

On the presence of *Symbion pandora* Funch & Kristensen, 1995 (Cycliphora) in the Alboran Sea

Sobre la presencia de *Symbion pandora* Funch & Kristensen, 1995 (Cycliphora) en el Mar de Alborán

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The phylum Cyclophora was formally described the last decade (Funch & Kristensen, 1995). They are a small group of marine invertebrates that live commensally on the mouthparts of commercially lobsters of the family Nephropidae (Obst *et al.*, 2005). Up to date, two species have been described, *Symbion pandora* Funch & Kristensen, 1995, from the Norway lobster, and *S. americanus* Obst, Funch & Kristensen, 2005, from the American lobster. Nevertheless, molecular studies show that more cryptic species can exist (Obst *et al.*, 2005; Baker & Giribet, 2007).

Symbium pandora is widely distributed in Eastern Atlantic Ocean, including the Mediterranean Sea (Nedvěď, 2004; Obst *et al.*, 2005; Baker & Giribet, 2007), where it has been cited, for example, in NE Spain (Catalonian coast) and in the Tyrrhenian Sea (Naples, Italy) (Nedvěď, 2004; Baker & Giribet, 2007) living epizooically on *Nephrops nowergicus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Besides, at least a third undescribed cryptic species of *Symbion* has been also cited in the Adriatic Sea (Croatia) living on *Homarus gammarus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Baker & Giribet, 2007).

The study of some specimens of *N. nowergicus* collected by dragging fishery in the Granada Coast (Alboran Sea) on February 2008 showed the presence of numerous individuals of *S. pandora* (Figs. 1-3) living on the mouthpieces of this lobster found both on the setae of the mouth appendices and directly on the appendices. This record, as far as we know, is the first one of a Cyclophora in the Alboran Sea.

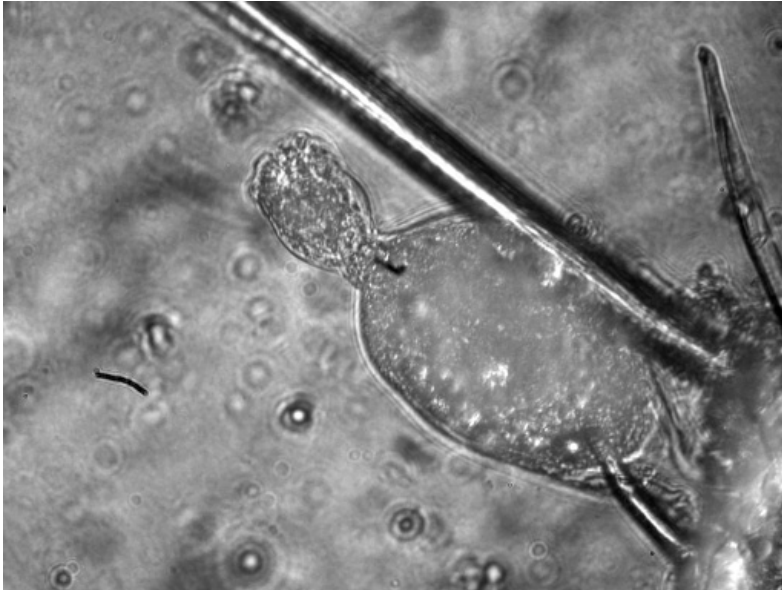


Fig. 1.—Specimen of *Symbion pandora* collected in Alboran Sea (optic microscopy).

Fig. 1.—Individuo de *Symbion pandora* colectado en el Mar de Alborán (microscopía óptica).

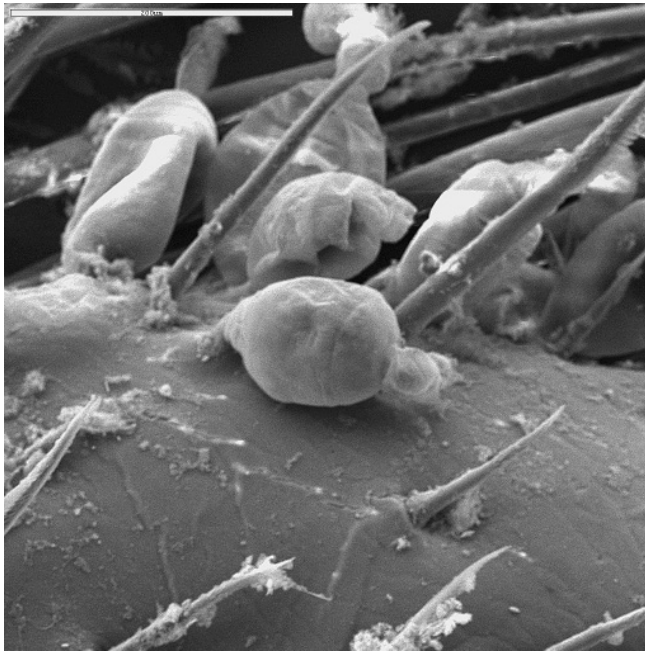


Fig. 2.—Specimens of *Symbion pandora* collected in Alboran Sea (SEM).

Fig. 2.—Individuos de *Symbion pandora* colectados en el Mar de Alborán (SEM).

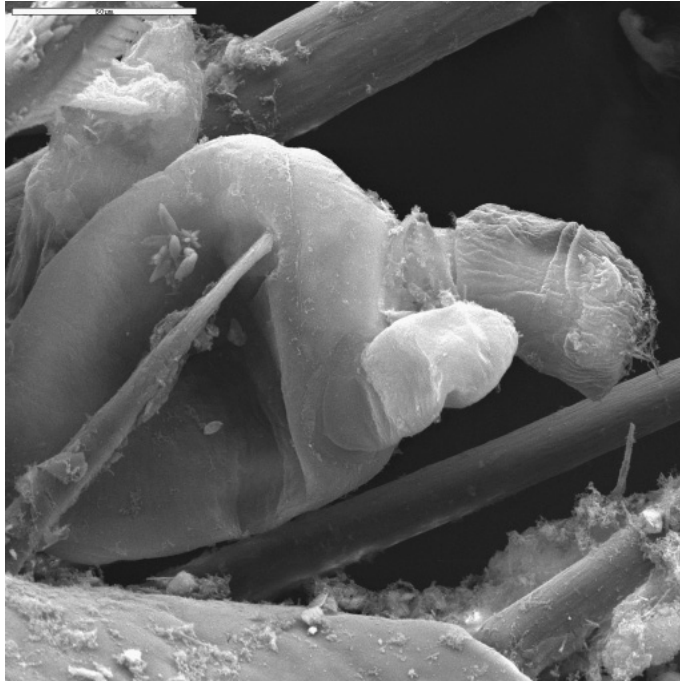


Fig. 3.—Female and male of *Symbion pandora* collected in Alboran Sea (SEM).

Fig. 3.—Hembra y macho de *Symbion pandora* colectados en el Mar de Alborán (SEM).

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