

***Craniella quirimure* sp. nov. from the mangroves of Bahia (Brazil) (Tetillidae, Spirophorida, Demospongiae)**

SOLANGE PEIXINHO¹, BRUNO COSME¹ & EDUARDO HAJDU²

1. Departamento de Zoologia, Instituto de Biologia, Universidade Federal da Bahia, Campus de Ondina, 40210-170, Salvador, BA, Brazil

2. Museu Nacional, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Quinta da Boa Vista s/n, 20940-040, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

Abstract

Craniella quirimure sp. nov. is fully described here on the basis of dozens of specimens collected between 1975 and 2004 from Bahia, Brazil. The species is the only warm shallow-water, mangrove species of *Craniella* in the Tropical Atlantic with cortical oxeas up to 1000 µm long and 28 µm thick, two categories of protriaenes, anatriaenes which can be larger than 9000 µm and sigmaspires smaller than 15 µm.

Key words: *Craniella*, taxonomy, Todos os Santos Bay, sponge, new species, mangrove, Brazil

Introduction

Bahia is the Brazilian state with the largest coastline, where Brazils alleged reachest reefal systems occur (Laborel, 1969; Castro & Pires, 2001). This is matched by the relatively few published records of marine sponges and the many unregistered records found in collections such as those belonging to the Universidade Federal da Bahia and that from Museu Nacional, of Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro. The Todos os Santos Bay, despite its rich sponge assemblages (Santos *et al.*, 2002) and decades of collecting by Peixinho *et coll.*, has been subject to very little taxonomic effort in the form of published articles in journals of large circulation (e.g. Hajdu & Boury-Esnault, 1991; Boury-Esnault *et al.*, 1994; Muricy & Ribeiro, 1999; Muricy *et al.*, 2001), so that knowledge on its sponges remains restricted to very few people. The Bay of Camamu is absolutely unknown as regards its sponge fauna. A new species of *Craniella* known to occur on both these bays is described here as part of our efforts to prepare a field guide to the commonest marine sponges of Todos os Santos Bay and surroundings.