



First occurrence of *Crosslandia daedali* (Nudibranchia: Dendronotacea) in the South Atlantic, Northeast Brazil.

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Abstract

This paper presents the first record of *Crosslandia daedali* Poorman & Mulliner, 1981 in the South Atlantic, Northeast Brazil.

Key words: *Crosslandia daedali*; first record; South Atlantic

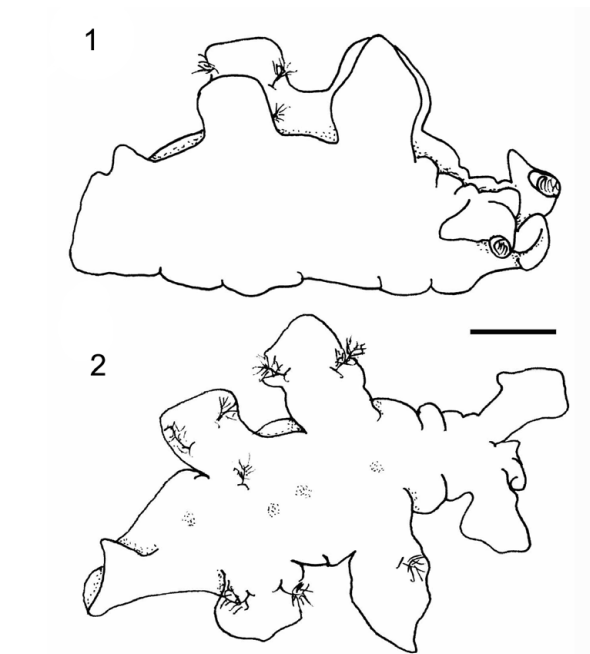
Resumo

Este trabalho apresenta o primeiro registro de *Crosslandia daedali* Poorman & Mulliner, 1981 para o Atlântico Sul, Nordeste brasileiro.

Palavras-chave: *Crosslandia daedali*; primeiro registro; Atlântico Sul

Introduction

The family Scyllaeidae includes three genera. *Scyllae* Linnaeus, 1758; *Crosslandia* Eliot, 1902 and *Notobryon* Odhner, 1936 (Poorman, 1986) are thought to feed on hydroids growing on brown algae or sea grass. All species can swim to some extent by lateral flexion of the body. They may present a bilobed oral veil, and their rinophoral sheaths tend to approximate the cerata in shape (Debelius & Kuitert, 2007). *Crosslandia daedali* Poorman & Mulliner, 1981 is an active species of nudibranch, commonly found in the intertidal zone along hydrozoans such as *Padina* and *Zostera*, which grow on local algae (Poorman & Mulliner, 1981). These mollusks are either benthic or pelagic, drifting in the water column among the algae that float in the ocean currents (Valdés, 2006). *C. daedali* is distributed in Mexico (Tinajas, Bahia de Baco-chibampo, Sonora – type locality), Gulf of California and North Pacific Coast of Costa Rica (Culebra Bay, Guanacaste; Playa Grande, Tamarindo Bay) (Poorman & Mulliner, 1981; Ajtai et. al., 2003; Behrens, 2004). Specimens were collected randomly among brown algae of the genus *Sargassum* floating near the coral reefs from beach of Rio do Fogo, Rio Grande do Norte, Northeastern Brazil. Data collection was conducted in June 2009. The specimens were frozen and immersed in 70%



Figures 1-2 Drawings of a preserved specimen. 1. Lateral view. 2 Dorsal views. Scale bars = 2 mm.

ethanol and 7 specimens vouchered in the Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo (MZSP 97069). The present records of *C. daedali* expand their known geographic distribution ca. 6000 km southward and documents the first occurrence



Figure 3 Left view of alive specimen (=11 mm).

of the genus in the South Atlantic, Northeast Brazil. Diagnoses (Fig. 1, 2, 3): Body long, measuring 11 mm in length (preserved specimen), a pair of cerata bilobed; the edges of the lobes are irregularly notched and have numerous branchial tufts along them. The color varies from green to brown with fine brown lines along the body as well as some brown spots; blue spots along the sides and dorsally.

Acknowledgments

A special thank to Carlo M. Cunha for his patience in help us. For Daniel C. Cavallari for the corrections of the english and to Barbara L. V. Romera for the tips on drawing and photo editing (all from MZSP, Brazil). Thanks for the field support to Franklin Noel (UFES, Brazil) and Rosângela D'Oliveira (UFRN, Brazil) for access to the laboratory that helped us with the collected material.

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Received: October 22, 2011. Accepted: December 10, 2011.