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First record of *Damiria* Keller, 1891 from Brazil, with the description of a new species (Poecilosclerida; Demospongiae; Porifera)

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Damiria Keller, 1891 is defined by possessing fistular shape with apically microspined tylotes as the only megascleres, and microscleres that may include toxas (Hooper 2002). Van Soest *et al*. (1994) broadened the definition of *Damiria* to allow the inclusion of *Damiria toxifera* van Soest *et al*., 1994, first species with toxas in the genus. These were the first microscleres assigned to the genus. *Damiria* is a small genus with six members widely distributed over the world's oceans (van Soest *et al*. 2012): *D. curvata* (Vacelet, 1969) from Mediterranean Sea; *D. fistulatus* (Carter, 1880) from South India and Sri Lanka; *D. leonorae* van Soest *et al*., 1994 from Curaçao; *D. simplex* from Red Sea; *D. testis* Topsent, 1928 from Gorringe Bank in the South European Atlantic Shelf; and *D. toxifera* from Seychelles and Andaman Sea (India). Here, we are recording *Damiria* for Brazil for the first time and describing a new species. The specimens were collected during a faunistic survey conducted in the area of Ponta do Seixas (Paraíba State, Brazil).

Order Poecilosclerida Topsent, 1928
Family Acarnidae Dendy, 1922
Genus *Damiria* Keller, 1891

Diagnosis *sensu* Hooper (2002). Type Species. *Damiria simplex* Keller, 1891 (by monotypy).

Damiria paraibana sp. nov.

Holotype. UFPEPOR 1531, off Ponta do Seixas (07º09'16" S, 34º47'35" W), João Pessoa, Paraíba State, Brazil, col. Equipe LIPY (Laboratório de Invertebrados Paulo Young), (23.III.2008). Paratype. UFPBPOR 179 (collected together with the holotype).

Description. Encrusting, with seven thin fistules (1.5 cm on average) that are rising perpendicular to the base (3 cm in diameters), or project sideways (Fig. 1A–B). Bifid terminations were observed; consistency fragile; surface can be smooth in the fistules and there are grains of sand adhered in the base. Oscules (2–4 mm) were found in the tips of fistules (Fig. 1B). The colour is violet (*in vivo*) and beige (yellowish) in ethanol (80%). The ectosomal skeleton is a tangential layer of inter-crossing tylotes in no particular order (Fig. 1C), which extend from the base to the fistules. The choanosomal skeleton has a few tracts and loose spicules (tylotes II) and is restricted to the base of the sponges. Toxas are scattered.

Spicule (Table 1). Tylotes I—Longer, slender, usually slighty curved, completely smooth with microspined ends (Fig. 1D). In the tips, the spines are arranged in vertical lines (Fig. 1F). These tylotes are thinner and longer than choanosomal tylotes. Length 237–291 µm and width 4.2–6.3 µm. Tylotes II—Shorter than the previous, robust, slightly curved, some may be sinuous, smooth body, and with microspined ends (Fig. 1E). The spines are diffusely distributed at the tips (Fig. 1G). Length 186–222 µm and width 9–12 µm. Toxas—Smooth, thin, most are deeply curved like a boomerang shape (Fig. 1H; Fig. 2A). Length 76–115 µm and width 3.6–6 µm.

Distribution and ecology. Known only from the type locality (Off Ponta do Seixas, Paraíba State, Brazil), from unknown depth. Both specimens (holotype and paratype) are epibionts in the same ascidian, which is covered by sediment.

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