

First record of *Loxosomella crassicauda* (Salensky, 1877) (Entoprocta, Loxosomatidae) in the Mediterranean Spanish waters

Primera cita de *Loxosomella crassicauda* (Salensky, 1877) (Entoprocta, Loxosomatidae) en las aguas mediterráneas españolas

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The phylum Entoprocta is composed by four families and approximately 150 species worldwide (Nielsen, 2001). In Mediterranean Spanish waters only two species have been cited (Sánchez-Tocino & Tierno de Figueroa, in press), both belonging to the genus *Loxosomella* Mortensen, 1911: *Loxosomella pes* (Schmidt, 1875), previously reported from Italian Tyrrhenic waters (Prenant & Bobin, 1956; Nielsen, 2008), and *Loxosomella ameliae* Sánchez-Tocino & Tierno de Figueroa, in press, up to now only found in the Granada province coast. Both species occur on the surface of sponges.

The sampling of marine lapidicolous fauna from Southern Spain showed the existence of a population of *Loxosomella crassicauda* (Salensky, 1877) living epizooically on Bryozoa.

Samples of lapidicolous fauna were collected by scuba diving at 5-10 metres depth in Almuñécar coast (Granada province, Spain), particularly at Punta del Vapor (3°43'41.474W; 36°43'27.127N) at April, 26th 2005. Entoprocts were found on Bryozoans [*Schizoporella dunkeri* (Reuss, 1848)], covering the lower face of the stones. Samples of approximately 2-4 cm² with loxosomatids were collected and transported in a refrigerator to the laboratory, where they were photographed *in vivo* and further studied. After photographing loxosomatids, they were narcotized in seawater with menthol crystals for approximately 8 hours and subsequently fixed in 4% formalin in sea water and preserved in 70% ethanol.

The collected individuals of this species (Fig. 1 & 2) were medium-size, the largest individual measuring 1010 μm total length. Biometric data are presented in Table I. The calyx, longer than wider, had 17 tentacles. The calyx length was shorter than the stalk length. The calyx showed an oval

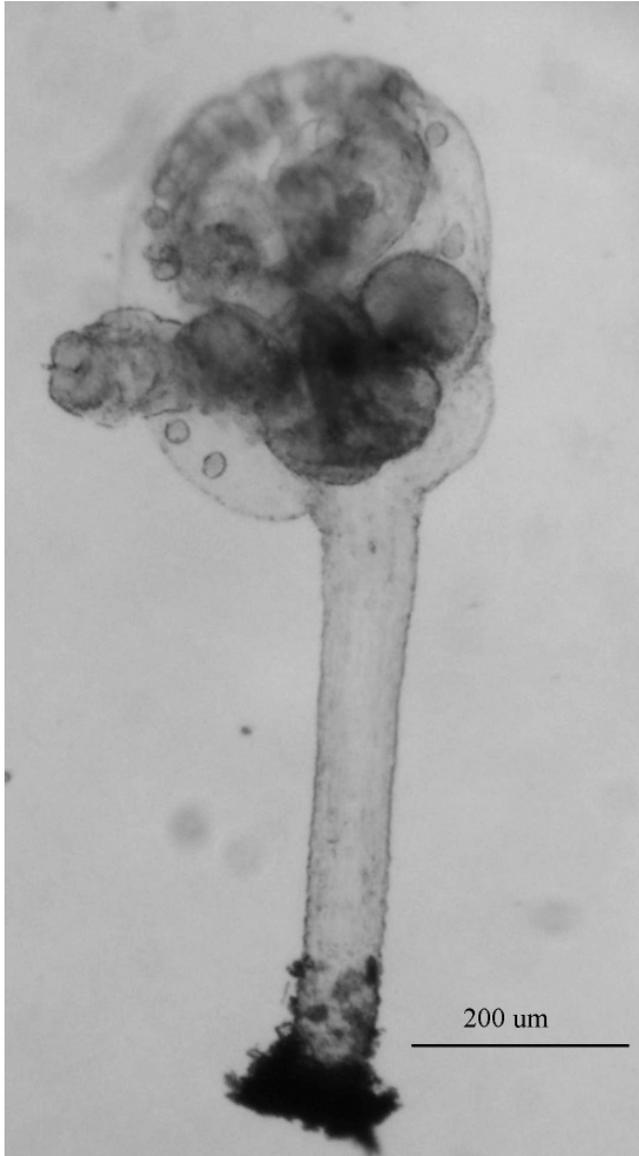


Fig. 1.—*Loxosomella crassicauda*: specimen in frontal view (live specimens).

Fig. 1.—*Loxosomella crassicauda*: ejemplar en visión frontal (ejemplar vivo).

shape, with the tentacle crown approximately as wide as the part containing the stomach. The stomach, with inverted pear-shape, was pointed basally. Gonads were situated above the lateral parts of the stomach. The calyx was considerably thick; thus the ratio between the calyx length and calyx thickness

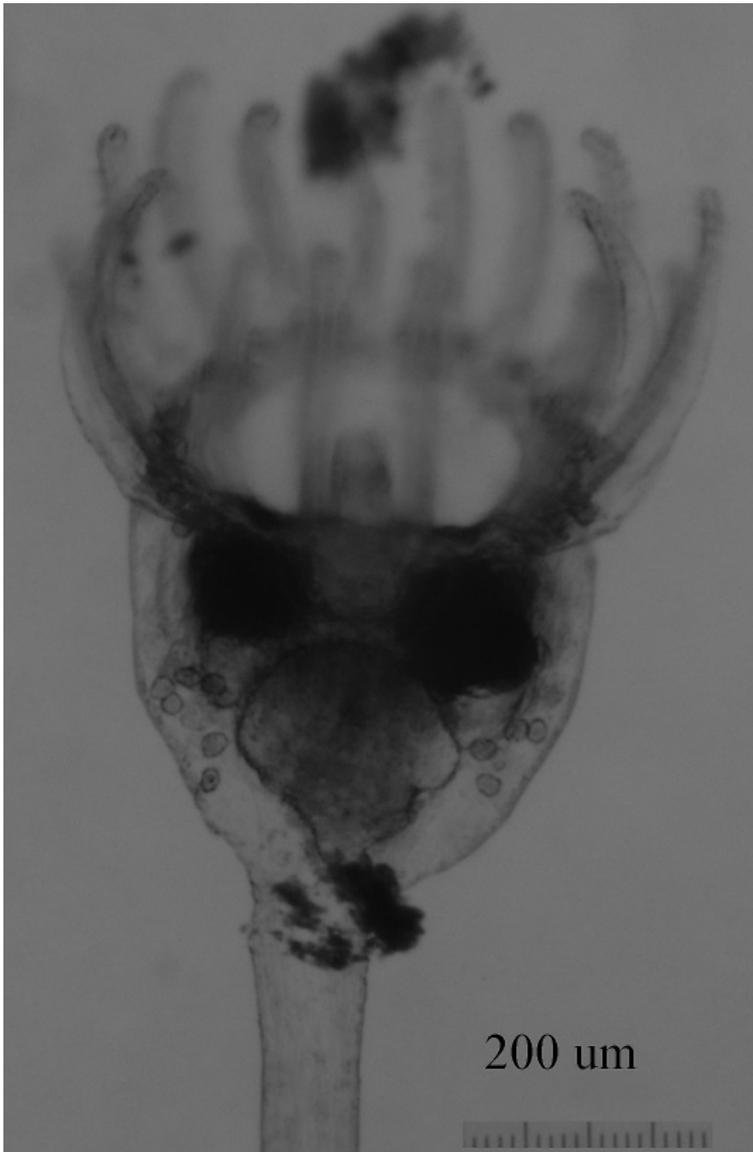


Fig. 2.—Detail of the calyx of *Loxosomella crassicauda* (live specimens)
Fig. 2.—Detalle del cáliz de *Loxosomella crassicauda* (ejemplar vivo).

Table I.—Measurements (in μm) of some specimens narcotized with menthol crystals and preserved in 70% etanol.

Tabla I.—Medidas (en μm) de algunos ejemplares narcotizados con cristales de mentol y conservados en etanol al 70%.

Specimen	<i>Loxosoma crassicauda</i>			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Total length	1010	610	890	760
Length of calyx	420	250	320	360
Width of calyx	300	200	260	250
Length of stalk	590	360	570	400
Width of stalk	80	50	80	80
Length calyx/length of stalk	0,71	0,69	0,56	0,9
Length/width of calyx	1,4	1,25	1,23	1,44

was approximately 1.6 (only one individual could be measured and it has not been included in Table I). The ciliated tentacles, when extended, were approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ length than the tentacle crown diameter (from two measured individuals). An incomplete row of, possibly, gland cells appeared around the tentacle crown base. Lateral buds, one or two (with different degree of development), could be present. There were no clear rows of glandular cells in the stalk. Collected individuals were attached to the substrate and foot gland was not observed because foot was probably degenerated in adults. This fact has been previously pointed out for this species by Nielsen (1989) and for some other *Loxosomella* species (Nielsen, 1996).

L. crassicauda has been previously cited both in the Atlantic Ocean (particularly in English Channel) and in the Mediterranean Sea (in Naples coast) inhabiting on different substrates (polychaete tubes, ascidians, bryozoans and stones) (Nielsen, 1989). Our data suppose the first cite of this species in the Alboran Sea and in the Mediterranean Spanish coast.

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