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Salvatoria aegyptia n. sp. (Annelida, Syllidae) from El Ataka wharf, Suez Gulf (Egypt)

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ABSTRACT

A new species of the genus Salvatoria McIntosh, 1885 (Annelida, Syllidae) was detected during a fouling collection on the hard substrates of the Wharf of El Akaba in the Suez Gulf. On the 5th of Jan, 2021, a holotype and 8 paratypes were collected using a metal frame with an attached cone net. Samples were subjected to examinations under a stereomicroscope and identified to species level under an Olympus microscope. Scanning electron micrographs were taken and examined. Descriptions of the new species were determined. Results showed that this species has spindle-shaped dorsal cirri and antennae, pointed, oval pharyngeal tooth located on the anterior margin of the pharynx, and compound chaetae with elongated, bidentate blades, with teeth well separated from each other, and fine spines on the margin. The most similar species to the Egyptian species is Salvatoria nitiduloides, Nascimento et al., 2021 from Brazil. However, the Egyptian species has the pharyngeal tooth more anteriorly located, and the dorsoventral gradation in the length of blades is less marked than in the Brazilian species, especially on posterior segments. The holotype and a paratype of the new species were deposited in the collection of (TBAB 853) Lab. Of Oceanography & Fisheries, Alexandria branch, Egypt. It was recorded as Salvatoria aegyptia n. sp, with reference to Egypt where it was found. This research would enrich the aquatic literature by adding useful data and recording a newly identified species to benefit scientists and researchers interested in this field.

1. INTRODUCTION

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Marine Annelids are helpful bio-indicators and provide accurate indications for adjusting aquatic conditions (Mieszkowska *et al.*, 2013). Most records of new species have been found accidentally while working in other researches. The "ad hoc" studies conducted on the alien and indigenous fauna and flora receive low financial support, a state which makes the description of new species common and gives it a high priority (Lezzi, 2017). The family Syllidae (Grube, 1850) is well known for its large number of taxa (San Martin, 1984b). It is a highly diverse family with 97 genera and ca.1100

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species. The afore- mentioned family, including its genera and species are worldly reported having a very difficult taxonomy (Aguado *et al.*, 2007; Pamungkas *et al.*, 2019; Read & Fauchald, 2020; Martin *et al.*, 2021). San Martín and Aguado (2014) recognized 77 valid genera and around 964 species. The afore- mentioned recorded number increased to 993 (Pamungkas *et al.*, 2019), and over 1100 currently accepted species were assessed (Daniel *et al.*, 2021). Based on morphological and molecular analysis, Syllidae is currently divided into five subfamilies (Aguado *et al.*, 2012; San Martín & Aguado, 2014).

Among the Syllidae, the subfamily Exogoninae has the smallest species, most of which are interstitial, including nine genera: *Brania* Quatrefages, 1866 (Cicese Díaz-Castañeda & San Martín, 2001), *Erinaceusyllis* San Martín, 2005, *Exogone* Ørsted, 1845, *Parapionosyllis* Fauvel, 1923, *Parexogone* Mesnil and Caullery, 1918, *Prosphaerosyllis* San Martín, 1984a, *Salvatoria* McIntosh, 1885 and *Spherosyllis* Claparède, 1863 (San Martín & Aguado, 2014).

Salvatoria is a worldwide distributed genus, currently composed of about 32 valid species. In Egypt, specifically in the Mediterranean Egyptian coast, only four species of this genus were previously recorded, including *S. euritmica* (Sardá, 1984), *S. vieitezi* (San Martín, 1984b), *S. clavata* (Claparède, 1863) and *S. limbata* (Claparède, 1868) (Abd Elnaby & San Martin, 2010; Hamdy & Ibrahim, 2019). The specimens of the new species of *Salvatoria* herein described were collected on the Ataka dock, Suez Gulf, within a fouling collection.

Many benthic studies considered the Suez Gulf (Por, 1978; Safriel & Lipkin, 1975; Ben-Eliahu, 1972; Amoureux *et al.*, 1978). El-Komi (1996) estimated the distribution of macrobenthic communities along the eastern coast of the Suez Gulf. Belal (1995, 2001) studied the distribution of benthic animal's communities in the northern part of the Suez Gulf. El-Komi (1997), El-Komi and Beltagy (1997), El-Komi and Emara (2008) and El-Komi *et al.* (2002) studied the distribution of the macro benthos assemblages in the shallow intertidal zone along the western coast of the Suez Gulf. Belal and Ghobashy (2014) studied the macro-benthic invertebrates in each side of the Suez Gulf. Abd Elnaby (2019) studied polychaetes from Gabel El-Zeit, Suez Gulf.

Other studies, particularly of ecology, biology and economic importance include those of Hassan (1983), Ismail (2005), Gab-Allah *et al.* (2007), Radwan (2014) and El-Mekawy (2016). In the present study, the description of the new species were determined with remarks.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

In January, 2021, samples found on hard substrates of the wharf of El Ataka station, Suez Gulf (29° 58' 37" N, 32° 31' 18" E) were collected (Fig.1). This species was found within a fouling collection only in the station mentioned. Samples were collected by using a metal frame with a cone net attached. In the laboratory, samples were washed through 0.1 mm mesh sieve for small worms and 0.5 mm sieve for the rest of the fauna, and then fixed in 70% Ethyl alcohol. Specimens were sorted under a stereomicroscope model Optika, and then species were identified to species level under an Olympus CX21FS2 microscope. Photographs of some species were taken by a digital camera attached to the compound microscopes. SEM photos were taken by using a JEOL IT200 scanning electronmicros. For the SEM, specimens were first dehydrated in a graded series of increasing concentrations of ethanol (up to 100%), followed by a critical point dehydration, and were then coated with gold and examined under the SEM. Drawings were added. Key for Salvatoria species for Egypt was added. The holotype and a paratype of the new species were deposited in the collection of Taxonomy and Biodiversity of Aquatic Biota (TBAB 853) Laboratory, National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Alexandria branch, Egypt.

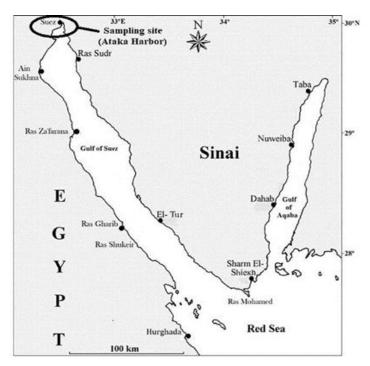


Fig. 1. A map showing the location of El Ataka port, in the Suez Gulf

3. RESULTS

Family Syllidae Grube, 1850 Subfamily Exogoninae Langerhans, 1879 Genus *Salvatoria* McIntosh, 1885

Salvatoria McIntosh, 1885: 188. **San Martín (2003)**: 156; (2005): 49. **Nascimento** *et al.* **(2021)**: 5.

Grubea Quatrefages, 1866: 19; San Martín,1984b: 150.
Brania (in part) Fauvel, 1923: 296; in part Kudenov & Harris, 1995: 9.
Grubeosyllis Verrill, 1900: 633. San Martín (1991): 716.
Protogrubea Czerniavsky, 1881: 414.

Salvatoria aegyptia, sp. nov.

Figs. (2- 5)

3.1. Material examined

Holotype (TBAB 853) and eight paratypes were collected from the wharf of El Ataka station of Suez Gulf, (29° 58' 37" N, 32° 31' 18" E), on the 5th of January 2021 during a fouling collection.

3.2. Description

The body is small and delicate, up to 2.5mm long, 0.20 mm wide, with 33-35 chaetigers, and without color markings. Prostomium is ovate, wider than long and is partially covered posteriorly by peristomium; two pairs of eyes are set in trapezoidal arrangement. Palps are triangular, well developed, joined along their length by dorsal membrane, almost totally fused, leaving usually short notch (Figs. 2A, 3A, 4A). Antennae is spindle-shaped, slightly bulbous at their base and ending with an elongate, acute tip; median antenna is inserted between posterior pair of eyes, similar in length to prostomium and palps together; lateral antenna is slightly shorter than median antenna, inserted close to anterior eyes. Peristomium is slightly shorter than subsequent segments; dorsal tentacular cirri is similar to median antenna, while the ventral tentacular cirri is about 2/3 the length of the dorsal ones (Figs. 2A, 3A, 4A).

The parapodia are conical; The dorsal cirri are similar to the antennae and the tentacular cirri, but for those of chaetiger 1, they are longer than the remaining (Figs. 2A, 3A, 4B), whereas those of chaetiger 2 and 3 are shorter, and the remaining dorsal cirri are alternatively irregular, varying between long and short. The ventral cirri digitiform are shorter than the parapodial lobes (Fig. 3A, 4A-B). The holotype of a mature female was found carrying dorsal eggs (Fig. 3B). Compound chaetae heterogomph falcigers are 7-9 and are found on the anterior parapodia (Figs. 2B, 3C, 4C), while, on midbody, they are reduced to 5-6 (Fig. 2D, 4D), but on the posterior parapodia, they are only 3-4 (Fig. 2F). The falcigers were detected with elongated, bidentate blades, and the teeth are slightly unequal, with a well separated space between teeth wide, and are distinctly concave. The examined blades have moderate, fine spines on the margin, and the spines are longer in the dorsal and the anterior chaetae. Furthermore, a marked dorso-ventral gradation was found with respect to the length of blades, with 25µm long above, and 13µm long below on the anterior parapodia (Figs. 2B, 3C, 4C), and 18µm long above and 11µm long below on the posterior parapodia (Fig. 2F). The posterior compound chaetae was noted with less marked differences in size and shape of blades (Figs. 2F). The dorsal simple chaetae are distinctly bidentate with short subdistal spines (Fig. 2E, 3D) and are present from chaetiger two. While, the ventral simple chaetae are similar to the dorsal ones, but shorter, sigmoid and thicker, and are only present in posterior-most parapodia (Fig. 2G). The anterior parapodia are found with two aciculae; one is straight, while the other is subdistally and slightly inflated, curved and acuminate with short tip (Figs. 2C, 3E); a single acicula per parapodium is found extending from midbody onwards, and is thicker towards the posterior body (Fig. 2H, 3F). Moreover, the pharynx is apparently without papillae around the opening; it is anteriorly wide and usually cup-shaped through four segments (Figs. 2A, 3A, G); the pharyngeal tooth is conical, slim and located on the anterior margin (Fig. 3G). In addition, the proventricle is similar in length to the pharynx, extending through four segments, with 18-20 muscle-cell rows (Figs. 2A, 3A). The pygidium is characterized with two short anal cirri detected in the holotype (Fig. 3H).

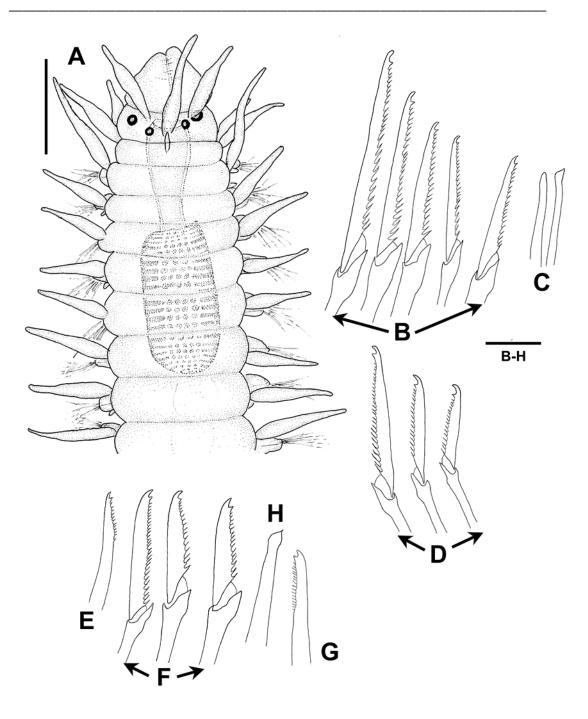
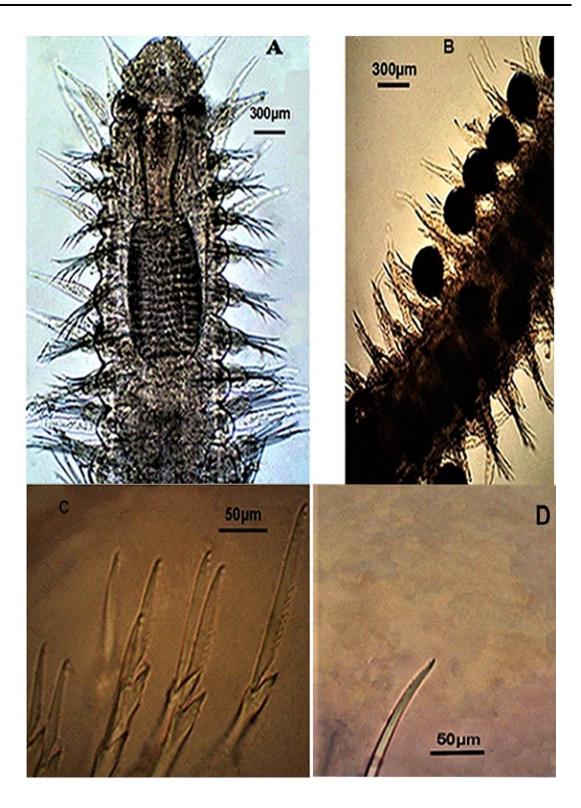


Fig. 2. The *Salvatoria aegyptia* n. sp. Holotype **A:** anterior end, dorsal view. **B:** compound chaetae, anterior parapodia. **C:** aciculae, anterior parapodia. **D:** compound chaetae, midbody. **E:** dorsal simple chaeta. **F:** compound chaetae, posterior parapodia. **G:** ventral simple chaeta. **H:** acicula, posterior parapodia. Scale.- **A:** 0.5 mm, **B-H:** 50 μm.



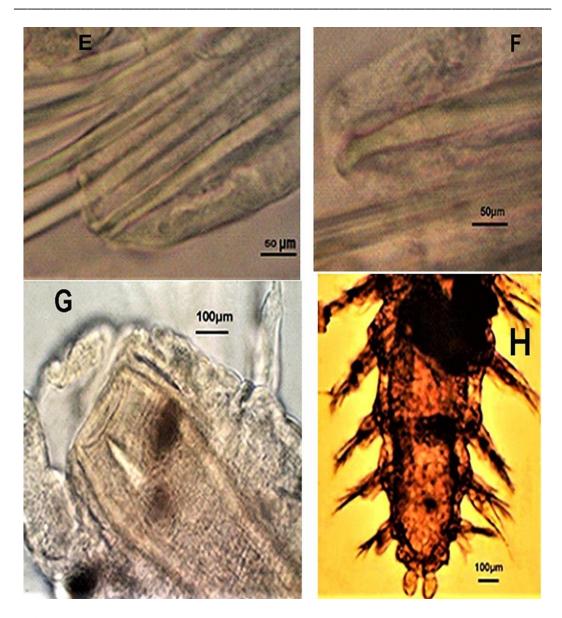


Fig. 3. Salvatoria aegyptia n. sp. Holotype, exhibiting the light microscope photographs **A:** anterior end, ventral view. **B:** midbody, carrying eggs dorsally. **C:** compound chaetae, anterior parapodium. **D:** dorsal simple chaeta. **E:** aciculae, anterior parapodium. **F:** acicula, posterior parapodium. **G:** anterior end of pharynx, ventral view. **H:** posterior end, ventral view. Scale. **A, B** 300 μm. **C, D** 100 μm. E-H 50 μm.

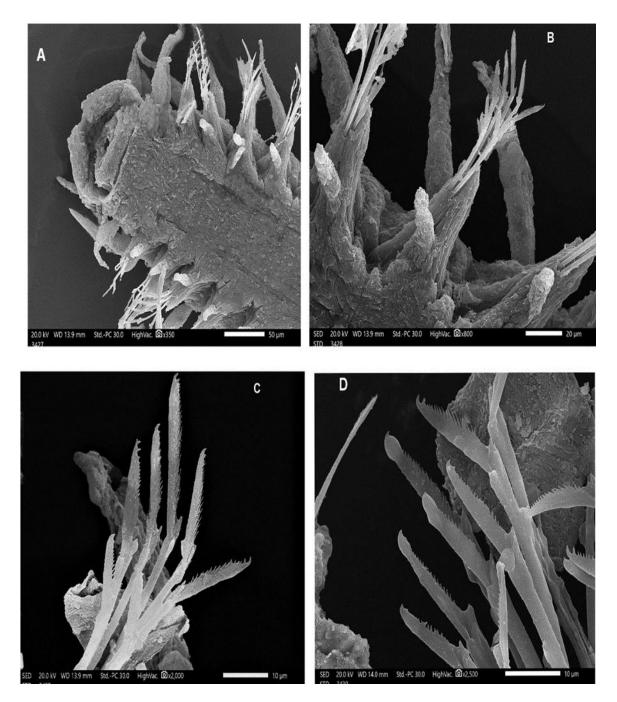


Fig. 4. The *Salvatoria aegyptia* n. sp., SEM **A:** anterior end, ventral view. **B:** mid body parapodia, ventral view. **C:** anterior body chaetae. **D:** mid body chaetae. Scale: **A** 50 μm. **B** 20 μm. **C, D** 10 μm.

4.DISCUSSION

The most remarkable characteristic of the new species of *Salvatoria* is that the pharyngeal tooth is located on the anterior margin of the pharynx, and the compound chaetae have elongated blades on the anterior and the midbody parapodia, with both teeth separated, forming a rounded, concave space. The most similar species is *S. nitiduloides* (Nascimento *et al.*, 2021) from Brazil. In comparison, the pharyngeal tooth in the Egyptian species is more anteriorly located, and the dorso-ventral gradation in the length of blades is less marked than in the Brazilian species (Nascimento *et al.*, 2021). Despite that the body shape, the dorsal and the ventral simple chaetae, and the anterior compound chaetae are almost identical; the posterior chaetae of *S. aegyptia* sp. nov. have shorter blades, all of which are similar, whereas those of *S. nitiduloides* are similar to the anterior ones. Another detected difference is that the aciculae in *S. nitiduloides* seems to be more pointed, with longer tip.

Hartmann-Schröder (1960) described and reported other species of this genus (as *Grubea* Quatrefages, 1865) from the Red Sea (*G. limbata* Claparède, 1868; *G. nuchalata* Hartmann-Schröder, 1960, probably a member of *Erinaceusyllis* San Martín, 2003; *G. gracilis* Hartmann-Schröder, 1960; and *G. balani* Hartmann-Schröder, 1960; all these species differ clearly from *S. aegyptia* sp. nov. by the compound chaetae, acicula and dorsal simple chaetae. Blades of compound chaetae in *G. balani* are very short and bidentate. Long bidentate and unidentate; serrated and smooth blades present in *G. limbata*; acicula in both straight with pointed tip and subdistal swollen. Pharynx papillated in *G. gracilis*, unidentate chaetae and one acicula with rounded tip for each parapodia are present. *G. nuchalata* has papillated dorsal cirri and serrated unidentate chaetae. All previous characters indecated that all Grubea species described from the Red Sea by **Hartmann-Schröder** (1960) surely differ from the *Salvatoria aegyptia* sp. nov. collected from the wharf of El Ataka station, Suez Gulf.

Ben-Eliahu (1977) reported *S. clavata* from the Gulf of Eilat. Posterior compound chaetae of *S. aegyptia* sp. nov. are similar to those of *S. clavata*, but the anterior chaetae and midbody falcigers are different. *S. aegyptia* sp. nov. with anterior 7-9 chaetae; marked dorso-ventral gradation in length of blades, 25µm long above, 13µm long below on anterior parapodia and 18µm long above and 11µm long below on posterior parapodia different from Ben-Eliahu's specimens, she mentioned; ten long straight bidentate falcigers, and superior falcigers of midbody, 27 µm long; inferior falcigers, 1.6 µm long. In addition, the pharyngeal tooth in *S. clavata* is located more posteriorly in the pharynx. On the other hand, *Salvatoria longiarticulata* (Nogueira, San Martín and Amaral, 2001) from Brazil also has elongated and bidentate blades of compound chaetae, but a longer pharynx is observed with shorter proventricle, and both teeth of blades are close to each other (Nogueira *et al.*, 2001). While,*Salvatoria longisetosa* (Hartmann-Schröder, 1979) from Australia has the pharyngeal tooth located in the middle of the pharynx and

the compound chaetae have small teeth, close to each other (Hartmann-Schröder, 1979; San Martín 2005).

Finally, *Salvatoria kerguelensis* McIntosh, 1885 from the Kerguelen Islands, South Georgia, New Zealand and Australia, has a very similar body, but the pharyngeal tooth is located slightly away from to the pharyngeal opening and the compound chaetae have shorter blades (**San Martín, 2005**).

The *Salvatoria aegyptia* sp. nov. has median antenna inserted between the posterior pair of eyes, while the median antenna of *Salvatoria nitidula* (Verrill, 1900) is inserted between the anterior pair of eyes. The *Salvatoria aegyptia* sp. nov. is characterized with dorsal peristomial cirri similar to the median antenna; dorsal cirri from chaetiger 1 are longer than the remaining; those of chaetiger 2 and 3 are shorter, the remaining dorsal cirri are alternating irregularly long and short, while the dorsal cirri from chaetiger 1 are longer than the remaining in *S. nitidula*. Falciger blades of *Salvatoria aegyptia* sp. nov. are bidentate, the teeth are slightly unequal, and the lengths of the falciger blades are 25–13 µm long and 18-11 µm long on the anterior and the posterior parapodia, respectively. Comparing with *S. nitidula*, falciger blades with distal tooth are larger than subdistal ones on anterior and midbody parapodia, while the teeth are about the same size on the posterior body, whereas the falciger blades are longer; 30–10 µm on anterior and midbody parapodia, respectively.

Etymology. The name of the species refers to Egypt, the country in which this species has been found.

5.Key for the Salvatoria species recorded in Egyptian waters:

1.- Compound chaetae with smooth, unidentate blades, except the most dorsal one or two, which are longer, with short basal spines and a small subdistal minute proximal tooth. Pharyngeal tooth located on anterior margin of pharynx......S. limbata .- Compound chaetae bidentate. Pharyngeal tooth located on anterior margin or 2.- Blades of compound chaetae strongly bidentate, with both teeth similar 3.- Pharyngeal tooth located distinctly away from the anterior margin. Blades of compound chaetae with similar morphology (with dorso-ventral gradation in length), with short spines on margin,.....S. clavata. - Pharyngeal tooth located on anterior margin. Compound chaetae with different 4.- Dorsal compound chaetae with long basal spines, distally dressed; remaining chaetae smaller and with short spines on margin. Anterior segments usually with transversal reddish bands.....S. vieitezi

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