



Article

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A review of *Ancorina*, *Stryphnus*, and *Ecionemia* (Demospongiae, Astrophorida, Ancorinidae), with descriptions of new species from New Zealand waters

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Abstract

New collections of New Zealand ancorinid sponges with sanidasters, regular and sanidaster-like microrhabds, and amphiaster-like microscleres, has prompted us to review the integrity of ancorinid genera *Ancorina* Schmidt, *Ecionemia* Bowerbank, and *Stryphnus* Sollas (Demospongiae, Astrophorida, Ancorinidae). The varietal name in *Ancorina progressa* (von Lendenfeld 1907) var. *diplococcus* Dendy, 1924 has been elevated to full species status, and *A. stalagmoides* (Dendy, 1924) has been redescribed. Two new species, *A. bellae* sp. nov., from the Three Kings Islands, and *A. globosa* sp. nov., from Campbell Rise, have been described. Two New Zealand species previously assigned to *Ancorina* by Dendy (1924) have been transferred to *Ecionemia*: *E. alata* (Dendy 1924) and *E. novaezealandiae* (Dendy 1924). The genus *Stryphnus* is recorded for the first time in New Zealand waters, and 6 new species are described here; *S. poculum* sp. nov., *S. levis* sp. nov., *S. novaezealandiae* sp. nov., *S. spelunca* sp. nov., and *S. atypicus* sp. nov. Specimens identified as *Asteropus simplex* (Carter 1879) by Dendy (1924) and Bergquist (1968), a genus without triaenes, have been transferred to *Stryphnus* and renamed as *S. ariena* sp. nov., as all specimens contained rare triaenes.