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On a new Siphonophora from the East China Sea and South China Sea

Zhang Jinbiao[1] and Lin Mao[1]

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Abstract——In the course of identifying the samples of Siphonophora from the East China Sea and South China Sea, a new Siphonophora, *Vogtia microsticella* sp. nov., was noted. The new species is distinguished from other five species in the genus in nectophore as follows: Parahorse-shoe shaped with five bluntly rounded projections, the two projections below the ostium, i. e. the basal projections, approach each other. The dorsal facet is smooth without any gelatinous prominence. Smaller are the nectosac and the ostium.

INTRODUCTION

In the course of a systematic identification and study on Siphonophora obtained from the East China Sea during the period from 1977 to 1978 and the South China Sea during the period from 1983 to 1984 , a lot of nectophores belonging to *Vogtia* were discovered, involving larval and adult nectophores. Their characteristics differ from other five species in the genus. On the basis of the observations and comparison, we identify them as a new *Vogtia* and name it as *Vogtia microsticella* sp. nov. Type specimens of the new species are deposited in the Third Institute of Oceanography, State Oceanic Administration, Xiamen, China.

Vogtia microsticella, sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

Nectophores. Without ridge, 3.0～8.6 mm in length, 2.0～8.0 mm in width. In dorsal view, five bluntly rounded projections, one apical, two lateral and two basal projections. Line of distinction of the apical and lateral projections are obscure in adult nectophore with parahorse-shoe shape (Fig. 1a). Larval nectophore is narrower than the adult in width (Fig. 1b). Smooth dorsal facet without any gelatinous prominences. Smaller the nectosac, less than 1/3 of nectophore in width. Smaller the ostium, about 1/5 of nectophore in width. Four radial canals. One ventral canal. One dorsal canal. Two lateral canals from the connection between the dorsal canal and ventral canal in an arch. One pallial canal, benting towards the apex.

1. Third Institute of Oceanography, State Oceanic Administration, Xiamen 361005, China

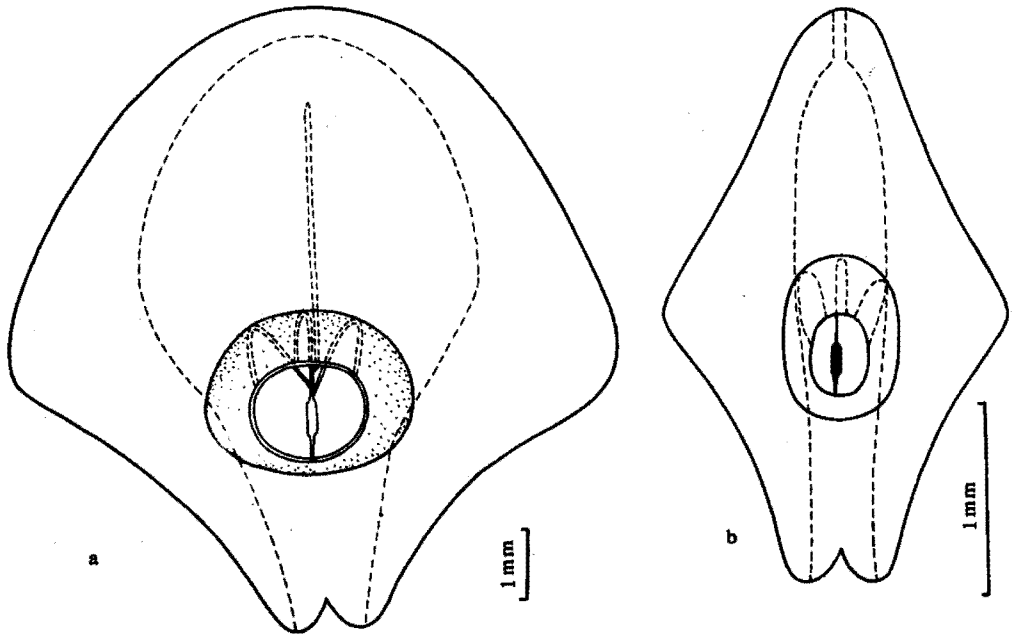

Fig. 1. *Vogtia microsticella* sp. nov. a. Adult nectophore, dorsal views; b. larval nectophore, dorsal views.

DISCUSSION

Because a new Siphonophora has parahorse-shoe shaped nectophore with five bluntly rounded projections, it belongs to *Vogtia* genus of Hippopodidae family. Up to now, besides new species, there are other five species in the genus (Alvarino, 1967; Totton, 1965; Zhang, 1980). They have been noted in the East China Sea and South China Sea (Zhang, 1984). Nectophores of *Vogtia kuruae* (Alvarino, 1967), *V. serrata* (Moser, 1925) (Bigelow, 1937; Stepanyants, 1967; Totton, 1965; Zhang and Xu, 1980), *V. pentacantha* kolliker, 1853 (Bengarjan, 1973; Bigelow, 1937; Browne, 1926; Totton, 1965) and *V. spinosa* Kafferstein et Ehlers, 1861 (Bigelow, 1937; Haeckel, 1888; Stepanyants, 1967; Totton, 1965, Xu and Zhang, 1978), pentagonal prisms. So they are easy to be distinguished from new species. Although nectophore of *V. glabra*, parahorse-shoe shaped with five bluntly rounded projections, is similar relatively to new species, the former has two conical gelatinous prominences above the ostium, and this may, therefore, be taken as distinguished from the new species easily (Table 1).

Table 1. Comparison between new species and *Vogtia glabra*

Species name	Nectophore	Ostium and ostosac
V. glabra Bigelow, 1918	Smooth dorsal facet, with two conical gelatinous prominences above the ostium. Two relatively pointed projections below the ostium, basal projections, with a separating each other.	Larger the nectosac and ostium, more than 1/3 of nectophore in width.

(*to be continued on the next page*)

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Species name	Nectophore	Ostium and ostosac
V. microsticella sp. nov.	Smooth dorsal facet, without any gelatinous prominences. Two bluntly rounded projections below the ostium, basal projections, nearing each other.	Smaller the nectosac, about less than 1/3 of nectophore in width. Smaller the ostium, about 1/5 of nectophore in width.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABIT

Found in waters above 200 m in the southeastern part of the East China Sea and the central part of the South China Sea.

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