

Short note.

On the taxonomic status of the genus *Parathyone* (Echinodermata, Holothurioidea, Dendrochirotida)

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Abstract

The genus *Parathyone* DEICHMANN, 1957 encloses two species, *Parathyone surinamensis* and *Parathyone suspecta*, and is close to the genus *Ocnus* FORBES, 1841. *Ekmanothyone* nomen novum is erected to replace the pre-occupied *Parathyone* CHERBONNIER, 1988 (non *Parathyone* DEICHMANN, 1957).

Key words : Taxonomy, holothurians, *Ekmanothyone* nom. nov.

Résumé

Le genre *Parathyone* DEICHMANN, 1957 comprend deux espèces, *Parathyone surinamensis* et *Parathyone suspecta*, et est proche du genre *Ocnus* FORBES, 1841. *Ekmanothyone* nomen novum est créé en remplacement de *Parathyone* CHERBONNIER, 1988 (non *Parathyone* DEICHMANN, 1957).

Mots-clés : Taxonomie, holothuries, *Ekmanothyone* nom. nov.

DEICHMANN (1957, p. 16) erected a new genus, *Parathyone* DEICHMANN, 1957 with *Thyone surinamensis* SEMPER, 1868 as type species. The new genus belongs to the family Cucumariidae and is defined as following: medium size dendrochirotes; tentacles 10, equal size; tube feet stout all over body wall; calcareous ring simple, without posterior processes; deposits, outer layer of baskets and inner layer of regular strongly knobbed buttons; tube feet with end plates and large rods.

DEICHMANN justified her new genus mainly because *T. surinamensis* has a simple calcareous ring without posterior processes whereas species belonging to the genus *Thyone* JAEGER, 1833 have a fragmented calcareous ring with long posterior processes. PANNING (1949, p. 437) had already transferred *T. surinamensis* from the genus *Thyone* to the genus *Ocnus* FORBES, 1841. PAWSON & MILLER (1981, p. 393) accepted PANNING's point of view. According to me, however, *Ocnus* and *Parathyone* are closely related but distinct genera. The genus *Parathyone* differs from *Ocnus* by the presence of ten equal tentacles and by the tube feet being spread all over the whole body wall rather than being restricted to the radii as they are in *Ocnus*.

DEICHMANN (1957, p. 16) included in her new genus *Thyone suspecta* LUDWIG, 1875 and *Thyone solida* DEICHMANN, 1930. It was rather strange for her to include *T. solida* in the genus *Parathyone* because she had already erected (DEICHMANN 1954, p. 399) a new genus, *Euthyonacta* DEICHMANN, 1954 having as its type species *Thyone solida*! *T. solida* certainly should not be included in the genus *Parathyone* because it has 8 large and 2 very small tentacles (10 tentacles of equal size in *Parathyone*). As PAWSON & MILLER (1981, p. 393), I agree with the combination *Euthyonacta solida*. *T. suspecta* LUDWIG, 1875 is referred by PAWSON & MILLER (1981, p. 393) to the genus *Ocnus* without any comment. However, LUDWIG (1875, p. 92) stated that the tube feet of *T. suspecta* are numerous and spread all over the body wall ("Die Füßchen sind in grosser Anzahl über die ganze Körperoberfläche zerstreut"). Because of the tube feet distribution, I consider, as DEICHMANN (1957, p. 16), that *T. suspecta* must be referred to the genus *Parathyone*. The genus *Parathyone*, as defined by DEICHMANN (1957), thus includes two species: *P. surinamensis* and *P. suspecta*, both from the East Atlantic Ocean.

In his study of the sea cucumbers of Madagascar, CHERBONNIER (1988 p. 206) erected a new genus, *Parathyone* CHERBONNIER, 1988 with the type species *Parathyone incurvata* CHERBONNIER, 1988. This species has a fragmented calcareous ring with long posterior processes. This new genus was placed close to the genus *Thyone* in the family Phyllophoridae (subfamily Thyoninae). However, *Parathyone* is a pre-occupied name (see above). It is therefore necessary to create a new genus name for the species *incurvata*. I propose the name *Ekmanothyone* nomen novum, replacing *Parathyone* CHERBONNIER, 1988 (non *Parathyone* DEICHMANN, 1957) with the new combination *Ekmanothyone incurvata* (CHERBONNIER, 1988). The new genus diagnosis is as in CHERBONNIER (1988 p. 206): tentacles 10, 2 ventral smaller; ventral and dorsal tube feet on two rows along radii; no interradial tube feet. Small V-shaped or U-shaped sea cucumbers; skin thick, rigid; calcareous ring fragmented, radials with very long

posterior processes; deposits of body wall pseudo-baskets, 4-holed knobbed buttons, large knobbed plates; deposits of tube feet rods with central 2-pillared spire; deposits of introvert small perforated plates and rods; deposits of tentacles elongated knobbed plates and large rods.

The name *Ekmanothyone* nomen novum is dedicated to the Swedish holothurian specialist, Sven EKMAN.

Literature

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