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**OCCURRENCE OF *Pseudonereis gallapagensis* Kinberg, 1865
(ANNELIDA: POLYCHAETA: NEREIDIDAE) IN THE COLOMBIAN
CARIBBEAN COAST**

**PRESENCIA DE *Pseudonereis gallapagensis* Kinberg, 1865
(ANNELIDA: POLYCHAETA: NEREIDIDAE) EN LA COSTA
CARIBE COLOMBIANA**

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Abstract

The Nereididae polychaete *Pseudonereis gallapagensis* Kinberg, 1865 has been identified along the Caribbean coast of Colombia. This is the first time that this polychaete has been found as far south at Colombian Caribbean, and expands its known range. Five specimens were collected from red algae beds in the litoral Córdoba Department

Resumen

El poliqueto Nereidideo *Pseudonereis gallapagensis* Kinberg, 1865, ha sido identificado a lo largo de la costa Caribe de Colombia. Esta es la primera vez que este poliqueto es encontrado al sur del Caribe colombiano, y esto expande su rango de distribución conocido. Se colectaron 5 especímenes entre tapetes de algas rojas en el litoral del Departamento de Córdoba.

The family Nereididae (JOHNSTON, 1845) is cosmopolitan, diverse and abundant. It occurs in a variety of habitats, primarily littoral and comprises 40 genera with 450 species. All species have a long cylindrical body with a broad anterior and a slender posterior end. The diagnostic characters are based on structures of the pharynx, which has two rings, oral and maxillary, both with horny or soft papillary structures in specific arrangements. The areas of the pharynx are numbered from I to VIII, where I to IV are on the maxillary ring and V to VIII on the oral ring. The prostomium on the anterior end is sub oval with two antennae, eight tentacular cirri, two biarticulated palps and four eyes.

Pseudonereis gallapagensis Kinberg, 1865 (Fig. 1-3)

Pseudonereis gallapagensis. (FAUCHALD y REIMER 1975: 85; FAUCHALD, 1977a: 90; FAUCHALD 1977b:32-33; DE LEÓN GONZÁLEZ *et al.* 2009: 350-351).

Examined Material: Three specimens. UCLZ-AN0238, UCLZ-AN0239, and UCLZ-AN0240 (Córdoba University Zoology Laboratory ANNELIDA). The specimens were collected from San Antero, Moñitos and Los Córdoba, respectively, in Córdoba Department, Colombia, and were collected by D. Herrera, A.C. Gonzalez and E. Isaza from rocky intertidal red algae beds, in 0.1- 0.2m of depth.

Description: The prostomium is relatively wide. Area I has two conical paragnaths, (De León-González, 1998) area II has three rows of pectinate bars, area III has four pectinate bars, area IV has five pectinate bars, area V has only one conical paragnath, area VI has transverse paragnaths (Fig. 1), areas VII and VIII have a single row of alternating small and large conical paragnaths.

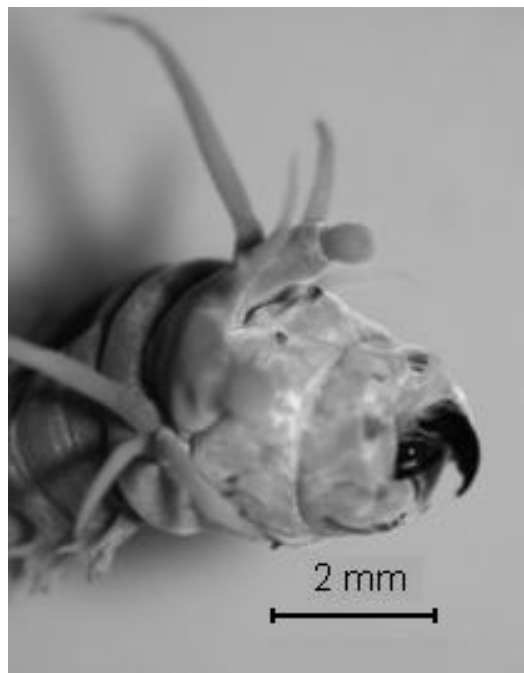


Figure 1. Prostomium of *Pseudonereis gallapagensis* with horny paragnaths on the pharynx

Parapodia in the central region have digitiform dorsal cirrus two black acicules and short ventral cirrus (Fig. 2a). The notopodial homogomph spiniger can be seen in Fig. 2b, the neuropodial heterogomph falcigers with internal teeth are seen in Fig. 2c and the heterogomph falcigers with a long blade can be seen Fig. 2d.

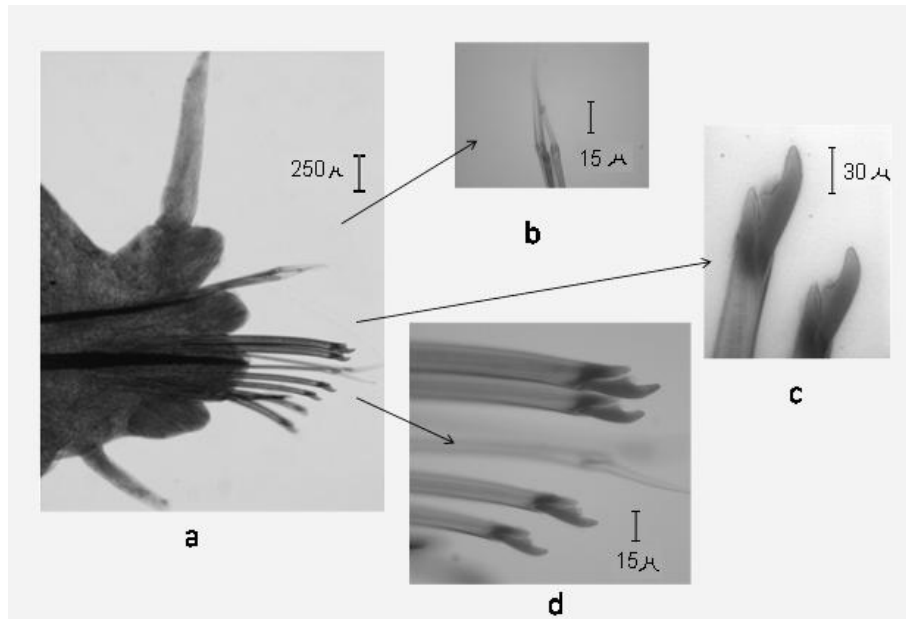


Figure 2. *Pseudonereis gallapagensis* a) Parapodium of the central region, b) Notopodial homogomph spinigers, c) Neuropodial heterogomph falcigers with little teeth on the falcate blade, d) Heterogomph falcigers with a long blade

The superior notopodial lobe is strongly prolonged and foliose are in the posterior setigers (Fig. 3). The short dorsal cirrus is attached distally to the superior lobe.

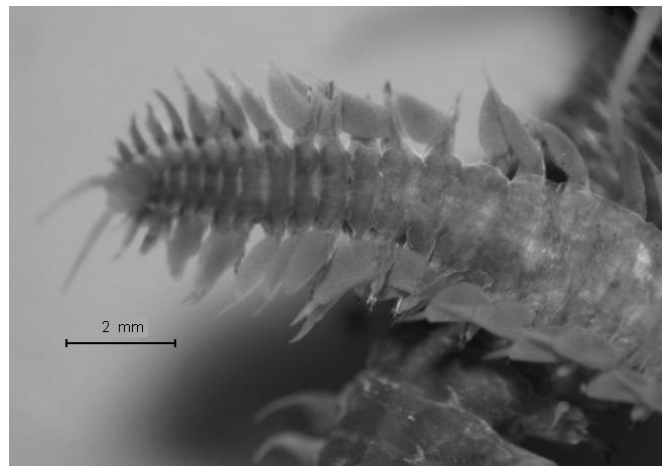


Figure 3. Posterior region of *Pseudonereis gallapagensis* showing the superior notopodial lobe strongly prolonged and the foliose

Distribution. *Pseudonereis gallapagensis* occurs in the Pacific Ocean in the Galapagos Islands and Baja California, Caribbean Sea, South Africa, Madagascar, Red Sea. The Colombian polychaetes checklist (Baez and Ardila, 2003) has no previous register about this species. This new record from the Southern Caribbean expands its range to Colombia, Córdoba Department.

Ecology. Colombian specimens were found in red algae beds, throughout the rocky intertidal zone between 0.1 and 0.2 m of depth.

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