

Some comments on the Ascidian of New Caledonia

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The large exploration program focussed on the littoral marine fauna of New Caledonia (SNOM – SMIB - LAGON) demonstrated the great diversity of ascidians and considerably increased the number of identified species. In addition to this program, conducted in cooperation with the MNHN, several other oceanographic programs have, in turn, examined the fauna of the continental slope surrounding New Caledonia. The results from the examination of the samples collected by divers and from dredges have been published in several papers dating from 1987 onwards by Claude and Françoise Monniot. These authors have described 229 littoral species and 88 deep water species from more than 100m depth, of which numerous were new species. The collections are catalogued at the MNHN. Only two publications dating from before 1987 are known for New Caledonian ascidians: T. Tokioka (1961) who examined 14 species collected from the Aquarium in Noumea and from the hull of a boat; and from P. Vasseur (1967) who cites 12 species from the area surrounding Nouméa. Adding one species described by Pruvot-Fol in 1929 and the deep water species noted by Millar in 1975, this gives a total of 22 species.

The list of species attached shows the great diversity of genera, with all the important families being represented. The order Aplousobranchia (colonial ascidians) dominates in the littoral forms, similar to that observed in other tropical environments. Within this order, the Didemnidae are particularly difficult to identify and consequently, many rest unidentified. The order Stolidobranchia, which are majorly solitary, the Styelidea is the dominant in terms of number of species, as is the case in other parts of the world. The knowledge to date of the fauna of Ascidiocolia in the Tropical west Pacific is insufficient enough to determine if there are endemic species in New Caledonia, this is even more complicated considering the facility with which these species can be transported on boats.

Around 50% of the species presently identified are found on the East Australian coast. A few of the species are found in New Zealand, for which there is little information. At present, species collection by divers is on the increase however, the lack of specialists in the field slows the identification process. The ascidians of New Caledonia are far from totally inventoried. At present, most of the collections come from the south and none from the coral walls. Many of the samples collected were either not mature or were too contracted to permit identification. Moreover, many species are too small or too cryptic and as a consequence have been ignored.

The affinities of the deeper water ascidians vary as a function of their family and their types of adaptation. They are generally similar to the fauna from the deep water species from temperate systems. There is no relation between the surface water species and the deep water species, even though some of the deep water species can be found in depths of less than 100m.

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ASCIDIIES

AGNEZIIDAE Monniot & Monniot, 1991

Adagnesia cautis C. Monniot, 1991

ASCIDIIDAE Herdman, 1980

Ascidia archaia Sluiter, 1890

Ascidia dorsalis C. Monniot, 1987

Ascidia gemmata Sluiter, 1895

Ascidia glabra Hartmeyer, 1922

Ascidia melanostoma Sluiter, 1885

Ascidia munda Sluiter, 1897

Ascidia sulca C. Monniot, 1991

Ascidia sydneyensis Stimpson, 1855

Ascidia sydneyensis samea (Oka, 1935)

Ascidia tapuni Monniot & Monniot, 1987

Phallusia julinea (Sluiter, 1919)

CIONIDAE Lahille, 1887

Ciona hoshinoi C. Monniot, 1991

DIAZONIDAE

Diazona textura C. Monniot, 1987

Rhopalaea respiciens C. Monniot, 1991

CORELLIDAE

Corella japonica Herdman, 1880

Corella minuta Traustedt, 1882

Rhodosome turcicum (Savigny, 1816)

DIDEMNIDAE Verrill, 1871

Atriolum marsupialis F. Monniot, 1989

Atriolum robustum Kott, 1983

Didemnum ahu Monniot & Monniot, 1987

Didemnum apuroto Monniot & Monniot, 1987

Didemnum biglutinum F. Monniot, 1994

Didemnum bimasculum F. Monniot, 1994

Didemnum cineraceum (Sluiter, 1898)

Didemnum cuculliferum Sluiter, 1909

Didemnum diffundum F. Monniot, 1994

Didemnum etiolum Kott, 1982

Didemnum flavoviride F. Monniot, 1994

Didemnum fragilis (Sluiter, 1909)

Didemnum granulatum Tokioka, 1954

Didemnum hiopaa Monniot & Monniot, 1987

Didemnum lacertosum F. Monniot, 1994

Didemnum ligulum F. Monniot, 1983

Didemnum megasterix F. Monniot, 1994

Didemnum molle (Herdman, 1886)

Didemnum moseleyi (Herman, 1886)

Didemnum nigricans F. Monniot, 1994

Didemnum obscurum F. Monniot, 1969

Didemnum paa Monniot & Monniot, 1987

Didemnum perlucidum F. Monniot, 1983

Didemnum pitipiri Monniot & Monniot, 1987

Didemnum psammathodes (Sluiter, 1895)

Didemnum pseudodiplosoma Kott, 1962

Didemnum rodriguesi Rocha & F. Monniot, 1993

Didemnum spongioides Sluiter, 1909

Didemnum toafene Monniot & Monniot, 1987

Didemnum uturoa Monniot & Monniot, 1987

- Didemnum vahatuio* Monniot & Monniot, 1987
Didemnum viride (Herdman, 1906)
Diplosoma ata Monniot & Monniot, 1987
Diplosoma inflatum F. Monniot, 1994
Diplosoma listerianum (Milne Edwards, 1841)
Diplosoma redika F. Monniot, 1994
Diplosoma similis (Sluiter, 1909)
Diplosoma versicolor F. Monniot, 1994
Diplosoma virens (Hartmeyer, 1909)
Leptoclinides apertus F. Monniot, 1989
Leptoclinides dubius (Sluiter, 1909)
Leptoclinides multipapillatus F. Monniot, 1989
Leptoclinides robiginis F. Monniot, 1989
Leptoclinides unitestis F. Monniot, 1989
Lissoclinum abdominale Monniot, 1983
Lissoclinum badium Monniot F.& Monniot C. 1996
Lissoclinum bistratum (Sluiter, 1905)
Lissoclinum calycis F. Monniot, 1992
Lissoclinum cornutum F. Monniot, 1992
Lissoclinum fragile (Van Name, 1902)
Lissoclinum japonicum Tokioka, 1958
Lissoclinum patella (Gottschaldt, 1898)
Lissoclinum polyorchis F. Monniot, 1992
Lissoclinum punctatum Kott, 1977
Lissoclinum ravarava Monniot & Monniot, 1987
Lissoclinum textrinum F. Monniot, 1992
Lissoclinum tuheiavae Monniot & Monniot, 1987
Lissoclinum vareau Monniot & Monniot, 1987
Lissoclinum verrilli (Van Name, 1902)
Lissoclinum voeltzkowi (Michaelsen, 1920)
Lissoclinum vulgare F. Monniot, 1992
Polysyncraton lithostrotum (Brewin, 1956)
Polysyncraton multipapillae F. Monniot, 1993
Polysyncraton pavementum F. Monniot, 1993
Polysyncraton purou Monniot & Monniot, 1987
Polysyncraton rugosum F. Monniot, 1993
Polysyncraton pseudorugosum F. Monniot, 1993
Polysyncraton thallomorpha F. Monniot, 1993
Polysyncraton meandratum F. Monniot, 1993
Trididemnum banneri Eldredge, 1967
Trididemnum cerebriforme Hartmeyer, 1913
Trididemnum cyclops Michaelsen, 1921
Trididemnum discrepans (Sluiter, 1909)
Trididemnum miniatum Kott, 1977
Trididemnum nubis F. Monniot, 1991
Trididemnum paracyclops Kott, 1980
Trididemnum spongia F. Monniot, 1991
- MOLGULIDAE Lacaze Duthiers, 1877**
- Molgula incidata* Kott, 1985
Molgula bisinus C. Monniot, 1990
- PEROPHORIDAE**
- Ecteinascidia aequale* C. Monniot, 1987
Ecteinascidia jacerens Tokioka, 1954
Ecteinascidia koumaci C. Monniot, 1987
Ecteinascidia ndouae C. Monniot, 1991

Ecteinascidia nexa Sluiter, 1904
Ecteinascidia sluiteri Herdman, 1906
Ecteinascidia vitta C. Monniot, 1992
Perophora fascia C. Monniot, 1991
Perophora modificata Kott, 1985
Perophora multiclathrata (Sluiter, 1904)
Perophora viridis Verrill, 1871

POLYCITORIDAE Michaelsen, 1904

Archidistoma richeri F. Monniot, 1988
Archidistoma rubripunctum F. Monniot, 1988
Citorclinum laboutei Monniot & Millar, 1988
Clavelina detorta (Sluiter, 1904)
Clavelina fecunda (Sluiter, 1904)
Clavelina flava F. Monniot, 1988
Cystodytes aucklandicus Nott, 1892
Cystodytes fuscus F. Monniot, 1988
Cystodytes luteus F. Monniot, 1988
Cystodytes mucosus F. Monniot, 1988
Cystodytes multipapillatus F. Monniot, 1988
Cystodytes punctatus F. Monniot, 1988
Cystodytes solitus F. Monniot, 1988
Cystodytes violatinctus F. Monniot, 1988
Distaplia stylifera (Kowalevsky, 1874)
Eudistoma album F. Monniot, 1988
Eudistoma fragum F. Monniot, 1988
Eudistoma hospitale F. Monniot, 1998
Eudistoma laysani (Sluiter, 1900)
Eudistoma ovatum (Herdman, 1886)
Eudistoma reginum Kott, 1990
Eudistoma stellatum F. Monniot, 1988
Eudistoma vulgare F. Monniot, 1988
Oxycorynia fascicularis Drasche, 1882
Polycitor circes Michaelsen, 1930
Polycitor crystallinus (Renier, 1804)
Polycitor translucida Kott, 1957
Polycitorella mariae Michaelsen, 1924
Stomoza murrayi Kott, 1957

POLYCLINIDAE Milne Edwards, 1842

Aplidiopsis gelidus F. Monniot, 1987
Aplidium caelestis F. Monniot, 1987
Aplidium californicum (Ritter, 1900) =controversum M&M 1996
Aplidium cellis F. Monniot, 1987
Aplidium depressum Sluiter, 1909
Aplidium flavolineatum (Sluiter, 1898)
Aplidium latusexitus F. Monniot, 1987
Aplidium lobatum Savigny, 1816
Aplidium longithorax F. Monniot, 1987
Aplidium mernooensis (Brewin, 1956)
Aplidium multipapillatum Millar, 1975
Aplidium nadaense (Nishikawa, 1980)
Aplidium triggsensis Kott, 1963
Euherdmania claviformis (Ritter, 1903)
Euherdmania dumosa F. Monniot, 1987
Homoeodistoma omasum F. Monniot, 1987
Polyclinum constellatum Savigny, 1816

Polyclinum macrophyllum Michaelsen, 1919
Polyclinum pute Monnier & Monnier, 1987
Pseudodistoma arborescens Millar, 1967
Pseudodistoma fragilis Tokioka, 1958
Ritterella circularis F. Monnier, 1987
Synoicum partitionis F. Monnier, 1987

PYURIDAE Hartmeyer, 1908

Bolteniopsis pacificus C. Monnier, 1989
Halocynthia cactus (Oka, 1932)
Halocynthia hispida (Herdman, 1881)
Herdmania contorta C. Monnier, 1992
Herdmania momus (Savigny, 1816)
Herdmania pallida (Heller, 1878)
Microcosmus exasperatus Heller, 1878
Microcosmus longicloa Monnier & Monnier, 1991
Microcosmus multiplicatus Tokioka, 1952
Microcosmus tuberculatus Kott, 1985
Pyura albanyensis Michaelsen, 1927
Pyura columna (Monnier & Monnier, 1991) *Herdmania*
Pyura confragosa Kott, 1985
Pyura momus (Savigny, 1816)
Pyura sacciformis (Drasche, 1884)
Pyura scortea Kott, 1985
Pyura uatio C. Monnier, 1991
Pyura viarecta Kott, 1985
Pyura vittata (Stimpson, 1852)

STYELIDAE Sluiter, 1895

Amphicarpa agnata (Kott, 1985)
Amphicarpa duplopicata (Sluiter, 1913)
Amphicarpa laboutei C. Monnier, 1988
Botryllus arenaceus C. Monnier, 1988
Botryllus aster C. Monnier, 1991
Botryllus gracilis Michaelsen, 1927
Botryllus humilis C. Monnier, 1988
Botryllus leptus (Herdman, 1899)
Botryllus niger (Herdman, 1886)
Botryllus ovalis C. Monnier, 1988
Botryllus tuberatus Ritter & Forsyth, 1917
Chorizocarpa guttata Michaelsen, 1904
Cnemidocarpa alisi C. Monnier, 1992
Cnemidocarpa areolata (Heller, 1878)
Cnemidocarpa humilis (Heller, 1878)
Cnemidocarpa irene (Hartmeyer, 1906)
Cnemidocarpa recta C. Monnier, 1991
Cnemidocarpa valborg Hartmeyer, 1919
Eusynstyela aliena C. Monnier, 1991
Eusynstyela grandis Kott, 1990
Eusynstyela misakiensis (Watanabe & Tokioka, 1972)
Eusynstyela phiala C. Monnier, 1991
Metandrocarpa manina Monnier & Monnier, 1987
Metandrocarpa manina reducta (C. Monnier, 1988)
Oculinaria occultare C. Monnier, 1991
Polyandrocarpa glandulosa C. Monnier, 1987
Polyandrocarpa rollandi Tokioka, 1961
Polycarpa anguinea (Sluiter, 1898)

Polycarpa argentata (Sluiter, 1890)
Polycarpa aurita (Sluiter, 1890)
Polycarpa circumarata (Sluiter, 1904)
Polycarpa clavata Hartmeyer, 1919
Polycarpa contecta (Sluiter, 1904)
Polycarpa cryptocarpa (Sluiter, 1885)
Polycarpa insulsa (Sluiter, 1898)
Polycarpa moebii Michaelsen, 1905
Polycarpa mytiligera (Savigny, 1816)
Polycarpa nigerrima Monniot & Monniot, 2001
Polycarpa nigricans Heller, 1878
Polycarpa papillata (Sluiter, 1885)
Polycarpa pedunculata Heller, 1878
Polycarpa picteti Pizon, 1909
Polycarpa pigmentata (Herdman, 1906)
Polycarpa procera (Sluiter, 1885)
Polycarpa richeri C. Monniot, 1987
Polycarpa stirpes Kott, 1985
Stolonica variata C. Monniot, 1988
Styela areolata Heller, 1878
Styela canopus (Savigny, 1816)
Styela partita (Stimpson, 1852)
Symplegma alterna C. Monniot, 1988
Symplegma oecania Tokioka, 1961

Ascidian from deep habitats in the vicinity of New Caledonia

AGNESIIDAE Monniot & Monniot, 1991

Corynascidia alata Monniot & Monniot, 1991 23°19.6S-168°03.4E

ASCIDIIDAE Herdman, 1980

Ascidia alterna Monniot & Monniot, 1991 24°46.6S-159°40.3E 280m

Fimbrora calsubia Monniot & Monniot, 1991 21°26S-166°22.7E 1860m

Pterygascidia inversa Monniot & Monniot, 1989 23°07.6S-166°50.5E 850m

DIAZONIDAE

Araneum pedunculatum Monniot & Monniot, 1991 22°53.1S-167°17.1E 600m

DIDEMNIDAE Verrill, 1871

Leptoclinides duminus Millar, 1982 22°39.0S-167°07.4E 230m

HEXACROBILIDAE

Asajirus hemisphericus (Monniot & Monniot, 1990) 20°18.5S-167°17.6E 3700m

Asajirus gulosus (Monniot & Monniot, 1984) 20°34S-167°25E 2000-4000m

Asajirus indicus (Oka, 1913) 22°46S-166°20E 2000m

Asajirus longitestis (Monniot & Monniot, 1990) 24°19.1S-167°48.7E 1400m

Asajirus ovararus (Monniot & Monniot, 1990) 23°05.5S-166°26.4E 1500m

Oligotrema psammites Bourne, 1902 24°47S-159°39.2E 270m

Sorbera unigonas Monniot & Monniot, 1974 23°43.3S-166°57.1E 1500-1600m

MOLGULIDAE Lacaze Duthiers, 1877

Fungulus minutulus Monniot & Monniot, 1991 22°47.3S-167°14.3E 450m

Molgula delicata Monniot & Monniot, 1991 23°08.6S-167°11.0E 500-700m

Molguloides mollis Monniot & Monniot, 1991 23°05.3S-167°45.0E 700m

Molguloides monocarpa (Millar, 1959) 22°09.0S-167°33.2E 800-2300m

Molguloides tonsus Monniot & Monniot, 1991 21°00.9S-160°50.3E 800m

Molguloides translucidus Monniot & Monniot, 1991 22°55.1S-167°22.8E 700m

Protomolgula cornuta Monniot & Monniot, 1991 22°46.4S-166°19.9E 2100m

OCTACNEMIDAE

- Dicopia fimbriata* Sluiter, 1905 23°19.8S-167°30.5^E 1200m
Myopegma melanesium Monniot & Monniot, 2003 22°16.25S-167°15.53^E 450m
Octacnemus bythius Moseley, 1876 23°19.8S-167°30.5^E 1200m
Octacnemus ingolfi Madsen, 1947 21°01.5S-166°57.4^E 2000m
Situla cuculli Monniot & Monniot, 1991 22°45.8S-166°20.3^E 2040m
Situla galeata Monniot & Monniot, 1991 21°16.5S-166°43.6^E 2340m
Situla rineharti Monniot & Monniot, 1989 20°34.5S-167°24.7^E 3900m

PLURELLIDAE

- Microgastra granosa* (Sluiter, 1904)

POLYCITORIDAE Michaelsen, 1904

- Distaplia progressa* Monniot & Monniot, 1991 22°58S-167°29^E 520m
Protoholozoa anthos Monniot & Monniot, 1991 23°13.7S-168°04.3^E 320m
Protoholozoa lilium Monniot & Monniot, 1991 24°28.7S-168°07.7^E 2160m

POLYCLINIDAE Milne Edwards, 1842

- Aplidiopsis parvastigma* Monniot & Monniot 1991 23°03.6S-167°27.0^E 850m
Aplidium fistulosum Monniot & Monniot 1991 23°20S-168°05^E 230m
Aplidium pusillum Monniot & Monniot, 1991 22°47.3S-167°14.8^E 450m
Aplidium scyphus Monniot & Monniot, 1991 22°59.5S-167°22.0^E 500m
Pharyngodictyon bisinus Monniot & Monniot 1991 23°05.8S-167°46.5^E 600m
Pharyngodictyon cauliflos Monniot & Monniot, 1991 22°59.5S-167°22^E 500m
Pharyngodictyon magnifili Monniot & Monniot 1991 18°52.8S-163°21.7^E 545m
Ritterella folium Monniot & Monniot, 1991 18°56.0S-163°20.0^E 450-660m
Ritterella rete Monniot & Monniot 1991 23°15.6S-168°03.1^E 300m

PYURIDAE Hartmeyer, 1908

- Bathypyura asymetrica* Monniot F., 1970 23°43.3S-166°58.1^E 1500-1600m
Boltenia hirta Monniot & Monniot, 1977 24°19.1S-167°48.7^E 1400m
Culeolus caudatus Monniot & Monniot, 1991 23°08.6S-167°11.0E 600-700m
Culeolus elegans Monniot & Monniot, 1991 24°01.4S-167°08.4^E 1500m
Culeolus herdmani Sluiter, 1904 22°39.7S-166°27.4^E 400-1700m
Culeolus recumbens Herdman, 1881 23°05.5S-166°26.4^E 1900-2000m
Herdmania columna (Monniot & Monniot, 1991) 20°48.7S-165°19.3^E 110m
Herdmania pennata (Monniot & Monniot, 1991) 24°42.8S-168°09.1^E 250m

STYELIDAE Sluiter, 1895

- Bathyoncus tantulus* Monniot & Monniot, 1991 23°43.3S-166°58.1^E 1500m
Bathyoncus lanatus Monniot & Monniot, 1991 18°48.2S-163°10.8^E 720m
Bathystyeloides miriducta Monniot & Monniot, 1991 23°56.2S-166°41.1^E 2650m
Cnemidocarpa intestinata Kott, 1985 23°05.3S-167°45.0^E 700m
Distomus pacificus Monniot & Monniot, 1991 22°58.7S-167°21.1^E 550m
Polycarpa captiosa (Sluiter, 1885)
Polycarpa carpoicincta Monniot & Monniot, 2003 22°29S-166°25^E 250m
Polycarpa macra Monniot & Monniot, 1991 23°56.2S-166°41.1^E 2650m
Polycarpa producta Monniot & Monniot, 2003 23°22S-168°02^E 300m
Polycarpa reviviscens Monniot & Monniot, 2001 22°44S-167°17^E 350m
Styela kottae Monniot & Monniot, 1991 22°45.8S-166°20.3^E 2000-2600m



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Aplidium protectans



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Ascidia glabra



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Atrium robustum



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Clavelina detorta



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Didemnum molle



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Eudistoma sp.



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Lissoclinum bistratum



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Lissoclinum cf. *vareau*



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Nephtheis fascicularis



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Perophora sp.



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Polycarpa cf. *cryptocarpa*



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Polycarpa cf. *pigmentata*



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Pseudodistoma arborescens



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Pseudodistoma cf. *digitata*



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Ritterella circularis



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Stolonica variata

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II7

Volume spécial

COMPENDIUM
of marine species from
New Caledonia



Edited by
CLAUDE E. PAYRI
Bertrand RICHER DE FORGES



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