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## ***Namalycastis occulta* n. sp. and a new record of *N. borealis* (Polychaeta: Nereididae: Namanereidinae) from the Northwestern Caribbean Sea**

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### **Abstract**

The nereidid polychaete genus *Namalycastis* Hartman, 1959 has been recorded almost exclusively in non-marine environments. This genus includes species having four pairs of tentacular cirri, and its species mainly differ by the relative size of dorsal cirri in posterior chaetigers. *Namalycastis occulta* n. sp. is described based upon non-mature and mature specimens collected in the intertidal from Chetumal Bay, Quintana Roo, Mexico. Its distinctive features are the lack of notopodial spinigers, eyes, and teeth in the mandibles. *Namalycastis borealis* Glasby was found in Tamalcab Island, Chetumal Bay and it is the first record for Mexico. Analyses of the intraspecific variability, a key to the known species in the Grand Caribbean region, and commentaries about some taxonomic topics are also included.

**Key words:** Pseudospiniger, taxonomy, hermaphroditism, Caribbean

### **Introduction**

The polychaete family Nereididae de Blainville, 1818 is one of the most important families due to their abundance and diversity, and nereidids are very common in a wide range of marine habitats from the intertidal zone to abyssal depths. Further, this is the family with the largest number of representatives in freshwater and estuarine environments; 29 species of 11 genera occur in estuarine or lacustrine environments and over half of them belong to the subfamily Namanereidinae (Glasby & Timm 2008).

Namanereidinae Hartman, 1959 is a subfamily characterized by the simplification of parapodia into a single chaetal lobe with notoacacula displaced ventrally, palpostyles are spherical and the pharynx does not have paragnaths or papillae; the loss of typical diagnostic characters for the family makes species identification difficult (Glasby 1999). The members of this subfamily have colonized environments with fresh, brackish and subterranean waters, even semi-terrestrial environments, associated with vegetation (mangroves and salt marshes) or in water deposits in plants, i.e. phytotelmata (Glasby *et al.* 2003). The subfamily has been revised by Glasby (1999) and it includes three genera: *Lycastoides* Johnson, 1903 *incertae sedis*, *Namanereis* Chamberlin, 1919 and *Namalycastis* Hartman, 1959. The latter includes 21 species characterized by having four pairs of tentacular cirri and enlarged, flattened dorsal cirri in posterior chaetigers. In the Grand Caribbean region only four species have been recorded: *N. abiuma* species group (Grube, 1872), *N. borealis* Glasby, 1999, *N. intermedia* Glasby, 1999 and *N. macroplatis* Glasby, 1999, whereas for Mexico de León-González (1999) recorded *N. aibiuma* [sic] Müller, 1871 for Nautla, Veracruz, Gulf of Mexico, is the single record for Mexico.

In this paper, two species of *Namalycastis* from the Mexican Caribbean region are described and figured and the generic diagnosis is emended. Commentaries about taxonomic issues such as the author of the type species, the designation of the type species for the genus, and chaetal shapes in the subfamily are also included.