

## SHORT COMMUNICATION

### SARSIA



### AMPHIPORUS SUPERBUS (STIMPSON, 1854) (NEMERTEA, HOPLONEMERTEA), NEW TO SOUTH SCANDINAVIA

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BERG, GUNNAR & CHRISTOFFER SCHANDER 1998 11 30. *Amphiporus superbus* (STIMPSON, 1854) (Nemertea, Hoplonemertea), new to south Scandinavia. – *Sarsia* 83:447-448. Bergen. ISSN 0036-4827.

*Amphiporus superbus* is for the first time recorded from southern Scandinavia. Four specimens were found between Reiretangen and Sandvik in the Koster area, Swedish West Coast in May 1996. Two of the specimens contained eggs which indicates that this record is within the natural range of the species. The taxonomy of the group is discussed.

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#### INTRODUCTION

The nemertean *Amphiporus superbus* has previously been recorded from Tromsø (BERG 1973) and the Bay of Fundy (GIBSON 1995). *Tetrastemma albicollis* USCHAKOW, 1928 is a possible synonym (GIBSON 1995) and is recorded from Kap Sizij in the Kola Fjord. It can therefore be considered relatively widespread in North Atlantic waters, but so far it is only known from high latitudes. In the summer of 1996, some material was obtained during dredging on a *Lophelia pertusa* reef between Reiretangen and Sandvik in the Koster area on the Swedish west coast. This record considerably extends the known distribution of the species.

#### MATERIAL AND METHODS

Four specimens of *Amphiporus superbus* were obtained with a rectangular dredge from the coral reef at about 80 m in May 1996. The specimens were collected alive and examined under microscope prior to fixation in alcohol. The length of the animals was about 15 mm prior to fixation.

The material is kept in the first author's collection.

#### THE ANIMAL

The shape of the worm is shown in Fig. 1. A dorsal swelling can be noted on the dorsal part of the head from the tip of the head to the point where the posterior part of

the cephalic grooves meet. The specimen varies between 10–30 mm in length and 1–3 mm in width.

The dorsal surface is dark reddish brown. Head with very characteristic markings. Anterior and lateral margins of the head are white. There is a broad transverse white band in the posterior part of the head. Dorsal swelling of head has the same colours as the adjacent body parts. Outermost margins of the body and the ventral surface are also unpigmented.

At first glance every specimen seems to have two pairs of eyes, but microscopical studies show that each of these four eyes is composed of a number of distinct ocelli. The number of ocelli in the posterior pair varies between 2 and 5 and in the anterior between 2 and 10. BERG (1973) reports the number of ocelli in the anterior pair to vary between 2 and 7 but in the specimens from the Swedish west coast the number is higher.

The internal characters are described by BERG (1973).

#### DISCUSSION

In two of the specimens ovaries with eggs could be observed through the body wall. This indicates that the animals are full-grown and that the reproduction occurs in early summer. This also indicates that the species is a part of the local fauna and that this record is not based on some individuals accidentally spread by currents.

The inclusiveness of *Amphiporus* is uncertain (GIBSON & CRANDALL 1989) and the distinction between the genera *Amphiporus* and *Tetrastemma* is not clearly defined

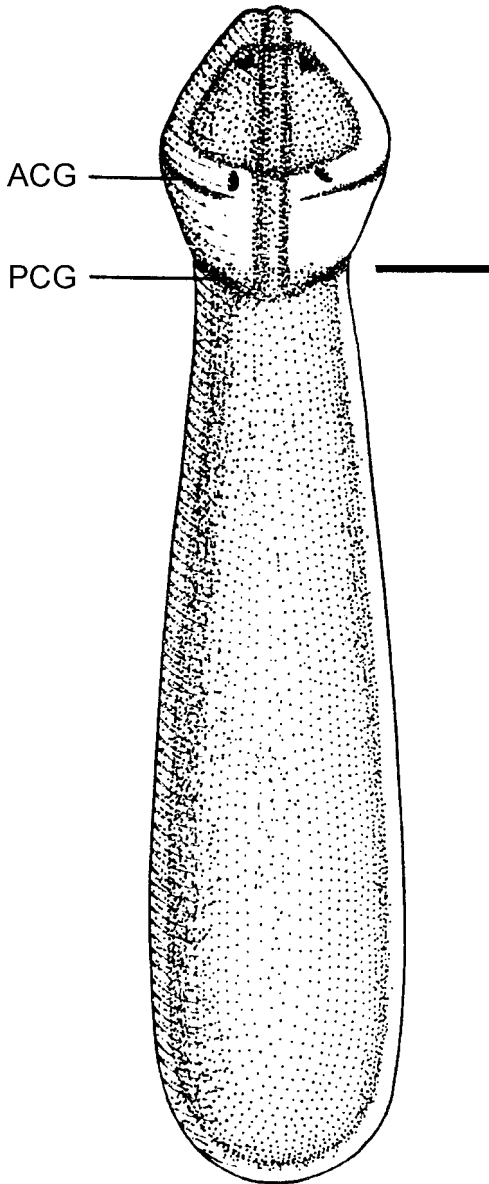


Fig. 1. External view of *Amphiporus superbis* (STIMPSON, 1854). ACG: Anterior cephalic groove. PCG: Posterior cephalic groove. Scale bar 1 mm. (Redrawn from BERG 1973).

(cf. COE 1901, FRIEDRICH 1955 and BERG 1973). *Amphiporus superbis* and *A. angulatus*, common in the Tromsø area, show great separation both in external and internal characters (BERG -unpublished study). GIBSON & CRANDALL (1989) listed *A. superbis* as a species inquirenda and *A. angulatus* as a nomen dubium. RISER (1993) considered *A. angulatus* separate from the genus

*Amphiporus* and suggested that it might be a member of *Cyanophthalma* but refrained from such placement since the morphology of the presumptive sister taxa is unknown. *Nareda* STIMPSON, 1854 was used as a subgenus of *Amphiporus* by VERRILL (1892) for the single species *A. superbis*. BÜRGER (1904) considered *Nareda* a synonym of *Amphiporus*. The taxonomy must be considered uncertain at this point, and further phylogenetic studies are needed to clarify the relationships for this group. We find it likely that future studies using molecular methods will change the present taxonomic classification.

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