

Two New Records of Siphonophores (Cnidaria: Hydrozoa: Siphonophora) in Korean Waters

Jung Hee Park*

Department of Life Science, College of Natural Sciences, the University of Suwon,
Gyeonggi-do 445-743

ABSTRACT

Some physonect and cystonect siphonophores were collected from the East Sea (36°30'124"N and 130°06'446"E) with horizontal plankton net on May and Oct. 2001. Among them the following two species were turned out to be new to the Korean fauna: *Bathypphysa grimaldii* Bedot, 1893; *Agalma okenii* Eschscholtz, 1825.

Keywords: taxonomy, Siphonophora, Hydrozoa, Korea

INTRODUCTION

Siphonophores are highly polymorphic animals and are readily distinguishable from the free-swimming medusoid stages of other hydrozoans. Approximately 150 species of siphonophores currently are recognized. The order Siphonophora divided into three suborders on the basis of the presence or absence of either an apical gas field float, the pneumatophore, or of swimming bells, nectophores which are grouped together to form the nectosome. The suborder Cystonectae possess only the pneumatophore; The Physonectae possess both a nectosome and the pneumatophore; while the Calycophorae only develop a nectosome (Kirkpatrick and Puch, 1984).

The Korean siphonophore fauna known so far composed of eight species, five genera, four families in two suborders; four species in Diphyidae, two in Abylidae of the suborder Calycophorae and one in Porpitidae, one in Physaliidae of the suborder Cystonectae (Park, 2002, 2007; Park and Song, 2004; Park and Won, 2004, 2005).

Some physonect and cystonect siphonophores were collected from the East Sea (36°30'124"N and 130°06'446"E) with horizontal plankton net on May and Oct. 2001. They were preserved in 5% neutral formalin and identified on the basis of the morphological characters. The pictures in figures were taken under the Nikon SMG-U stereomicroscope. The photograph of whole body were taken with Canon EOS 300D digital camera.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNTS

Phylum Cnidaria

Class Hydrozoa

Order Siphonophora

Suborder Cystonectae Haeckel, 1888

¹*Family Rhizophysidae Brandt, 1825

²**Bathypphysa grimaldii* Bedot, 1893 (Fig. 1A-C)

Bathypphysa grimaldii Kawamura, 1954, p. 120, textfig. 2, pl. 5, figs. 1-3, pl. 6, figs. 1-2, pl. 7, figs. 1-7.

Material examined. The East Sea (36°30'124"N and 130°06'446"E), 15 Oct. 2001 (J.H. Won).

Description. Colonies composed of various fragments, light salmon color in formalin. Contents in gastrosiphon dark brown color. Apical pneumatophore spindle shaped, without any hypocystic villi in its interior, with some minute polygonal pigments of faded red near apex. Stem variable in diameter according to constriction. Many bladder-form siphons aggregate densely in ventral side of pneumatophore.

Remarks. Because the twisting of colony is very hard, it is difficult to discriminate the zooids. There are many kinds of siphons by modification: hook-shaped, rod-shaped, trumpet-shaped and donut-shaped siphons. This species is similar to *B. japonica* Kawamura, 1942 (see Kawamura, 1954) in the shape of colony and spindle-shaped pneumatophore. But it is distinguished from the latter by its lesser dimension of several zooids and the form of the siphons and pneumatophores.

Distribution. Pacific Ocean.

*To whom correspondence should be addressed

Tel: 82-31-220-2480, Fax: 82-31-220-2484

E-mail: jhpark5@suwon.ac.kr

¹*거품뿌리관해파리과, ²*그리말디거품관해파리

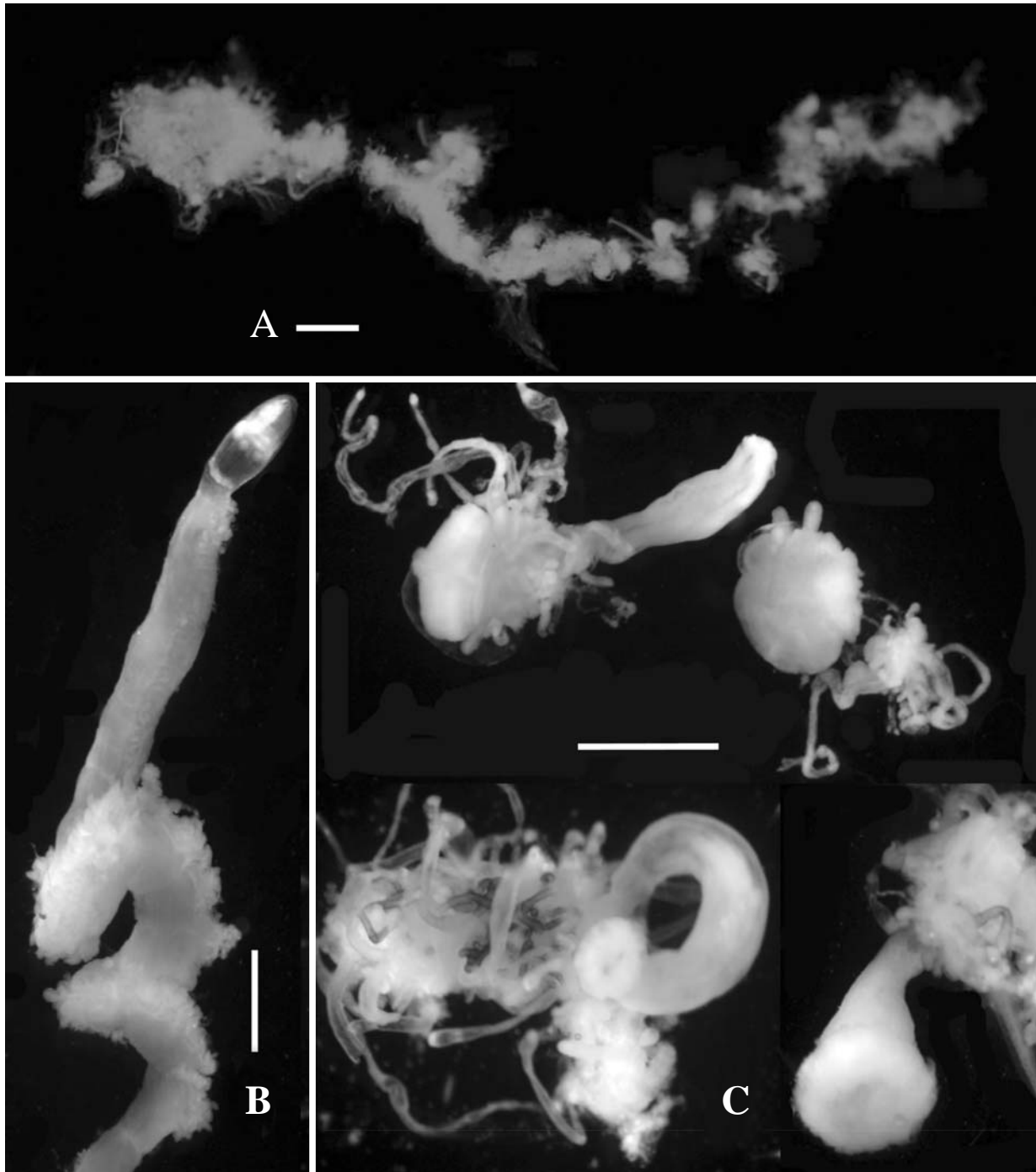


Fig. 1. *Bathypphysa grimaldii*. A, fragments of colony; B, spindle-shaped pneumatophore; C, variable types of siphons. Scale bars=2 mm (A), 1 mm (B-C).

¹*Suborder Physonectae Haeckel, 1888

²*Family Agalmidae Brandt, 1835

³**Agalma okenii* Eschscholtz, 1829 (Fig. 2A-D)

Agalma okenii Eschscholtz, 1829; Kawamura, 1954, p. 107, pl. 2, figs. 1-7; Nabikawa and Soyama, 2000, p. 77.

Agalma okeni: Totton and Bargmann, 1965, p. 53, pl. 9,

¹*거품관해파리아목, ²*황금관해파리과, ³*오켄황금관해파리

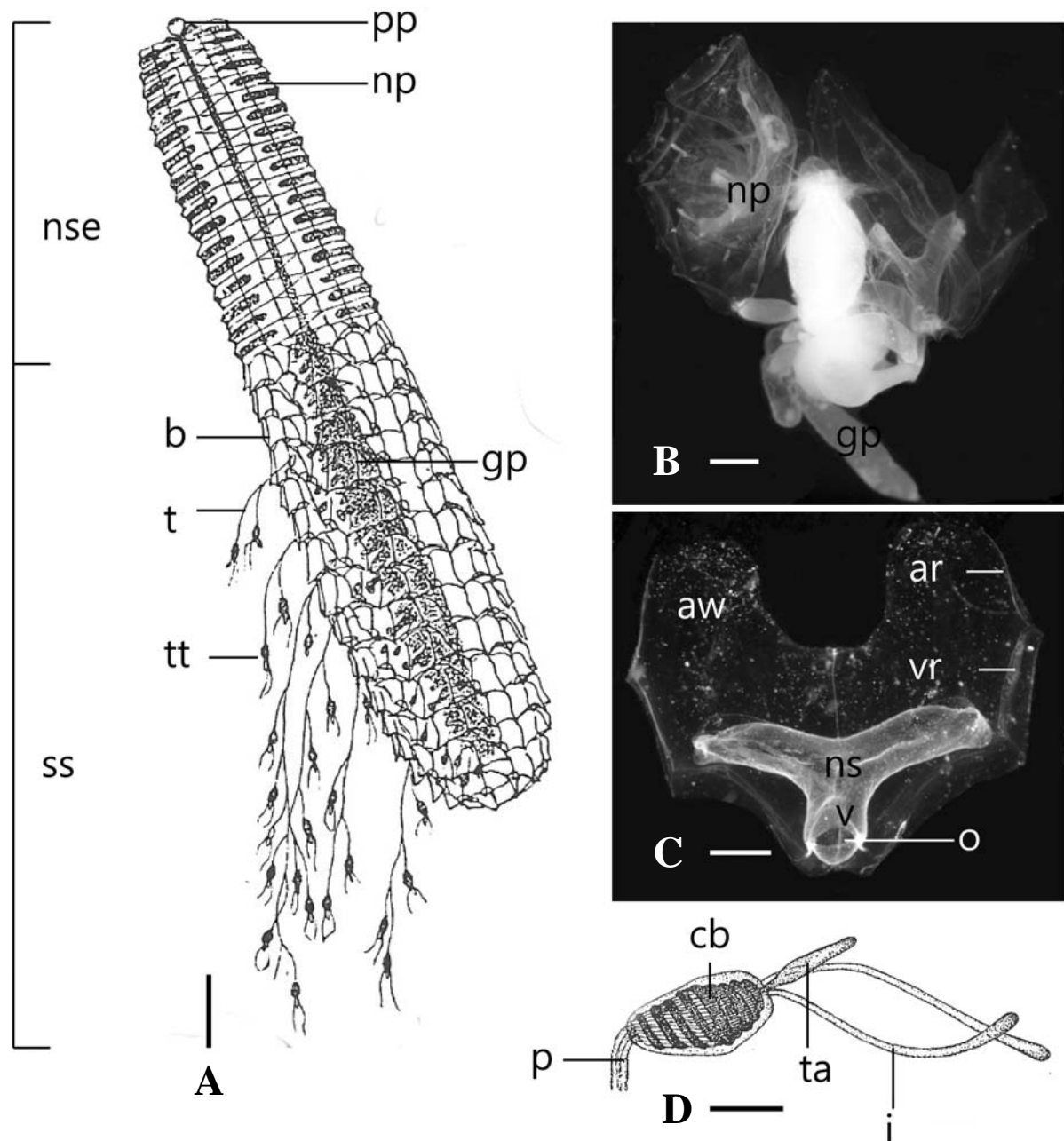


Fig. 2. *Agalma okenii*. A, whole animal (b, bract; gp, gonophores; np, nectophore; nse, nectosome; pp, pneumatophore; ss, siphosome; t, tentacle; tt, tentillum) (cited from Kawamura, 1954); B, nectophores with gonophores (np, nectophore; gp, gonophores); C, upper view of nectophore (aw, apical wing; ar, apical ridge; ns, nectosac; o, ostium; v, velum; vr, vertical ridge); D, tentillum (cb, cnidoband; i, involucre; p, peduncle; ta, terminal ampulla) (cited from Kawamura, 1954). Scale bars=10 mm (A), 1 mm (B-D).

gigs. 1-14, pl. 11, fig. 3; Pugh, 1999, p. 481, figs. 3.7, 3.23; Shangwu et al., 2002., p. 68, fig. 25A-B.

Material examined. East Sea (36°30'124'N and 130°06'446'E), May 7, 2001 (J.H. Won).

Description. Colony composed of nectosome and siphosome, cylindrical rod form with its lower and upper ends round. Nectosome composed of nectophores, and siphosome composed of compact grouping of zooids. According to Totton and Bargman (1965), nectosome dodecagonal body,

slightly tapered above, where lies small egg-shaped pneumatophore with reddish brown pigment at its apex. Nectophore with apical lateral ridge without distinct notch and with one or two vertical lateral ridges, but lateral ridge absent. Nectosac Y-shaped. Lateral radial canal distinctly looped.

Remarks. Entire animals were not collected, but the shape of the characteristic nectophore was used its identification. This species similar to *A. elegans* (see Totton and Bargmann, 1965) in the shape of colony and tentillum. But this species is differ from the latter by the shape of nectophore. The end of its apical wing of this species is round and its nectosac is distinct Y-shaped, while the end of apical wing of *A. elegans* is angled and the nectosac is T-shaped.

Distribution. Common species in the warmer regions of three great oceans, Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean and Atlantic Ocean.

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