicae* sensu Imajima, 1973) and not pointed.

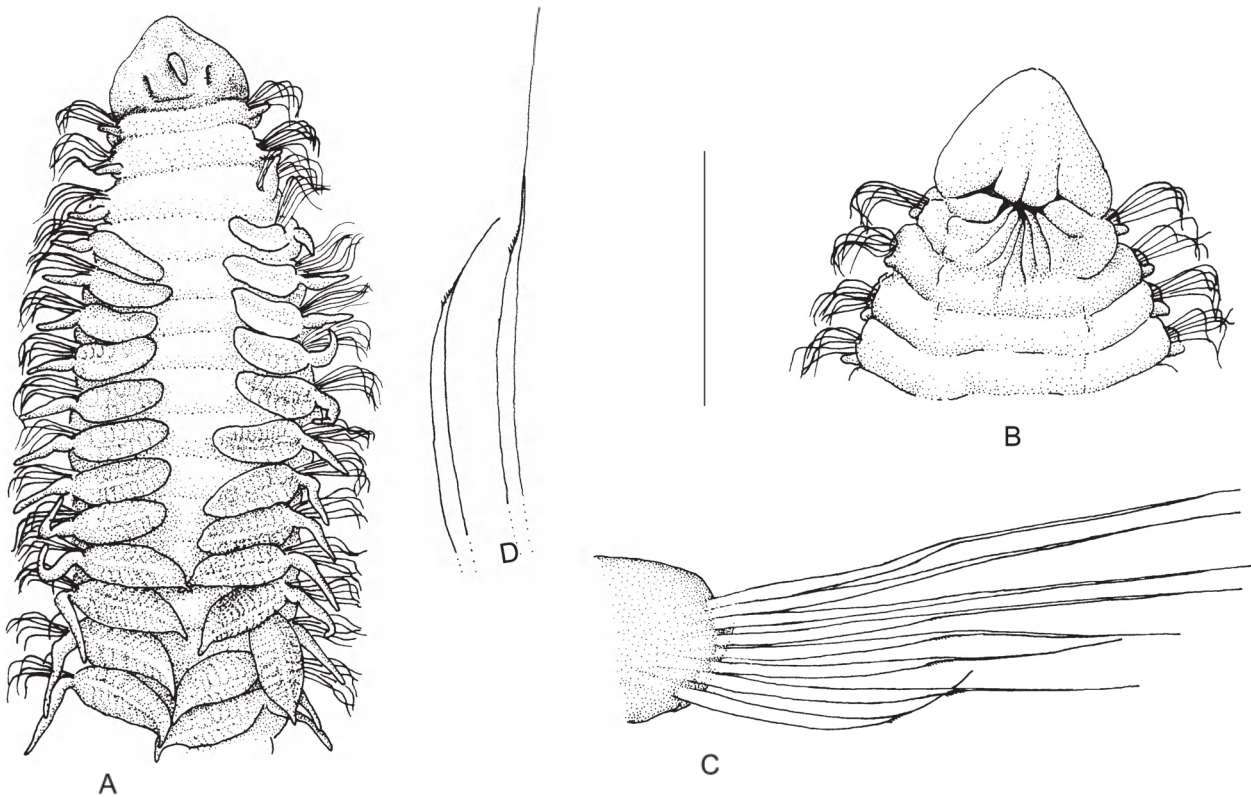


FIG. 22. – *Aricidea (Allia) nekanae* n. sp.: A, anterior region, dorsal view; B, anterior region, ventral view; C, neuropodium, modified ventral chaetae, chaetiger 40; D, modified ventral chaetae, chaetiger 40. Scale bar: A 665 μ m; B 455 μ m; C 75 μ m; D 65 μ m.

Aricidea (Allia) nekanae n. sp. resembles *A. belgicae* sensu Imajima (1973), but differs in having very clear ventral postchaetal lobes, reaching the chaetigers 17–18, and two eyes.

Distribution. Capbreton Canyon (Bay of Biscay). 492 to 495 m depth.

Subgenus *Acmira* Hartley, 1981

Acesta Strelzov, 1973: 105

Aricidea (Acmira) simonae Laubier and Ramos, 1974 (Fig. 21 B–C)

Aricidea simonae, Laubier and Ramos, 1974:1123–1127, Fig. 9–10.
Aricidea (Acesta) simonae, Katzmann and Laubier, 1975: 581.–Campoy, 1981: 20.

Aricidea (Acmira) simonae, Hartley, 1981:143–145; Gil and Sardá, 1999: 302–303.

Aricidea punctata, Katzmann, 1973: 287–288, Fig. 1–2.

Material examined. 2 specimens from Capbreton Canyon, Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Ocean (coordinates in Table 1). CB88/DI12 (1), CB88/DI33 (1).

Description. Large specimen 6.68 mm long, 0.63 mm wide for 46 chaetigers; small one in poor condition.

Prostomium triangular with median antenna short, slightly inflated distally (Fig. 21B).

First notopodial postchaetal lobe digitiform, longer in chaetiger 2; slightly longer, cirriform from chaetiger 3 (Fig. 21B); long, filiform in posterior region.

Branchiae starting from chaetiger 3 in large specimen, 14 pairs, short, cylindrical, distally rounded; left branchiae of chaetiger 3 much smaller than normal ones, right one only slightly shorter; branchiae starting at chaetiger 4 in small specimens, 7–8 pairs.

Modified ventral chaetae short, acicular, distally curved (Fig. 21C), from chaetigers 29 (large specimen) and 21–22 (small specimen).

Granular brownish pigmented spots in each segment.

Discussion. The number of branchial pairs (from 7 to 14) starting at chaetigers 4 (small specimen) and 3 (large specimen) agree well with Hartley (1981: fig. 4), who reported from 7 to 36 pairs and the same size-related variability in the starting branchial chaetiger.

Distribution. Mediterranean, Adriatic, North Sea, Atlantic (30 to 660 m depth). Capbreton Canyon

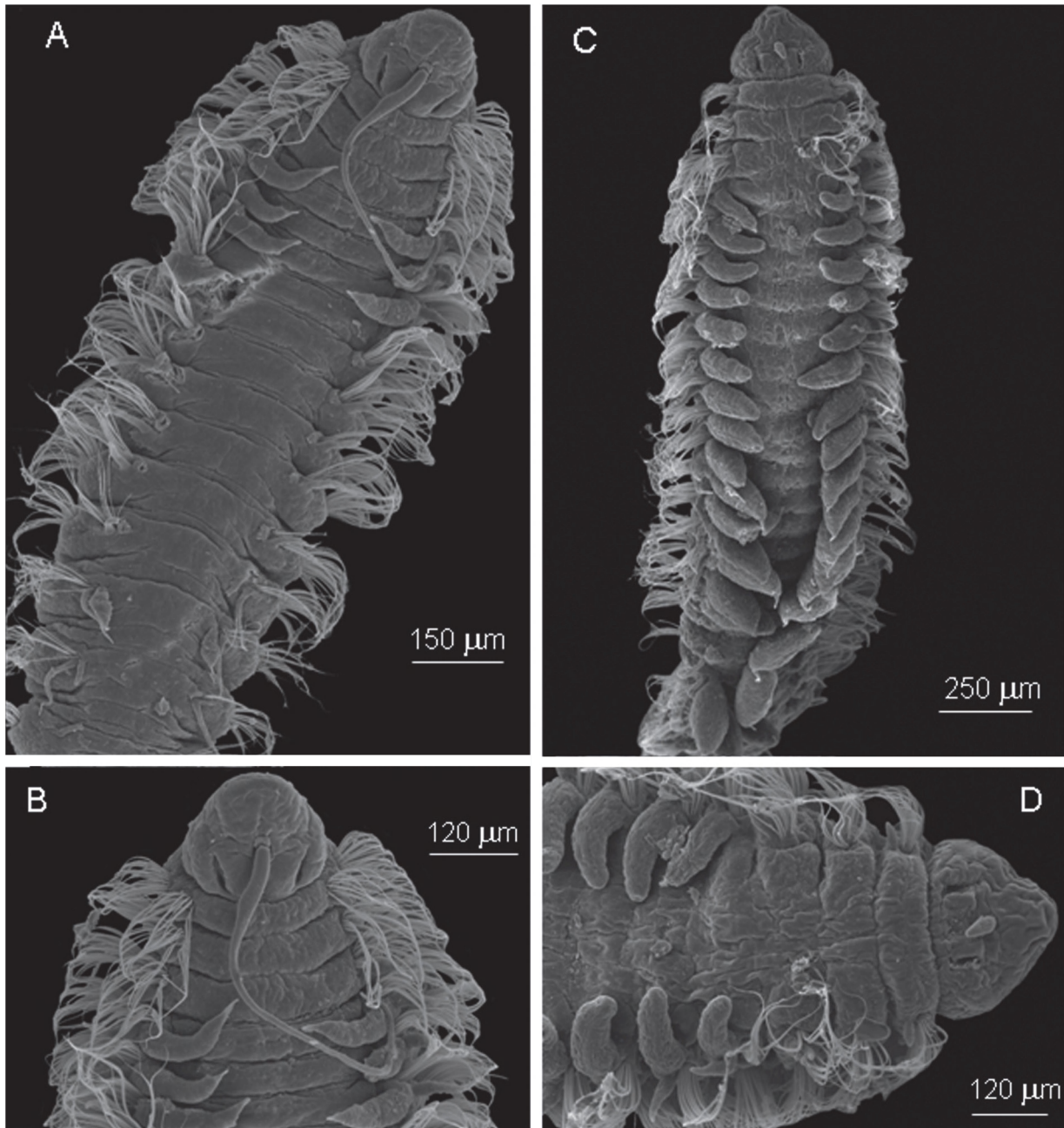


FIG. 23. – *Aricidea (Allia) maialenae* n. sp.: A-B, anterior region, dorsal view. *Aricidea (Allia) nekanae* n. sp.: C-D, anterior region, dorsal view. Scale bar: A 150 μm; B 120 μm; C 250 μm; D 120 μm.

(Bay of Biscay): 492 to 495 m and 1012 to 1113 m depth, which extends the bathymetric distribution to deeper waters.

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