

First record of *Aonidella cirrobranchiata* (Day, 1961) (Polychaeta: Spionidae) for the Western Atlantic

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Polychaetes belonging to the Family Spionidae Grube, 1850 are very common and abundant in several marine ecosystems, being one of the most specious and ecologically important families.

The genus *Aonidella* López-Jamar, 1989 comprises only 3 species. It is characterized by a flattened prostomium that does not continue posteriorly as a caruncle, parapodial lamellae that do not change in size or shape along the entire length of the body, angle between small teeth and main tooth very wide in hooded hooks, rows of holes present on the dorsum of chaetigers of the branchiate region and pygidium bearing four or more similar cirri.

Aonidella cirrobranchiata was referred to genus *Aonidella* by Maciolek (2000) based on material collected on Saldanha Bay (southwest Africa) and was latter recorded to the Bay of Biscay (northeast Europe) and the Bellingshausen Sea (Antarctica).

Five specimens belonging to the species were found during AMBES Project (PETROBRAS) on the continental slope of southern Brazil, between 121 and 2,506 meters (Figure 1A). These analyzed specimens fit the diagnosis of the species, except for the lack of a red pigmentation on the notopodial postchaetal lamellae of chaetiger 2, reported by López (2010).

The species can be distinguished from other *Aonidella* species by the absence of a medial indentation on the prostomium (Figure 1B), lack of eyes or sabre chaeta and by the presence of bidentate hooks with wide angle between small teeth and main tooth (Figure 1C).

The present record expands both the geographical range of the species to the Western Atlantic, and its bathymetry, since this is the deepest record for the species (2,506 against ca. 1300 m)

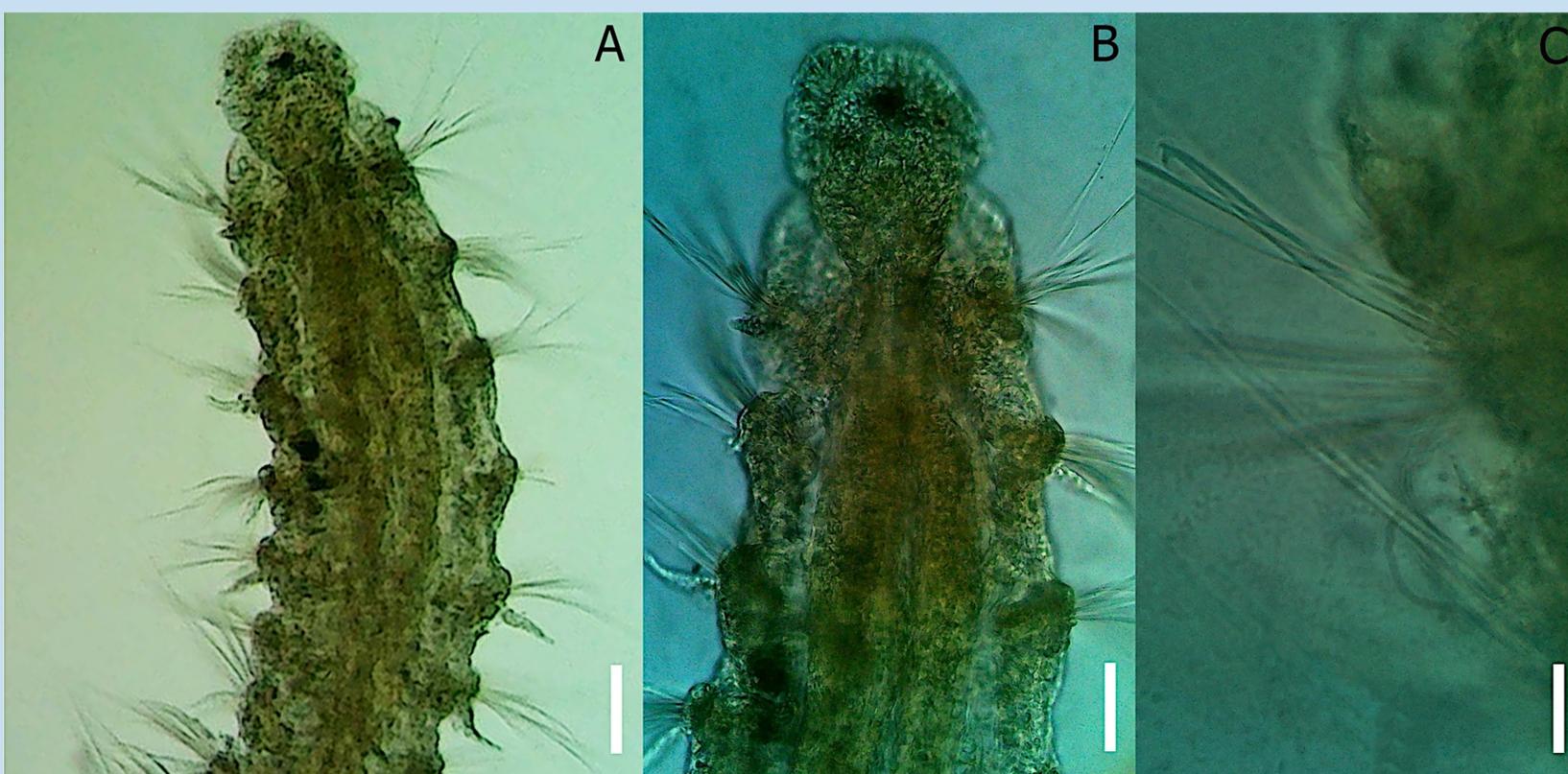


Figure 1. *Aonidella cirrobranchiata*: anterior region (A), prostomium (B) and hooded hook (C). Scale bars: A = 200 μ m, B = 50 μ m and C = 20 μ m.

López-Jamar, E. 1989. Primera cita para el litoral de la Peninsula Iberica del genero *Aonidella* (Polychaeta: Spionidae), con una redescription de la especie *Aonidella dayi* Maciolek, 1983. Boletín Instituto Español de Oceanografía, 5(2): 107-109.

Maciolek, N. J. 2000. New species and records of *Aonidella*, *Laonice*, and *Spiophanes* (Polychaeta: Spionidae) from shelf and slope depths of the Western North Atlantic. Bulletin of Marine Science, 67(1): 529-548.

López, E. 2010. First record of the genus *Aonidella* (Spionidae: Annelida: 'Polychaeta') from Bellingshausen Sea (west Antarctica). Marine Biodiversity Records, 3 (e32): 1-4.