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Christer Erseus

University of Goteborg

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A RECORD OF *BERMUDRILUS PENIATUS* (OLIGOCHAETA: TUBIFICIDAE) FROM THE GULF OF MEXICO

CHRISTER ERSÉUS

Swedish Museum of Natural History, Department of Zoology,
University of Göteborg, Göteborg, Sweden

ABSTRACT The marine tubificid *Bermudrilus peniatus* Erséus, 1979 (subfamily Phalodrilinae) is reported from off the west coast of central Florida, at about 75 m depth. The species was previously known only from coral reefs at Bermuda.

Bermudrilus peniatus is known only from medium to coarse sand in a depth of 10 to 15 meters in coral reefs at Bermuda (Erséus 1979). Recently when examining a collection of offshore oligochaetes from the eastern part of the Gulf of Mexico, I found a single specimen that extends considerably the known distribution of the species. Consequently, it is reported here.

The specimen originated from a Bureau of Land Management baseline study by personnel at Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Alabama. It was mounted whole in Canada balsam before examination and is deposited in the National Museum of Natural History (USNM), Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Bermudrilus peniatus Erséus, 1979

Bermudrilus peniatus Erséus, 1979, pp. 425–426, fig. 4.

Type material – USNM 56314–56316, five specimens, all from the type locality.

Type locality – Southeast of Charles' Island, Bermuda, 15 m, medium to coarse sand.

Additional specimens in original material (author's collection) – Eight specimens; seven from the type locality and one from east side of Castle Roads, Bermuda, 10 m, coarse sand with gravel and pebbles.

New material examined – USNM 97379, one specimen from about 155 km west of Sarasota, west coast of Florida, USA, about 75 m, sediment unknown (collected 23 August 1977).

Remarks – The individual is 4.1 mm long and has 39 segments. It fits the original description except for some minor differences. There are 6 penial setae, 16–22 μm long, per bundle located ventrally in segment XI (Fig. 1). The funnel-shaped, cuticularized penes (Fig. 1) are 24–30 μm long with a base 10–11 μm wide and a midsection about

5 μm wide. As in the original material, the prostate glands are large and located anteriorly, with no posterior prostate glands present.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am indebted to Dr. M. Susan Ivester, for placing the material at my disposal.

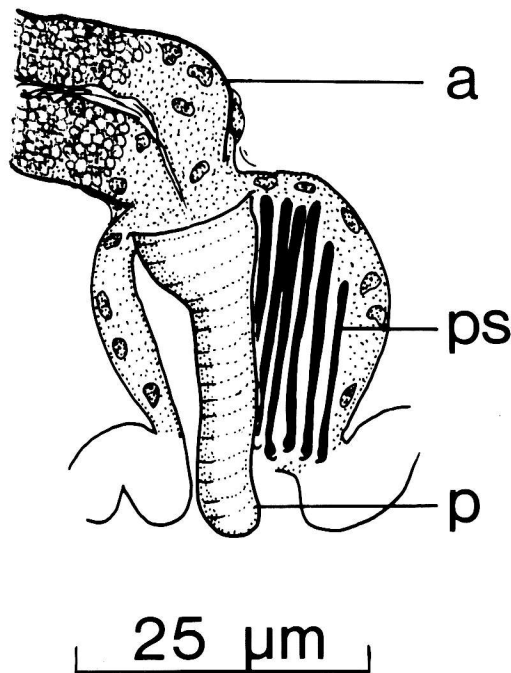


Figure 1. *Bermudrilus peniatus* Erséus from off west coast of Florida showing ectal part of atrium (a), penis (p) and penial setae (ps).

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- Erséus, C. 1979. *Bermudrilus peniatus* n.g., n.sp. (Oligochaeta, Tubificidae) and two new species of *Adelodrilus* from the Northeast Atlantic. *Trans. Am. Microsc. Soc.* 98:418–427.