



## Novel symbiotic relationship between a spionid polychaete and *Lingula* (Brachiopoda: Lingulata: Lingulidae), with description of *Polydora lingulicola* sp. nov. (Annelida: Spionidae)

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### Abstract

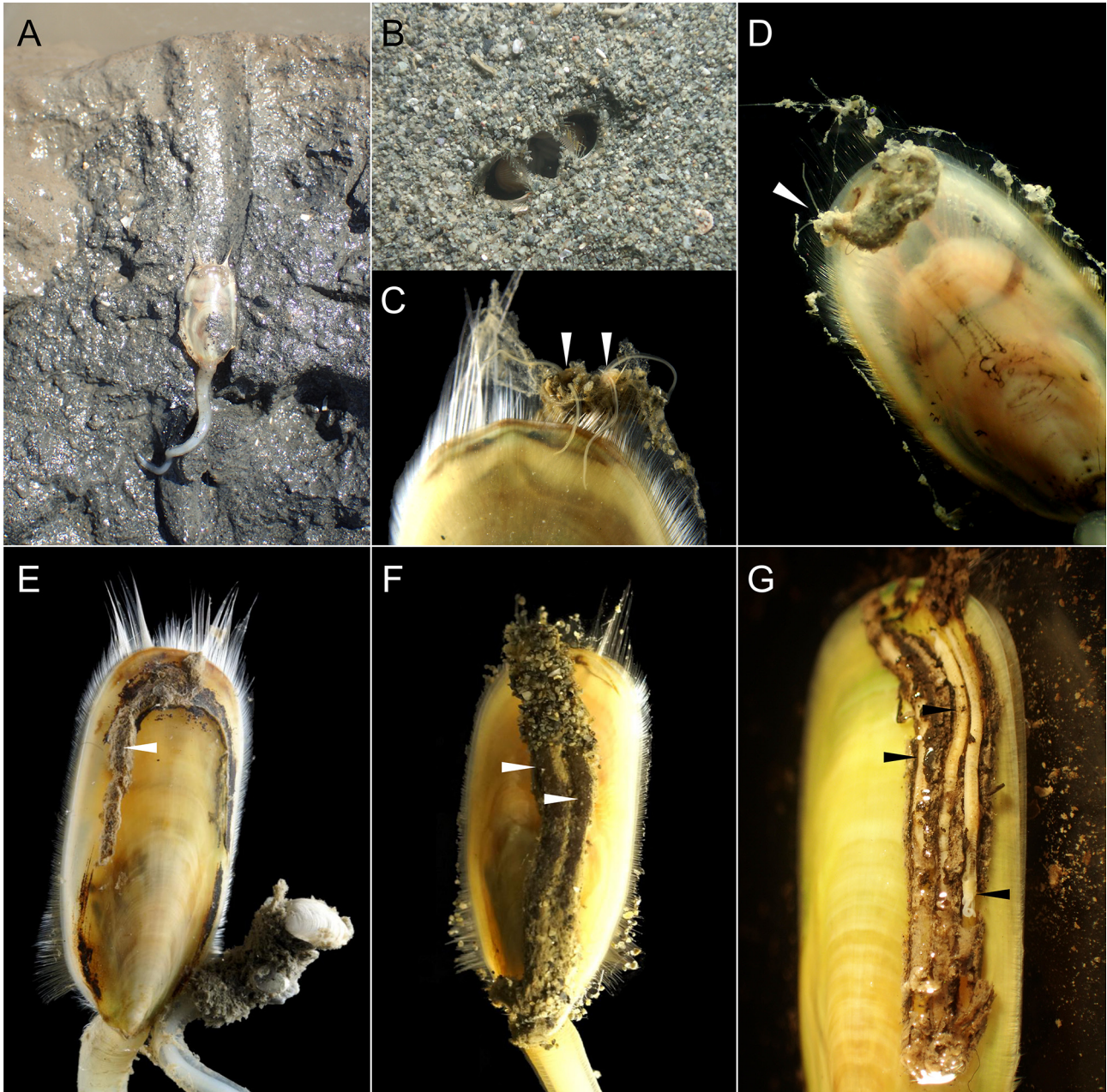
A new spionid species *Polydora lingulicola* sp. nov., a novel symbiont of *Lingula anatina* Lamarck, 1801 is described here based on materials collected from the Yatsushiro Sea and Ariake Sea, southern Japan. *Polydora lingulicola* sp. nov., morphologically closest to *P. glycymerica* Radashevsky, 1993 and *P. vulgaris* Mohammad, 1972, is distinct from latter two shell-boring species by its smaller size, long maximum caruncle length, non-boring lifestyle, presence of subspherical yellow chromatophores on chaetiger 5 (visible in living specimens), and larval morphology. The new species was observed to construct mud tubes on the surfaces of *L. anatina* shells, with the tube apertures located near the lateral inhalant pseudosiphon of the hosts, and utilizes the water currents created by the filter-feeding host for feeding suspended food particles. *Polydora lingulicola* sp. nov. represents the first polychaetous annelid reported to exhibit an obligate symbiotic relationship with a lingulid brachiopod. Epibiotic polychaetes previously reported as *P. cornuta* Bosc, 1802 to occur on *L. anatina* shells from Japan in 1902 may belong to *P. lingulicola* sp. nov. The possibility that the wild populations of *P. lingulicola* sp. nov. may be vulnerable to extinction because they only associate with *L. anatina*, wild populations of which are near threatened by habitat loss, coastal pollution, and fishing pressure.

**Keywords:** commensalism, epibiont, *Lingula anatina*, symbiosis, threatened species, tidal flat, tube-dwelling

### Introduction

Symbiotic relationships between animals are ubiquitous and diverse in marine environments and play an important role in shaping the spatial pattern and structure of marine biodiversity (Williams & McDermott 2004; Anker *et al.* 2005; Macdonald *et al.* 2006). Many of the polychaetous annelids that belong to the genus *Polydora* (family Spionidae) have symbiotic associations with other marine benthic invertebrates (Martin & Britayev 1998, 2018) and are capable of boring into hard calcareous substrates, such as mollusk shells (Blake & Evans 1973). These species are considered as harmful shell borers in mollusk aquaculture since heavy *Polydora* infestations can reduce the commercial value (*i.e.*, growth rate and meat yield) of farmed species, as well together with high rates of mortality (*e.g.* Sato-Okoshi 1999; Simon & Sato-Okoshi 2015; Clements *et al.* 2018; Rice *et al.* 2018). Evidence of boring by *Polydora* and related genera (*i.e.*, polydorids) is ubiquitous in fossil and recent substrates, and the host spectrum of these boring taxa is broad, including members of various phyla: Arthropoda, Brachiopoda, Bryozoa, Cnidaria, Echinodermata (fossil record only: Wisshak & Neumann 2006), Mollusca, and Porifera (Martin & Britayev 1998, 2018; Rodrigues *et al.* 2008). Boring worms can also bore into non-biogenic hard substrata, such as limestone, mudstone, and sandstone, and even though most borers are opportunists that are associated with a range of host species, some borers are specialists or commensals that are associated with a specific host species or with a group of similar host species (Martin & Britayev 1998, 2018; Williams & McDermott 2004; Radashevsky 2012). Records of trace fossils attributed to

the boring activities of spionid polychaetes (known as some ichnogenera including *Caulostrepsis*) reach back to the Paleozoic (Cameron 1969) and are much better documented for the Holocene and fossil mollusk shells (Taylor & Wilson 2003). Their traces have also been discovered in the shells of rhynchonelliform brachiopods from as far back as the Devonian (Taylor & Wilson 2003) and the association is also known in modern species (Rodrigues *et al.* 2008). However, the association between spionid polychaetes and Linguliform brachiopods has not been reported heretofore.



**FIGURE 1.** *Polydora lingulicola* **sp. nov.** and its host *Lingula anatina*. A, vertical burrow of *L. anatina* in the soft sediment of a tidal flat. B, three pseudosiphon holes of *L. anatina* on the sediment surface. C, two *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** individuals on a *L. anatina* shell, with palps extending from tubes. D, *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** individual attached to the upper-part of *L. anatina* shell. E, F, *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** mud tubes attached to lateral (E) and central (F) parts of shells its host *Lingula anatina*. G, *Polydora lingulicola* **sp. nov.** inside of their tubes (preserved specimen). Arrowheads indicate *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** individuals or tubes.

The modern lingulid brachiopod *Lingula anatina* Lamarek, 1801 is widely distributed in the western Pacific and has been reported from Japan, Korea, China, the Philippines, Australia, and India (Williams *et*

al. 2000; Japanese Association of Benthology 2012). The taxonomy of *Lingula* species in Japan is confusing. Nishizawa *et al.* (2010) distinguished four populations of *L. anatina* as different species: *L. nipponica* Hayasaka, 1931 (Mutsu Bay), *Lingula* sp. 1 (Amami-Oshima Island), *Lingula* sp. 2 (Ariake Sea), and *Lingula* sp. 3 (Izu Shimoda). Afterward, Kuramochi *et al.* (2012) identified the *Lingula* population in the Ariake Sea as *L. reevei* Davidson, 1880, based on shell morphology. However, their results have not been followed by subsequent publications, such as those by the Japanese Association of Benthology (2012), Itoh (2017), and Fujii *et al.* (2019). Therefore, in the present study, the *Lingula* populations in the Ariake Sea and Yatsushiro Sea are referred to as *L. anatina*.

*Lingula anatina* inhabits mucus-lined vertical burrows in shallow-water soft sediments (Fig. 1A), and individual organisms use their elongated pedicles to anchor themselves at the bottoms of their burrows (Savazzi 1991; Emig 1997). The species is also a filter feeder, with two shell valves and three pseudosiphon holes at the anterior end of its mantle (Fig. 1B). A variety of ectosymbionts have been reported from *Lingula*; however, most of them are merely facultative, the result of chance selection of the hard substratum provided by the host shells as a settlement site (Hammond 1984). Exceptionally, obligate symbiotic bivalves that attach to the anterior end of *L. anatina* shells have been reported (Savazzi 2001; Lützen *et al.* 2009; Sato *et al.* 2011; Goto *et al.* 2014).

In the present study, a novel obligate ectosymbiotic association between a *Polydora* species and *L. anatina* is reported for the first time from southern Japan. A new species, *Polydora lingulicola* **sp. nov.**, is described here based on specimens collected from the Yatsushiro Sea and Ariake Sea, southern Japan.

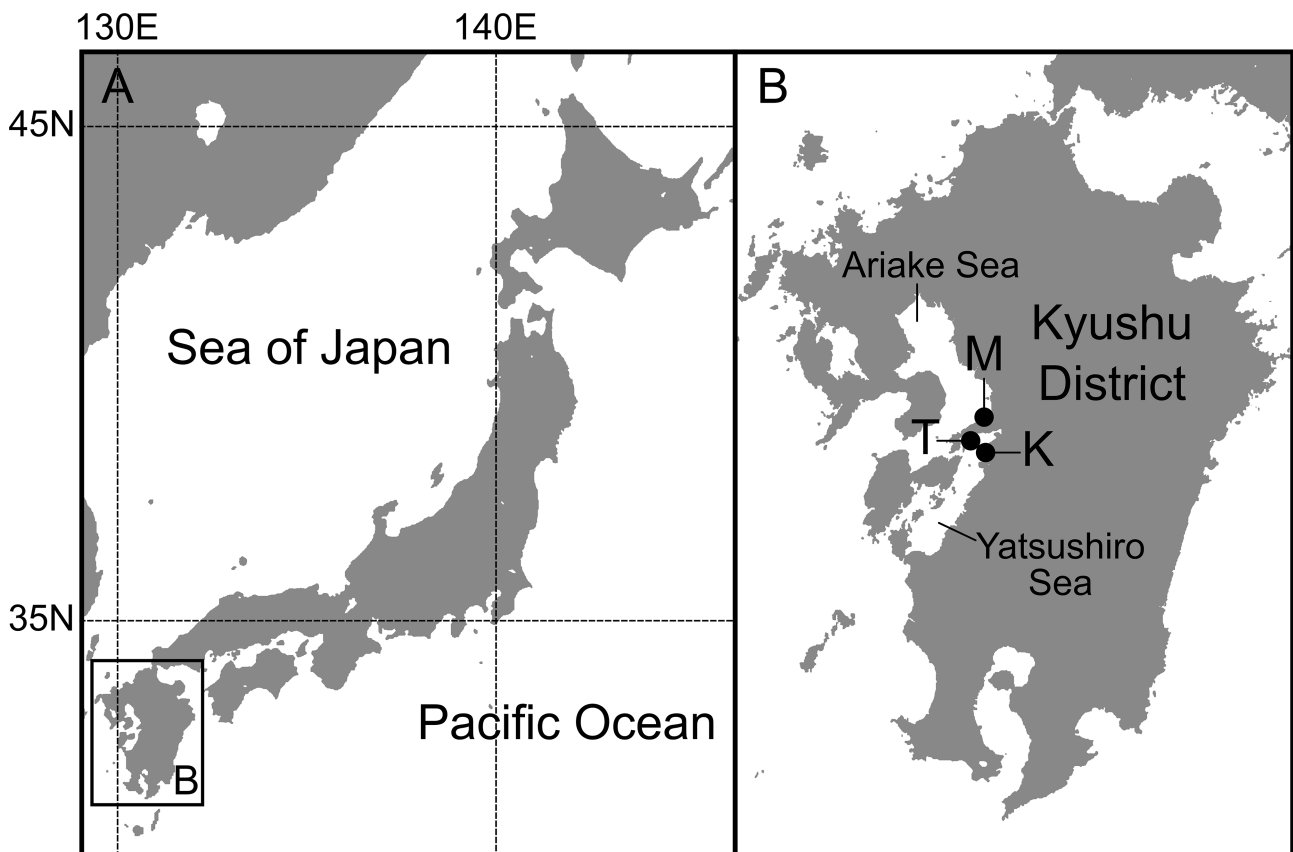


FIGURE 2. *Polydora lingulicola* **sp. nov.** sampling locations. A, map of Japan. B, map of Kyushu District. K: Kumagawa River Estuary (type locality); T: Tobase Island; M: Midorikawa River Estuary.

## Materials and Methods

### Specimen collection and morphological analysis

*Lingula anatina* were collected from the Kumagawa River Estuary (32°32' N, 130°33' E) and Tobase Island



(32°35' N, 130°29' E) in the Yatsushiro Sea, and the Midorikawa River Estuary (32°42' N, 130°34' E) in the Ariake Sea, Kumamoto Prefecture, Japan, on September 2016 (Fig. 2). *Lingula* samples were collected from bottom sediments using a hand scoop, and *Lingula* specimens with *Polydora* tubes attached to their shell surfaces (Fig. 1C–G) were fixed in 10% formalin (in seawater) before being stored in 70% ethanol for morphological analyses or were preserved in 99% ethanol for molecular analyses. To observe the behavior of the symbiotic *Polydora* species on the shell surfaces of the infaunal *Lingula*, living specimens were examined in the laboratory. During specimen collection, the number of *L. anatina* encountered with and without *Polydora* tubes were counted to calculate the prevalence of *Polydora* infestation. *Polydora* specimens were extracted from their mud tubes, and the morphologies of both live (anesthetized in 7% MgCl<sub>2</sub>) and preserved specimens were observed using a stereomicroscope (SZ40 and SZX9; Olympus, Tokyo, Japan) and light micrographs were obtained using a digital camera (α6000; Sony, Tokyo, Japan) that was attached to the microscope using a c-mount camera adapter (SA20; Wraymer, Osaka, Japan). During the morphological examination, sections of the fifth chaetiger with major spines were mounted on microscope slides and observed using a phase-contrast light microscope (Eclipse 80i; Nikon, Tokyo, Japan). The specimens of *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** and host *L. anatina* have been deposited in the National Museum of Nature and Science (NSMT), Tsukuba, Japan, under the museum registration numbers NSMT-Pol H-790, P-791–P-805 (*P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.**) and NSMT-Te 1214–1226 (*L. anatina*), respectively. The number of specimens from each sampling site is given in parentheses following museum registration numbers under the “Type material” section below.

### Molecular analysis

Genomic DNA was extracted from the ethanol-preserved tissue of seven *Polydora* specimens that were collected from the shells of *L. anatina* in the Ariake Sea by grinding and heating at 95°C for 20 min in 50 µL TE buffer (pH 8.0) with 10% Chelex 100 (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Hercules, CA; Richlen & Barber 2005), and analyses of nuclear (18S and 28S rRNA) and mitochondrial (16S rRNA) genes were performed according to the methods of previous studies (Sato-Okoshi & Abe 2012, 2013; Teramoto *et al.* 2013; Abe *et al.* 2016; Sato-Okoshi *et al.* 2017; Simon *et al.* 2019). The 28S and 16S rRNA gene sequences of *Polydora aura* Sato-Okoshi, 1998 and *Polydora cornuta* Bosc 1802 specimens that were collected from Hiroshima Bay, the Seto Inland Sea and Sasuhama, Ishinomaki Bay, Japan, respectively, were also analyzed for inclusion in the molecular phylogenetic analysis of *Polydora* species because these species closely resemble *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** All the newly generated sequences in the present study have been deposited in the DDBJ/ENA/GenBank databases under accession numbers LC500909–LC500931 and LC541483–LC541485 (Table 1).

To reconstruct the molecular phylogeny of *Polydora*, the 18S, 28S, and 16S rRNA gene sequences were aligned with sequences from other *Polydora* species and outgroup taxa (*Dipolydora*) that had been obtained from DDBJ/ENA/GenBank (Table 1) using MAFFT (online service ver. 7) with the L-INS-i algorithm (Katoh *et al.* 2017), and ambiguously aligned regions were eliminated using Gblocks (server ver. 0.91b) with the least stringent settings (Castresana 2000; Talavera & Castresana 2007). The final lengths of the aligned sequences were 1743, 768, and 471 bp for the 18S, 28S, and 16S rRNA genes, respectively. A maximum likelihood (ML) phylogenetic tree was constructed using concatenated 18S, 28S, and 16S rRNA gene sequences by RAxML ver. 8.1.2 (Stamatakis 2014), as implemented in raxmlGUI ver. 1.5 (Silvestro & Michalak 2012), under the GTR+GAMMA+I model. The robustness of the ML trees was evaluated using rapid bootstrap analysis with 1000 replicates. Ecological information on the lifestyle of each species based on available literature (Table 1) was mapped onto the phylogenetic tree.

**TABLE 1.** Species, sequences, and ecological information of *Polydora* and outgroup (*Dipolydora*) taxa used for molecular phylogenetic analyses. Bold text indicates the gene sequences generated by the present study.

Genus	Species	GenBank accession number			Ecological information		Reference of ecological information
		18S	28S	16S	Life style	Host / Habitat	
<i>Polydora</i>	<i>P. lingulicola</i> sp. nov.	<b>LC500909</b> <b>-LC500915</b>	<b>LC500916</b> <b>-LC500922</b>	<b>LC500924</b> <b>-LC500930</b>	Non-boring symbiotic (Tube-dwelling)	<i>Lingula anatina</i> (Brachiopoda)	This Study
	<i>P. aura</i>	AB705409	<b>LC500923</b>	<b>LC500931</b>	Symbiotic boring	Mollusk shell, Coralline alga	Sato-Okoshi 1999; Sato-Okoshi & Abe 2012
	<i>P. aura</i>	KR052141	-	-	-	<i>Anadara uropigmelana</i>	Ye <i>et al.</i> 2019
	<i>P. cornuta</i>	<b>LC541483</b>	<b>LC541485</b>	<b>LC541484</b>	Free-living (Tube-dwelling) /Sessile	Soft sediment /hard substrates	Abe <i>et al.</i> 2019
	<i>P. brevipalpa</i>	AB705407	-	-	Symbiotic boring	Mollusk shell	Sato-Okoshi 1999; Sato-Okoshi & Abe 2012
	<i>P. calcarea</i>	AB705403	-	-	Symbiotic boring	Mollusk shell	Sato-Okoshi & Abe 2013
	<i>P. hoplura</i>	AB705408	LC101851	LC101867	Symbiotic boring	Mollusk shell	Sato-Okoshi 1999; Sato-Okoshi <i>et al.</i> 2017
	<i>P. lingshuiensis</i>	KF562240	KF562246	KF562233	Symbiotic boring /Free-living (Tube-dwelling)	Mollusk shell	Ye <i>et al.</i> 2015
	<i>P. neoacaeca</i>	AB705404	KF562248	KF562234	Symbiotic boring	Mollusk shell	Sato-Okoshi & Abe 2013; Ye <i>et al.</i> 2015; Malan <i>et al.</i> 2020
	<i>P. cf. nuchalis</i>	KY677902	-	-	Free-living (Tube-dwelling)	Soft sediment	Williams <i>et al.</i> 2017

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TABLE 1. (Continued)

Genus	Species	GenBank accession number			Ecological information			Reference of ecological information
		18S	28S	16S	Life style	Host / Habitat	Nature of symbiosis	
	<i>P. onagawaensis</i>	AB691768	-	-	Symbiotic boring	Mollusk shell	Facultative, Permanent	Teramoto <i>et al.</i> 2013
	<i>P. triglanda</i> SB	JN048718	JN048731	JN048705	Symbiotic boring	Mollusk shell	Facultative, Permanent	Radashevsky & Pankova 2013
	<i>P. triglanda</i> TD	JN048723	JN048736	JN048710	Free-living (Tube-dwelling)	Soft sediment	-	Radashevsky & Pankova 2013
	<i>P. websteri</i>	AB705402	-	-	Symbiotic boring	Mollusk shell	Facultative, Permanent	Sato-Okoshi 1999; Sato-Okoshi & Abe 2013
<i>Dipolydora</i>	<i>D. bidentata</i>	LC107609	JX228085	JX228103	Symbiotic boring	Mollusk shell, Hermit crab shell, Coralline alga, Serpulid tube	Facultative, Permanent	Radashevsky 1993; Radashevsky & Pankova 2013
	<i>D. capensis</i>	KY677896	-	-	Symbiotic boring	Mollusk shell	Facultative, Permanent	Williams <i>et al.</i> 2017
	<i>D. cardalia</i>	JX228073	JX228093	JX228113	Free-living (Tube-dwelling)	Soft sediment	-	Radashevsky & Pankova 2013
	<i>D. carunculata</i>	JN048711	JN048724	JN048698	Symbiotic boring /Free-living (Tube-dwelling)	Mollusk shell, Hermit crab shell, Barnacle shell, Sponge, Coralline alga, Soft sediment	Facultative, Permanent?	Radashevsky 1993; Radashevsky & Pankova 2013
	<i>D. cf. socialis</i>	KY677899	-	-	Primarily free-living (Tube-dwelling)	Soft sediment	-	Williams <i>et al.</i> 2017

## Results

### Descriptions

Family Spionidae Grube, 1850

Genus *Polydora* Bosc, 1802

*Polydora lingulicola* sp. nov.

(Figs. 3, 4)

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:4AC36CC3-C898-4595-9965-C229EF20E040

**Type material.** Holotype: NSMT-Pol H-790, Kumagawa River Estuary, Yatsushiro Sea, Kumamoto Pref., Japan, 32°32'N, 130°33'E, isolated from *Lingula anatina*, intertidal, sand flat, coll. H. Abe, M. Taru, M. Tanaka, & T. Unagami, Sep. 11, 2016. Paratypes: NSMT-Pol P-791–P-792 (2), Kumagawa River Estuary, Yatsushiro Sea, Kumamoto Pref., 32°32'N, 130°33'E, isolated from *Lingula anatina*, intertidal, sand flat, coll. H. Abe, M. Taru, M. Tanaka, & T. Unagami, Sep. 11, 2016; NSMT-Pol P-793 (2), Tobase Island, Yatsushiro Sea, Kumamoto Pref., 32°35'N, 130°29'E, isolated from *Lingula anatina*, intertidal, mudflat, coll. H. Abe, M. Taru, M. Tanaka, & T. Unagami, Sep. 14, 2016; NSMT-Pol P-794–P-804 (27), Midorikawa River Estuary, Ariake Sea, Kumamoto Pref., 32°42'N, 130°34'E, isolated from *Lingula anatina*, intertidal, mudflat, coll. H. Abe, M. Taru, M. Tanaka, & T. Unagami, Sep. 15, 2016, NSMT-Pol P-805 (6), coll. H. Nakata, Oct. 26, 2015.

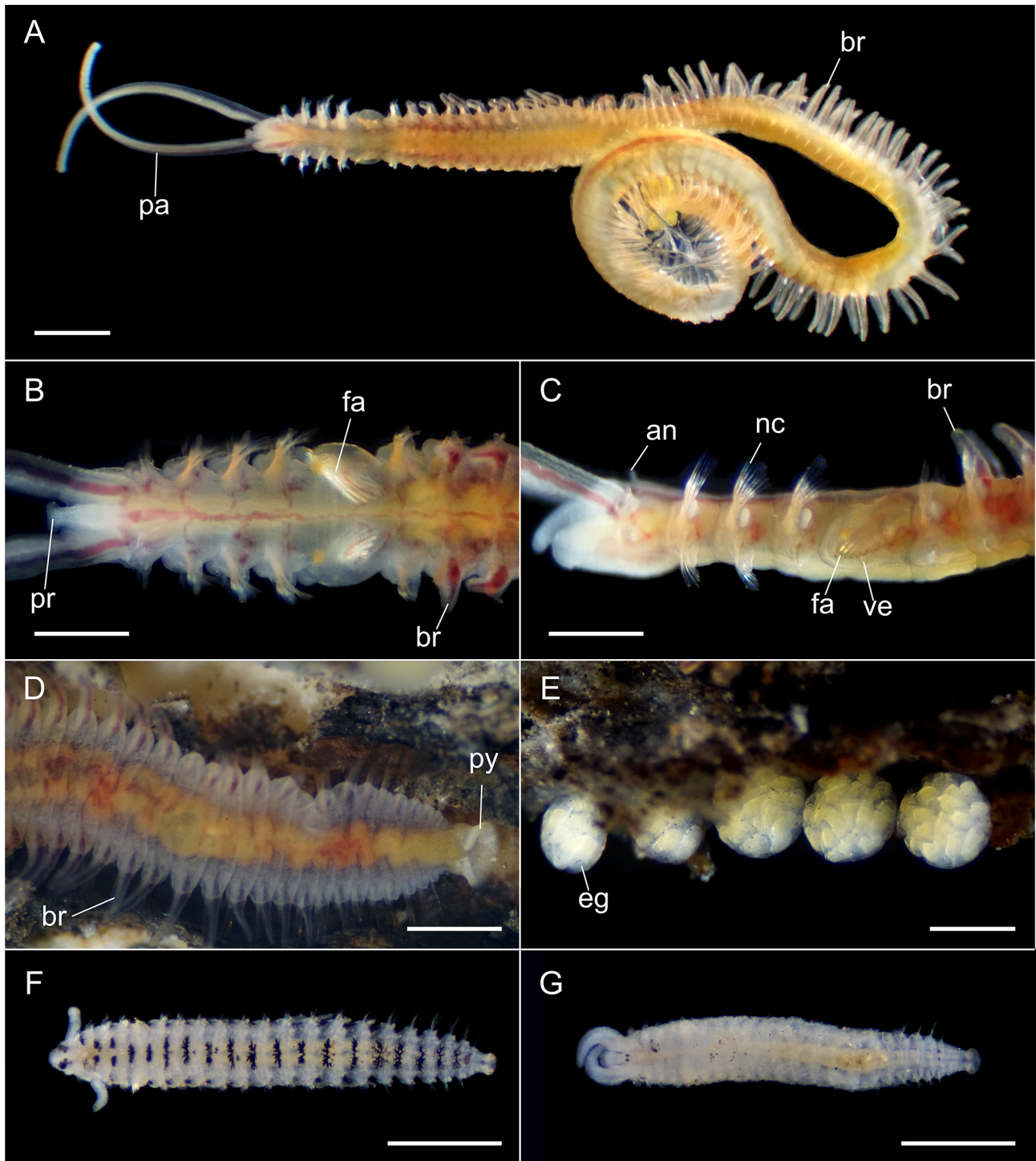
**Adult morphology.** Up to 18 mm long, 0.8 mm wide for 115 chaetigers; holotype 12 mm long, 0.6 mm wide for 83 chaetigers. Body of living specimen light tan in life (Fig. 3A); body pigmentation absent in holotype, scattered brown pigmentation present in dorsal, lateral, and/or ventral side of middle and posterior chaetigers in some paratypes (Fig. 4B); palp pigmentation absent. Prostomium weakly incised on anterior margin (Figs. 3B, 4A). Eyes absent in holotype, usually absent but occasionally present in paratypes, especially in small individuals (Fig. 3G); four black eyes arranged as a trapezoid, with anterior pair more widely spaced than posterior pair. Caruncle extending posteriorly to end of chaetiger 2 in holotype, up to end of chaetiger 3 in paratypes, with fingerlike median antenna, present on caruncle at level of chaetiger 1 (Figs. 3C, 4A).

Chaetiger 1 with noto- and neuropodial postchaetal lamellae; notochaetae absent, short capillary neurochaetae present. Prechaetal lamellae absent in all parapodia. Parapodial lobes and postchaetal lamellae well developed on anterior chaetigers except chaetiger 5, gradually reducing on posterior chaetigers. Neuro- and notochaetae of chaetiger 2–4, 6 winged capillaries, arranged in two rows; capillaries in anterior row more curved and winged than that in posterior row. Number of capillaries per fascicle and wings in capillaries in notopodia of succeeding chaetigers gradually diminishing; rows of notochaetae becoming indistinct in posterior chaetigers. Posterior notochaetae with only capillaries, modified posterior notochaetae absent. Hooded hooks on neuropodia from chaetiger 7, not accompanied by capillaries; hooks bidentate, with main fang at right angle to shaft and acute angle with apical tooth; shaft slightly curved, having constriction in upper part; curve and constriction of shaft weak in hooks from anterior chaetigers, but well developed in hooks from posterior chaetigers (Fig. 4C); hooks numbering up to 8 in series.

Chaetiger 5 larger than either chaetiger 4 or 6, with well-developed dorsal musculature slightly overlapping chaetiger 6; with curved horizontal row of up to 8 major spines alternating with pennoned companion chaetae (Fig. 4D); dorsal superior capillaries absent; ventral tuft of several short, winged capillaries present. Major spines falcate with lateral flange, some spines simple falcate without lateral flange; lateral tooth invariably absent. One pair of subspherical yellow chromatophores present on anterior dorso-lateral sides of chaetiger 5 in living specimens (Fig. 3B). Pair of whitish spots, apparently groups of epidermal mucous cells (Radashkevsky 1993), present on ventral side of chaetiger 7 (Fig. 3A). Subspherical yellow chromatophores and whitish spots unrecognizable in preserved specimens.

Branchiae from chaetiger 7 to end of body (Fig. 3D), absent from 6 to 10 posteriormost chaetigers; full-sized from chaetiger 9 or 10; free from notopodial postchaetal lamellae, with flattened surfaces oriented laterally. Nototrochs from chaetiger 7 onwards.

Pygidium white and cup-shaped, with dorsal gap (Figs. 3D, 4B). No gizzard-like structure in digestive tract. Granular pouches from chaetiger 7.



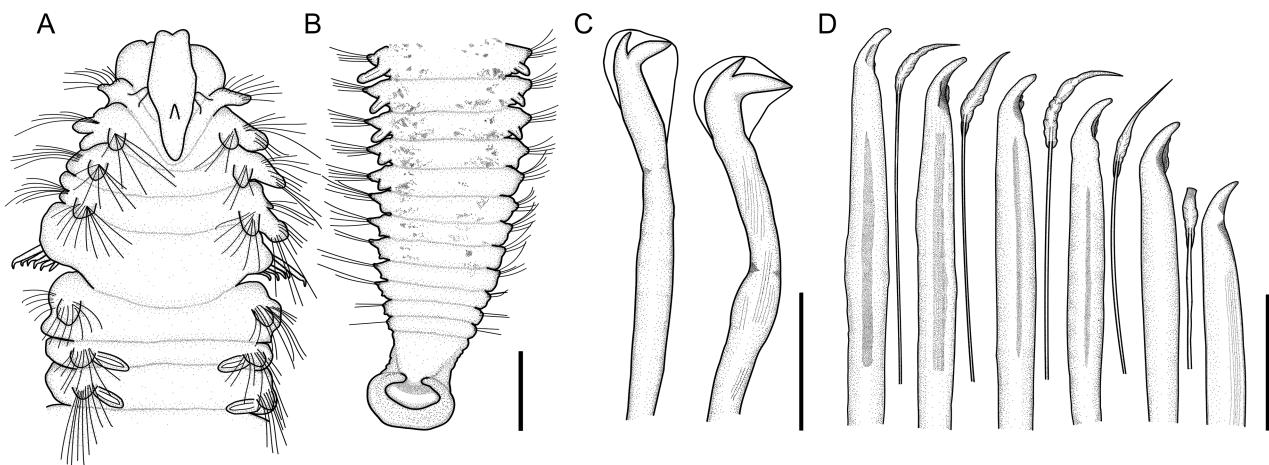
**FIGURE 3.** *Polydora lingulicola* sp. nov. Light micrographs of living (A–E) and preserved specimens (F, G). A–D: NSMT-Pol H-790 (holotype); E: NSMT-Pol P-802 (paratype); F, G: NSMT-Pol P-798 (paratype). A, entire body, anterior portion is in ventral view. B, anterior end, dorsal view. C, anterior end, lateral view. D, posterior end, dorsal view. E, egg capsules. F–G, pre-metamorphosed 21-chaetiger larvae (F) and metamorphosed 21-chaetiger juvenile (G) collected from the mud tubes attaching to the shell of *L. anatina*. br, branchia; eg, egg capsule; fa, major falcate spines; nc, notopodial capillaries; pa, palp; pr, prostomium; py, pygidium; ve, ventral capillaries. Scale bars: (A) = 1 mm; (B–G) = 500  $\mu$ m.

**Larval morphology.** Pre-metamorphosed larvae at 21-chaetiger stage collected from inside of mud tubes have three pairs of eyes, most lateral pairs double-eyes (Fig. 3F); ramified melanophores between first and second innermost pair of eyes present. Two rows of melanophores on chaetigers 2 to 4 or 5, median row of star-



shaped ramified melanophores from chaetiger 5 or 6 onward. Dorso-lateral black pigment spot from chaetiger 5 or 6 onward, ventral pigment absent; black pigment spot on the pygidium. Modified chaetae in chaetiger 5. Larval pigmentation lost immediately after metamorphosis (Fig. 3F).

**Host association.** Host *Lingula anatina* Lamarck, 1801 (Brachiopoda: Lingulidae). *Polydora lingulicola* **sp. nov.** constructed mud tubes on the surfaces of *L. anatina* shells, with their tube apertures located near anterior chaetae that project along the anterior end of the host shell (Fig. 1C–G). Tube positioning was variable, attached to the upper, lateral, or central parts of host shells (Fig. 1D–G). Tubes attached to upper shell parts were generally small and inhabited by juvenile worms (Fig. 1D). The number of the worms per host was usually one to three, but sometimes up to nine ( $2.5 \pm 2.2$  ind.,  $N = 15$ ). The prevalence of *Polydora* infestation of *L. anatina* varied according to sampling site: very low prevalence rates at Tobase Island (1.9%,  $N = 107$ ) and the Kumagawa River Estuary (0.8%,  $N = 119$ ) and 25.3% at the Midorikawa River Estuary ( $N = 83$ ). The *Polydora* species typically attached to a single *Lingula* valve: 62.5% on the ventral valve, 33.3% on the dorsal valve, and 4.2% on both valves ( $N = 24$ ). In the Midorikawa River Estuary, more than 100 individuals of sympatric infaunal bivalve species (e.g., *Maetra quadrangularis* Reeve, 1854) were examined; however, *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** was only observed on *Lingula* shells.



**FIGURE 4.** *Polydora lingulicola* **sp. nov.** A: NSMT-Pol H-790 (holotype); B: NSMT-Pol P-799 (paratype); C, D: NSMT-Pol P-794 (paratype). A, anterior end, dorsal view; B, posterior end, dorsal view; C, bidentate hooded hook from neuropodium of chaetiger 7 (left) and 72 (right); D, major spines and pennoned companion chaetae of chaetiger 5, ventral view. Scale bars: (A, B) = 300  $\mu\text{m}$ ; (C) = 20  $\mu\text{m}$ ; (D) = 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

**Reproduction.** Egg strings were found inside the *Polydora* mud tubes in September 2016 (Fig. 3E). The egg capsules were spherical and independent, without joining one another, and line up in series of egg capsules, sometimes touching, but not attached to neighboring capsules, and attached to the inner wall of the tube by thin filaments. The egg capsules were 500–580  $\mu\text{m}$  ( $518.8 \pm 48.8$   $\mu\text{m}$ ,  $N = 8$ ) in diameter in live condition and up to 32 capsules were contained in each string. The eggs were 110–120  $\mu\text{m}$  ( $115.8 \pm 6.7$   $\mu\text{m}$ ,  $N = 12$ ) in diameter in live conditions, without nurse eggs, and all embryos developed simultaneously (Fig. 3E). One- and two-chaetiger larvae within egg capsules were 180–230  $\mu\text{m}$  ( $195.2 \pm 11.9$   $\mu\text{m}$ ,  $N = 25$ ) in length in live conditions.

**Molecular phylogeny.** There was no intraspecific variation (100% sequence similarity) in the 18S and 28S rRNA gene sequences of seven *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** specimens, except for a hetero-peak site in the 18S rRNA gene sequence of a single specimen, and single nucleotide substitutions were identified at two sites in the 16S rRNA gene sequences. The sister clade relationship of *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** and *P. aura* from Hiroshima Bay, Japan, was well-supported (Fig. 5). The newly generated 18S rRNA genes sequences of *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** shared 99.8–99.9% identity with the DDBJ/ENA/GenBank sequence labeled as *P. aura* (DDBJ/ENA/GenBank ID: KR052141), which was collected from an *Anadara uropigimelana* (Bory de Saint-Vincent, 1827) shell in Weihai, China (Ye *et al.* 2019), although there was no mention of whether it was attached to or had bored into the shell.

**TABLE 2.** Morphology of known *Polydora* species that have a single median antenna on the caruncle and chaetiger 5 with ventral capillaries but lacking dorsal superior capillaries. *Polydora cornuta*, larger individuals of which lack ventral capillaries in chaetiger 5, is included as recently settled juveniles of the species occasionally possess one or two short ventral capillaries.

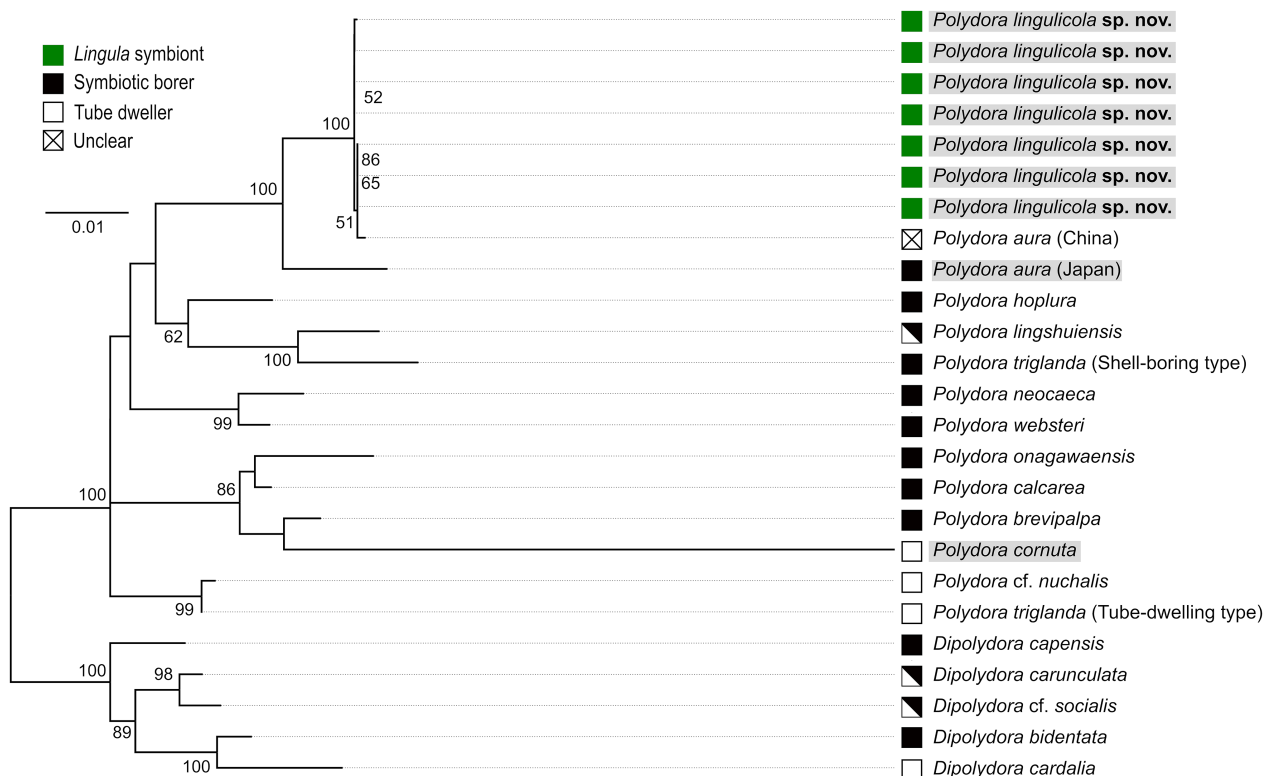
Species	Prostomium	Cruncle (maximal length)	Branchiae from chaetiger 7 to	Chaetiger 5		Modified posterior notochaetae	Pygidium	Pigmentation	Life style	Reference
				Major spine	Companion chaetae					
<i>Polydora lingulicola</i> sp. nov.	<b>Incised</b>	<b>End of chaetiger 2-3</b>	<b>Near the end</b>	<b>Falcate with lateral flange</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Disc-like with middorsal gap</b>	<b>Absent or present (Scattered brown pigment on middle and posterior body)</b>	<b>Lingula symbiotic</b>	<b>This study</b>
<i>P. aura</i> Sato-Okoshi, 1998	Incised	End of chaetiger 2-3	Near the end	Falcate with lateral flange	Present	Present	Wide flaring disc	Brown and orange pigment on body	Shell-borer	Sato-Okoshi 1998; Sato-Okoshi & Abe 2012
<i>P. cornuta</i> Boss, 1802	Bifurcated and flaring laterally	End of chaetiger 3	Near the end	Falcate with lateral tooth and subdistal flange or keel	Present	Absent	Flaring cup to disc with middorsal gap to narrow incision	usually black spots on lateral sides of chaetigers from 7-10 to 10-19	Tube-dweller	Radashevsky 2005
<i>P. fusca</i> Radashevsky & Hsieh, 2000	Incised	End of chaetiger 2	About 3/4 of body	Falcate with small lateral tooth	Present	Present	Cup-shaped with dorsal gap	Scattered black pigment on head and body	Tube-dweller	Radashevsky & Hsieh 2000
<i>P. glycymerica</i> Radashevsky, 1993	Incised	Middle of chaetiger 2	Near the end	Falcate with lateral flange or sheath	Present	Absent	Disc-like with wide dorsal gap	Absent	Shell-borer	Radashevsky 1993

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TABLE 2. (Continued)

Species	Prostomium	Cruncle (maximal length)	Branchiae from chaetiger 7 to	Chaetiger 5		Modified posterior notochaetae	Pygidium	Pigmentation	Life style	Reference
				Major spine	Companion chaetae					
<i>P. latispinosa</i> Blake & Kudenov, 1978	Incised	End of chaetiger 2	Continuing to posterior end	Falcate with lateral sheath or flange	present	Present	Large flaring disc with wide dorsal gap	Brown pigment along edges of caruncle	Shell-borer	Blake & Kudenov 1978
<i>P. nanomon</i> Orensky & Williams, 2009	Incised	End of chaetiger 2	2/3 of body	Falcate with two lateral teeth	Present	Absent	Cup-shaped	Females sometimes exhibit irregular pigmentation patches on anterior and posterior dorsal side	Shell-borer	Orensky & Williams 2009
<i>P. robi</i> Williams, 2000	Rounded	End of chaetiger 2	End of body	Falcate with small lateral flange	Present	Present	With anal cirri	Absent	Shell-borer	Williams 2000
<i>P. vulgaris</i> Mohammad, 1972	Incised	Middle of chaetiger 2	Near the end	Falcate with lateral flange	Present	Absent	Saucer-shaped with a dorsal notch	-	Shell-borer	Mohammad 1972; Manchenko & Radashevsky 1994

**Remarks.** *Polydora lingulicola* **sp. nov.** resembles *P. aura*, *P. fusca* Radashevsky & Hsieh, 2000, *P. latispinosa* Blake & Kudenov, 1978, *P. nanomon* Orensky & Williams, 2009, and *P. robi* Williams, 2000, in that all possess median antenna on the caruncle and chaetiger 5 with ventral capillaries but without dorsal superior capillaries. However, *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** could be distinguished from these similar species by its maximum caruncle length, consecutive branchial chaetigers, and body pigmentation, as well as by the presence or absence of modified posterior notochaetae (Table 2). *Polydora lingulicola* **sp. nov.** also closely resembles *P. glycymerica* Radashevsky, 1993 and *P. vulgaris* Mohammad, 1972 (Table 2). Although *P. vulgaris* was originally described as possessing modified posterior notochaetae (Mohammad 1972), Manchenko & Radashevsky (1994) reexamined the holotype and revealed that this species lacks modified posterior notochaetae. The paper also noted that *P. glycymerica* and *P. vulgaris* are morphologically indistinguishable (Manchenko & Radashevsky 1994). *Polydora lingulicola* **sp. nov.** is distinct from *P. glycymerica* and *P. vulgaris* by their size and lifestyle: the former is a small-sized non-boring symbiont of lingulid brachiopod measuring up to 18 mm long with about 100 chaetigers, whereas the latter two are both large-sized shell borers (Table 1) measuring about 60 mm long with >200 chaetigers. Additionally, although the caruncle length is generally size-dependent in polydorid species (e.g. Radashevsky 1999; Williams & Radashevsky 1999; Sato-Okoshi & Takatsuka 2001), the smaller-sized former species have longer maximum caruncle length than larger-sized latter two species (Table 2). A pair of subspherical yellow chromatophores on chaetiger 5, which visible in living specimens of the new species (Fig. 3B), is not mentioned in the description of *P. glycymerica* and *P. vulgaris* even though the description of *P. glycymerica* was based on living material (Radashevsky 1993). The dorsal pigment pattern of the larvae of *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** resembles but slightly differs from those of *P. glycymerica* described in Radashevsky (1989): the two rows of melanophores were continued to chaetiger 4 or 5 in former (Fig. 3F) but are ramified star-shaped and continued more posteriorly in the later (until chaetigers 7 to 10).



**FIGURE 5.** Maximum likelihood tree of *Polydora* rRNA gene sequences. Phylogenetic analysis was performed using the concatenated sequences of two nuclear (18S and 28S rRNA) and one mitochondrial (16S rRNA) genes with sequences from *Dipolydora* species for outgroup rooting. Shaded boxes indicate sequences that were generated by the present study, and symbols indicate species lifestyle, which was determined by consulting the literature (Table 1). The node values indicate maximum likelihood bootstrap support values (>50%) and the scale bar represents the number of substitutions per site.



Yatsu (1902a) reported that some *L. anatina* shells from Hyakkan-zeki (located at the mouth of the Tsuboi River, 32°46' N, 130°37' E), Kumamoto Prefecture, Kyusyu District, Japan, were covered by the tubes of polychaetous annelids, but the identity of the polychaete was not provided. Hammond (1984) later identified similar worms from the same locality as *P. ligni* (currently synonymized with *P. cornuta*). *Polydora cornuta* is a non-boring species and possesses a single median antenna on the caruncle and chaetiger 5 without dorsal superior capillaries like *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** Although 18–22-chaetiger recently settled juveniles of *P. cornuta* occasionally have one or two short ventral capillaries (Radashevsky 2005), these two species are distinguishable as ventral capillaries in chaetiger 5 are always absent in larger individuals of *P. cornuta* whereas the ventral capillaries in chaetiger 5 are always present in *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** The dorsal pigment pattern of the larvae of *P. cornuta* and *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** are also different as the former have paired melanophores from chaetiger 3 onwards (Radashevsky 2005), whereas the latter have a median single row of melanophores from chaetiger 5 or 6 onwards. The results of the present study suggest that the previous records are attributable to *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.**, which is described here, owing to the proximity of the sampling localities and the fact that no *P. cornuta* specimens were collected from *Lingula* shells in the present study.

**Etymology.** The specific name *lingulicola* is a combination of two words, the host genus name *Lingula* plus Latin word -cola (= dweller), which refers to the symbiotic relationship of the species with a brachiopod species belonging to the genus *Lingula*.

**Habitat.** Middle to lower intertidal zones of mud and sand flats.

**Distribution.** Ariake Sea and Yatsushiro Sea, southern Japan.

## Discussion

### Symbiotic ecology

*Polydora lingulicola* **sp. nov.** is unique among its genus in that it exhibits a symbiotic relationship with the lingulid brachiopod *L. anatina*. Polydorid species, which include the genus *Polydora*, have two types of lifestyles: some dwell in semi-permanent tubes (*i.e.*, tube-dwelling type), whereas the others bore into shells and other hard substrata (*i.e.*, shell-boring type); and very few species have both shell-boring and tube-dwelling modes of life (Radashevsky & Pankova 2013). *Polydora lingulicola* **sp. nov.** is considered as a tube-dwelling species that specialize in adhesion to *Lingula* shells and has only been observed on *Lingula* shells, despite co-occurring with a variety of other bivalves at the sampling sites. This suggests that the species has an obligate symbiotic association with *L. anatina*. Similarly, *Pseudopolydora diopatra* Hsieh, 1992 is reported as a tube-dwelling species that adhesion to tube-caps of the onuphid *Diopatra bilobata* (Hsieh 1992, 1994). However, this species also utilizes the shell surface of the oyster *Crassostrea gigas* (Radashevsky & Hsieh 2000) and considered as facultative symbionts.

Our molecular analysis suggests that a *Polydora* species that was collected from an *A. uropigimelana* shell in China (Ye *et al.* 2019) and labeled as *P. aura* (KR052141) is closely related to *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** by the similarity of the 18S rRNA gene sequences (99.8–99.9% identity; Fig. 5). As the sequence from China was divergent from the Japanese *P. aura* 18S rRNA gene sequence (AB705409; Sato-Okoshi & Abe 2012), the specimen labeled as *P. aura* from China was possibly misidentified (Fig. 5). Because the 18S rRNA gene is often considered too conservative to resolve species-level genetic divergence and Ye *et al.* (2019) did not provide a morphological description of the species, it remains unclear whether the *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** specimens in the present study and *P. aura* sensu Ye *et al.* (2019) are the same species. If *P. aura* sensu Ye *et al.* (2019) represents the new species, it has important implications on host specificity, suggesting that the species has a broader range of hosts.

Few obligate ectosymbionts of *Lingula* have been reported, but some galeommatoidean bivalves are known to participate in obligate symbiotic associations with *L. anatina*. These bivalves attach to the anterior end of *Lingula* shells and collect food particles from the mantle of the host using their adhesive feet (*Koreamya arcuata*; Savazzi 2001) or using the water currents created by the host for filter-feeding (*K. setouchiensis*; Goto *et al.* 2014). Similar to *K. setouchiensis*, *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** individuals utilize the water currents created by their filter-feeding host and collect suspended food particles using their palps. To execute this feeding strategy,

the *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** individuals form their tube apertures near the anterolateral chaetae of *Lingula* (Fig. 1C–G). *Lingula anatina* uses three pseudosiphon holes on the anterior end of the mantle for filter-feeding (Fig. 1B): the mantle chamber is subdivided into one median exhalant and two lateral inhalant chambers, and form the water currents by ciliary action (Chuang 1956; Emig 1997). In contrast to *K. setouchiensis* (Goto *et al.* 2014), *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** individuals typically form tubes with openings near the anterolateral chaetae of the host (Fig. 1D–G), which suggests that *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** prefers to use the inhalant current created by the host. Considering that *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** collects suspended food particles and takes advantage of particulate fluxes in the inhalant feeding currents of its host, the association between *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** and its host should be considered commensalism. It is unclear if *Polydora lingulicola* **sp. nov.** also feed on mucus secreted by its host like *K. arcuata*.

In addition to the advantage of food particulate fluxes, the symbiotic *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** is presumed to receive important benefits from its host. For example, the host (*L. anatina*) provides a depth refuge from predation for their symbionts by the rapid predator-avoidance withdrawal reflex into the burrow (Yatsu 1902a; Hammond 1983; Emig 1997). The host also provides a stable habitat, on which the ectosymbionts can complete their lifecycle because *L. anatina* individuals can move their shells up and down within burrows and can burrow upwards after being smothered by quick sedimentation (Yatsu 1902a; Emig 1981; Hammond 1983), which should save their symbionts from burial. In addition, *L. anatina* possess surprisingly long life-spans (Emig 1997), which have been estimated as >4 years in Kasari Bay, Amami-Oshima Island (Fujii *et al.* 2019), ≥7 years in Ariake Sea, southern Japan (Ito 2017), ≥5 years in Misaki, central Japan (Yatsu 1902b), 13–20 years in Asamushi, northern Japan (Akuta 1995), and ≤12 years in Queensland, northeastern Australia (Kenchington & Hammond 1978). Because the life span of *Polydora* species is generally 1–2.5 years or less, with some exceptions (Sato-Okoshi *et al.* 1990; Dualan & Williams 2011; Teramoto *et al.* 2013), the *Lingula* host provides a relatively stable substrate and a sufficient period of time for symbiotic *Polydora* species to complete their lifecycles.

It is likely that *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** exhibits long-term planktonic larval development as they form egg capsules without nurse eggs, and all embryos developed simultaneously (Fig. 3E). *Polydora* species form egg capsules within parental tubes and, subsequently, incubate the egg capsule during their movements within the tubes; the fertilized eggs develop into larvae that hatch from the capsules and become planktotrophic after utilizing their intrinsic yolk reserves (*i.e.*, long-term planktonic larval development) in the species that form egg capsules without nurse eggs (Blake & Arnofsky 1999). The position of the *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** tube on the surfaces of the *L. anatina* shells was variable (Fig. 1 D–G), but the tubes attached to the upper part of the *L. anatina* shells were small and inhabited by juvenile worms (Fig. 1D). Therefore, after larval settlement and metamorphosis on *L. anatina*, it is likely that the juvenile *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** first make their tubes on the upper part of *Lingula* shells and then elongate their tubes as they grow, with variation in the direction of tube growth. This tube-forming behavior would be beneficial for their feeding ecology as *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** collects suspended food particles from the inhalant feeding currents of its host.

## Population sustainability

Wild populations of *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** may be vulnerable to extinction because the species is associated only with *L. anatina*, which is considered “near threatened” by the *Threatened Animals of Japanese Tidal Flats: Red Data Book of Seashore Benthos*, which was edited by the Japanese Association of Benthology (2012). In Japan, *L. anatina* is widely distributed, from northern (Mutsu Bay) to southern (Amami Island) Japan. However, wild populations of the species are threatened by habitat loss and coastal pollution, and the species is rare except in the Ariake Sea and Yatsushiro Sea (Kyushu district) and Kasari Bay (Amami Island; Japanese Association of Benthology 2012; Fujii *et al.* 2019). In addition to this, *L. anatina* populations in the Ariake Sea and Yatsushiro Sea are threatened by fishing pressure as they are a traditional food source. Currently, *P. lingulicola* **sp. nov.** is only known to occur in the Ariake Sea and Yatsushiro Sea and has not been observed from the *Lingula* population of the Tekebu tidal flat in Kasari Bay (Fujii, per. comm.). The same or similar *Polydora* species may also be distributed in Korea because similar mud tubes attached to *Lingula* shells were observed in the Saemangeum tidal flat (Hong & Sato, per. comm.). However, that habitat is also

seriously threatened by a huge reclamation project around the Saemangeum area (Hong *et al.* 2007). Another previous study reported the finding of an unidentified tubicolous polychaete on the shell of *Lingula reevii* in Hawaii (Hammond 1984).

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