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Two new species of free-living marine nematodes (Nematoda: Oncholaimida: Enchelidiidae) from Maemul Island, Korea

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Abstract

Two new species of the family Enchelidiidae Filipjev, 1918 were collected from marine sediments near Maemul Island in South Korea: a new species of *Abelbolla* Huang & Zhang, 2004 and a new species of *Ledovitia* Filipjev, 1927. *Abelbolla maemulensis* **sp. nov.** is characterized by its small size (1,493 × 38 µm, body length × maximum body diameter); the presence of a circular amphid; the gubernacular apophysis with swollen distal tip; and the complex structure of the gubernaculum. It is close to *Abelbolla huanghaiensis* Huang & Zhang, 2004, but differs by the structure of gubernacular apophysis and body length (1,493 vs 2,303 µm). *Ledovitia brevis* **sp. nov.** can be separated from its congeners by its small size of body, the length of gubernacular apophysis, and the length of the spicules. It is close to *Ledovitia pharetrata* Wieser, 1953a, but differs by the length of the body (1,699 vs 2,640 µm) and the spicules (40 vs 100 µm).

Key words: *Abelbolla*, *Ledovitia*, new species, morphology, taxonomy, South Korea

Introduction

About 7,000 species of free-living marine nematodes have been described (Appeltans *et al.* 2012). Many intensive taxonomic studies of free-living marine nematodes have been undertaken in Europe. Recently, several papers have been published on the marine free-living nematode fauna of China (about 192 species, Ma *et al.* 2012). From Korea, about 40 species of free-living marine nematodes of the family Draconematidae and Comesomatidae have been described (Rho & Min 2011, Barnes *et al.* 2012).

The family Enchelidiidae is comprised of one subfamily, 18 genera and 171 species (Hodda 2011). The genera *Abelbolla* and *Ledovitia* are characterized by having the pharynx without several bulbs. Many characters are similar in the two groups, but *Abelbolla* is strongly attenuated in the anterior end of the body, while *Ledovitia* has extremely long cervical setae and a weakly developed male genital apparatus (Smol & Coomans 2006).

The genus *Abelbolla* was established by Huang & Zhang in 2004 with type species *Abelbolla boucheri* Huang & Zhang, 2004. Three species of *Abelbolla* have been described from the Yellow Sea so far. The Genus *Ledovitia* was established by Filipjev in 1927 with type species *Ledovitia hirsuta* Filipjev, 1927. Ten species of *Ledovitia* have been described to date. The present study aims to describe two new species belonging to these genera and collected from near Maemul Island, Korea.

Materials and methods

During a survey on the meiofauna community in the South Coast of Korea, specimens were collected at station SE 6 (34° 35' 40" N, 128° 45' 13" E), SE 19 (34° 34' 46" N, 128° 25' 1" E) around Southern parts of Maemul Island, Korea (Fig. 1) in December 2010. Sediment samples were taken using a 0.1 m² Van-Veen grab, and meiofauna samples were taken using a hand-held corer (surface area: 10 cm²). All samples were fixed immediately in 4% neutral buffered formalin at air temperature. In the laboratory, meiofauna were extracted following the protocol of Burgess (2001) and nematodes were sorted using a grid Petri dish under a stereoscopic microscope (Olympus SZX-

special characters, including having a circular amphidial fovea, a complex structure of the gubernaculum and a long gubernacular apophysis. In other species of *Abelbolla*, the amphid has been too faint for description. *Abelbolla warwicki* is the longest and broadest species in the genus. It also differs from other species of the genus by having reduced precloacal supplements. *Abelbolla boucheri*, *A. huanghaiensis*, and *A. maemulensis* **sp. nov.** have two winged precloacal supplements. *Abelbolla boucheri* differs from the new species by having a short, slender spicule and reduced gubernaculum (Table 2). The new species resembles *A. huanghaiensis* in the length of the spicule, spicule shape and in having a hook at the distal end of the spicule. However, the new species is distinguished from *A. huanghaiensis* by having a complex gubernaculum, gubernacular apophysis with swollen distal tip, short body, and relatively thicker body and shorter tail (Table 2).

The genus *Ledovitia* was established by Filipjev, 1927, and is characterized by having especially long cervical setae and a weakly developed gubernaculum. The new species differs from *L. fallae* from the Kerguelen Islands, Antarctica, *L. honorata* from Kievka Bay, Russia, and *L. obtusidens* (Stekhoven, 1950) Vitiello, 1970 from the Mediterranean Sea by having ten cephalic setae of equal length. *Ledovitia hirsuta* Filipjev, 1927 from the Kara Sea of the Arctic, can be separated from *L. brevis* **sp. nov.** by the absence of the preanal & caudal setae, long body, relatively short tail, and length of spicule (Table 4). The new species is close to *L. pharetrata* from Puerto Montt, Chile in having both preanal & caudal setae. Furthermore, the new species resembles *L. pharetrata* in the form of the spicule and gubernaculum. However, *L. brevis* **sp. nov.** can be distinguished from *L. pharetrata* by its short, thin body, the length of spicule and the ratio of spicule length to tail diameter (Table 4).

The genera *Abelbolla* (4 species) and *Ledovitia* (6 species) are part of a small group within the family Enchelidiidae (171 species). According to Smol & Coomans (2006) and Fonseca–Genevois *et al.* (2009), the genera *Abelbolla* and *Ledovitia* are easily differentiated from all other taxa of the Enchelidiidae by having no bulb-like muscular swellings in the pharynx (unlike the genera *Belbolla* and *Polygastrophora*); three teeth in the buccal cavity (unlike the genera *Aronema*, *Bathyeurystomina*, *Bernardius*, *Lyranema* and *Megeurystomina*); the conico-cylindrical tail (unlike the genera *Aronema*, *Bathyeurystomina*, *Belbolla*, *Bernardius*, *Calyptonema*, *Ditlevsenella*, *Eurystomina*, *Lyranema*, *Megeurystomina*, *Pareurystomina*, and *Thoonchus*); two ventrally situated pre-anal supplements in males (unlike *Aronema*, *Belbolla*, *Bernardius*, *Calyptonema*, *Ditlevsenella*, *Megeurystomina*, *Polygastrophora*, *Symplocostoma*, *Symplocostomella*, and *Thoonchus*). In addition, they lack sexual dimorphism in the structure of the buccal cavity and the amphid, as in the genera *Aronema*, *Bernardius*, *Calyptonema*, *Symplocostoma* and *Symplocostomella* (Smol & Coomans 2006; Fonseca–Genevois *et al.* 2009). Additional informative characters in the *Abelbolla* include the lack of denticles in the buccal cavity and the strongly narrowed anterior region (Huang & Zhang 2004). Also in the *Ledovitia*, having the extremely long cervical setae and weakly developed the male genital apparatus (Wieser 1953a; Belogurov *et al.* 1983) are major morphological features.

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