

## A NEW REGISTER OF *Porpita porpita* (LINNAEUS, 1758) IN THE STATE OF PERNAMBUCO, NE BRAZIL

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### RESUMO

#### Um novo registro de *Porpita porpita* (Linnaeus, 1758) para o Estado de Pernambuco, NE – Brasil

Esta nota representa um novo registro do hidrozoário oceânico *Porpita porpita* (Linnaeus, 1758) para o Estado de Pernambuco, Nordeste do Brasil. Três espécimes de *P.porpita* foram coletados na praia do Janga (7°55'41"S, 34°49'15"W e 7°57'10"S, 34°49'40"W) em 13 de julho de 2006.

**PALAVRAS CHAVE:** Hydrozoa, *Porpita*, Pernambuco, Brasil

### ABSTRACT

This note represents a new register of the oceanic hydrozoa *Porpita porpita* (Linnaeus, 1758) for the Pernambuco state, Northeastern Brazil. Three specimens of *P.porpita* were collected at Janga beach (7°55'41"S, 34°49'15"W and 7°57'10"S, 34°49'40"W) on July 13, 2006.

**KEY WORDS:** Hydrozoa, *Porpita*, Pernambuco, Brazil

The number of Hydrozoa recorded in Brazil has been increasing since 1940, and most substantially during the last decade (Marques *et al.* 2003). Despite the fact that there are 347 species known of Hydrozoa found in the waters of Brazil (Migotto *et al.* 2002), the knowledge of their distribution and biodiversity along the Northern and Northeastern coasts of Brazil is still incipient with 86 and 194 recorded species respectively. The Hydrozoa fauna is better known in the southeastern coast of Brazil (270 species), specially at São Paulo (52 species) and Rio de Janeiro (24 species) states. (Migotto *et al.* 2002; Marques *et al.* 2003; Migotto & Marques 2006). Several studies have been done on oceanic Hydrozoa but only a few intent specific *Porpita porpita* (Weil 1934; Brinckmann-Voss 1970; Bouillon 1984 *apud* Bouillon 1985; Bouillon & Boero 2000; Bouillon *et al.* 2004).

Popularly known as the blue button, *P.porpita* (Fig.1) is a pleustonic and oceanic species that can be occasionally found in large quantities stranded over the beach, these standings are most likely after storms events (Shimabukuro *et al.* 2006). In the Pernambuco state there was only one recorded of *P.porpita*, in Conceição and Pau Amarelo beaches (Maïal *et al.* 2002).

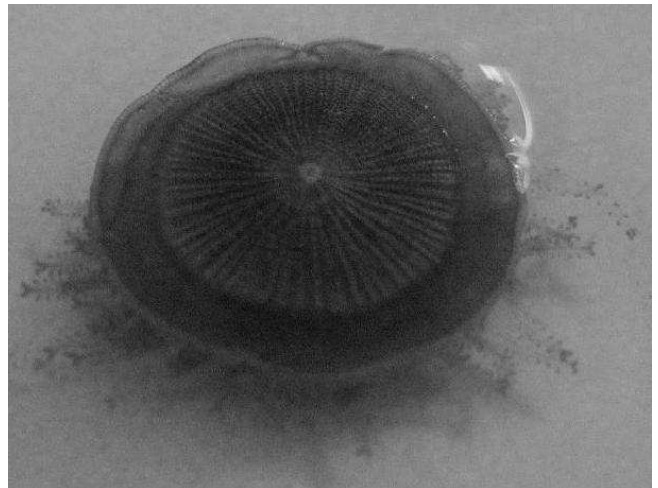


FIGURE 1 – The species *Porpita porpita* (Scale: 5mm)

(Photo: Fisner, M.)

Three specimens of *P.porpita* were collected on July 13, 2006, during the rainy season, at Janga beach, Paulista County – Pernambuco (PE) (7°55'41"S, 34°49'15"W and 7°57'10"S, 34°49'40"W). The specimens were found along the middle littoral, together with some specimens of *Physalia*. All specimens were collected with a spatula, placed in a recipient with sea water, transported to the the NEC laboratory (Núcleo de Estudos de Cnidaria) of the Departamento de Zoologia – Universidade Federal de Pernambuco where it was fixed in 4% formaldehyde

solution and later analyzed under stereomicroscope for identification and description. After that, the specimens were registered at the Museu de Zoologia at the Universidade de São Paulo with the numbers MZUSP 1469 (2 specimens) and MZUSP 1470 (1 specimen).

Class Hydrozoa

Subclass Anthoathecata

Family Porpitidae Goldfuss, 1818 (description see Bouillon & Boero 2000)

Genus *Porpita* Lamark, 1801 (description see Bouillon & Boero 2000)

*Porpita porpita* (specimens of Janga beach, Pernambuco)

Hydroid: floating colony, disk-shaped, dark-blue. A largest floating with a diameter of 1 cm and the top surface of the floater presenting bulbs and some apertures. The interior of the floater being composed of a central chamber formed by several radial chambers connected at the inner side. A gastrozoid was present exactly under the floater. The gonozooids were located around the gastrozoid and are surrounded by sequences of dactilozoids, with the youngster sequence located near the outer region. Each dactilozoid presenting distal cnidocysts. No medusa was observed.

The described material was found on the beach together with some specimens of *Physalia*, this fact was also observed by Shimabukuro et al. (2006). The specimens of Janga beach have a circular floater, a convex upper surface and other characteristics similar to those described by Brinckmann-Voss (1970); Calder (1988); Pàges et al. (1992) and Shimabukuro et al. (2006).

This species was previously recorded in the Atlantic, Indo-Pacific Ocean and Mediterranean Sea (Brinckmann-Voss 1970; Bouillon et al. 2004). In Brazil, there are records of the occurrence of this species for Ceará (Shimabukuro et al. 2006), Bahia (Migotto et al. 2002), São Paulo (Migotto et al. 2002; Borges et al. 2002) and Pernambuco (Maïal et al. 2002, at Conceição and Pau Amarelo beaches) and now at Janga beach.

Entrada: 20/11/2007

Aceite: 08/08/2008

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