

NOTA CIENTIFICA

FIRST RECORD OF THE BARNACLE CRUSTACEAN GENUS *Newmaniverruca* (CRUSTACEA, CIRRIPIEDIA, VERRUCOMORPHA) FROM BATHIAL DEPTHS OFFSHORE WESTERNMOST CUBA.

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RESUMEN

Se registra por primera vez para las aguas de la zona batial de Cuba un ejemplar muerto de un escaramujo de *Newmaniverruca* sp. El capítulo vacío de este crustáceo asimétrico apareció adherido a un megalito colectado en el fondo de la región WNW de la Península de Guanahacabibes, Cuba. Se presentan además las figuras del capítulo, así como la vista interna del escudo fijo del mencionado cirripedio.

Palabras clave: nuevos registros; Cirripedia; Verrucomorpha; *Newmaniverruca*; ASW, Cuba.

ABSTRACT

A dead specimen of the marine barnacle crustacean *Newmaniverruca* sp. is for the first time recorded from bathial water offshore Cuba. The empty capitulum of this distorted crustacean was attached to a rock pebble recovered from the sea bottom, WNW of the Guanahacabibes peninsula of Cuba. A figure of its capitulum, as well as an inner view of its fixed scutum, are also given.

Key words: new records; Cirripedia; Verrucomorpha; *Newmaniverruca*; ASW, Cuba.

By the end of year 2000 one scientific expedition of the R/V "Ulises" on assignment to the research team of Exploramar, side scan images recorded from the sea bottom at depths between 600 and 750 meters, discovered a group of unusual megalithic structures which were named MEGA (www.cuba.cu/historia_natural/exmari.htm). MEGA is located NW of Cape San Antonio, just SE of San Antonio Bank, at the floor of a NE trending marine valley. Within an area of several squares kilometers from the sandy sea bottom are protruding rocky features (megaliths) with peculiar geometric shapes like square, cubic, pyramidal, parallelepiped and crest-like elements. Some of the side scan sonar images illustrate complex lineal structures with chamber-like sectors surrounded by thick walls and extended corridors; www.cuba.cu/historia_natural/exmari.htm). These structures are not associated with any fault or escarpment; so its nature has yet to be resolved. A strong marine current from the Caribbean Sea flows in over this area, carrying large amounts of plankton. Due to this current there is a thick

deposition of organic sands as well as strong erosion acting over the exposed submarine rocks. The lithologic composition of the rocks forming the megaliths has not yet been accurately identified. One pebble recovered from loose sands deposited above one of the megaliths, can be identified as an indurated volcanoclastic sandstone pebble. How this rock reached the area of the megaliths is not yet understood, as there is not any submarine valley or current feeding the area from the nearest land (Guanahacabibes peninsula). On the other hand, in the Guanahacabibes peninsula only Pleistocene limestone are exposed.

RESULTS

The rounded vulcanoclastic pebble carried an attached death specimen of a verrucomorph barnacle, and the submarine video images recorded during the recollection of the sample, suggest that there were probably two of them. Also

attached were found some tubes of an unidentified serpulid worm (Polychaeta).

The only previous verrucomorph barnacles recorded from Cuban deep waters are *Costatoverruca alba* (Zevina, 1975) and *Rostratoverruca nexa* (Pilsbry, 1907)

When the specimen was collected the wall plates of the capitulum were pretty nice preserved, so, after the study of the inner side of its fixed scutum, which has no adductor ridge, we reach the conclusion that this barnacles fix the diagnosis of *Newmaniverruca*. The greatest basal capitulum diameter is 13 cm , and that of operculum is 8 (Fig. 1) An inner view of the fixed scutum of this rare barnacles is shown in Fig. 2. This is the first record of this type of barnacle over a rock pebble, collected from the Cuban deep waters.

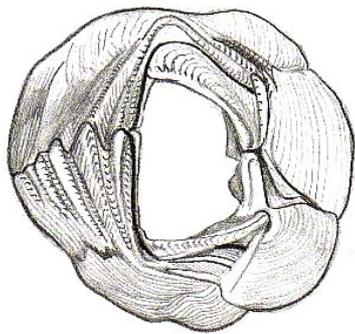


Fig. 1. Polar view of the capitulum of *Newmaniverruca* sp.

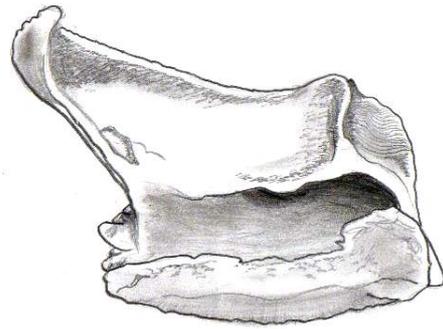


Fig. 2. Inner view of the fixed scutum of *Newmaniverruca* sp.

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