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On a new species of deep-water Siphonophora, *Lensia multicristoides* sp. nov. from middle South China Sea

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Abstract——In this paper, a new species of deep-water Siphonophora, *Lensia multicristoides* sp. nov., collected from the middle South China Sea is described and compared with some similar species in the genus.

INTRODUCTION

In the course of a detailed and systematic study of the deep-water Siphonophora collected from the water layers below 200 m in the middle South China Sea during the periods of April and December, 1984, a new deep-water Siphonophora, *Lensia* was found and has been named as *L. multicristoides* sp. nov.

Lensia multicristoides sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

Type of specimens. Holotype, one specimen. Paratype, four specimens (see Table 1).

Table 1. Type specimens

	Number	Date	Location	Depth (m)
Holotype	TIO-SC 021	Apr. 22, 1984	18°16.0′N, 113°57.6′E	4000–200
Paratype	TIO-SC 022	Apr. 22, 1984	18°16.0′N, 113°57.6′E	4000–200
	TIO-SC 023	Apr. 22, 1984	13°29.0′N, 115°2.8′E	1010–470
	TIO-SC 024	Apr. 28. 1984	18°0.6′N, 115°0.2′E	1017–526
	TIO-SC 025	Dec. 31, 1984	12°0.4′N, 115°0.1′E	1000–500

Anterior nectophore. 9.5–12.5 mm high, 3.5–5.2 mm wide. Long conical shaped. Seven longitudinal ridges. One dorsal and two ventral ridges, complete. Two ventro-laterals arrive at neither the apex nor the basal margin, but the terminate is at the level of the ostium. Two dorsal-laterals arrive at the apex but the terminates are above the ostium. The somatocyst, spindle-shaped, with a short stalk and usually with an oil drop, is a bit shorter than 1/3 of the length of the nectophore. Hydroecial cavity is at a moderate depth in comparison with others of *Lensia*, its top being nearly at the level of the ostium. Mouth-plate, in two halves, are larger.

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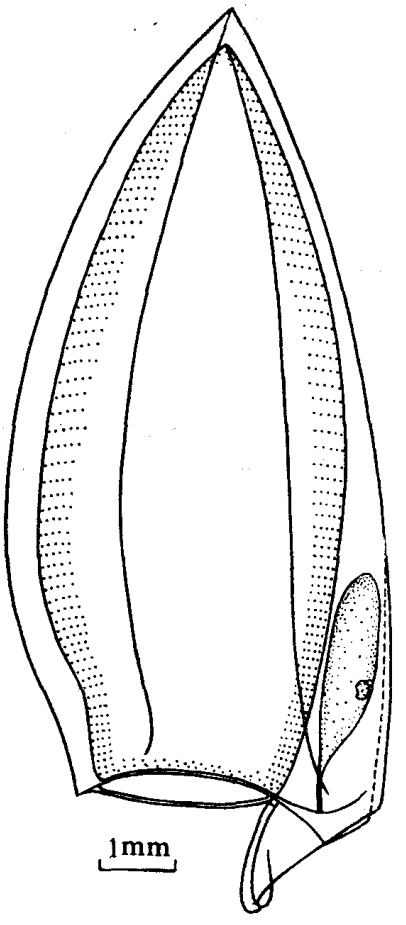

Fig. 1. *Lensia multicristoides* sp. nov.

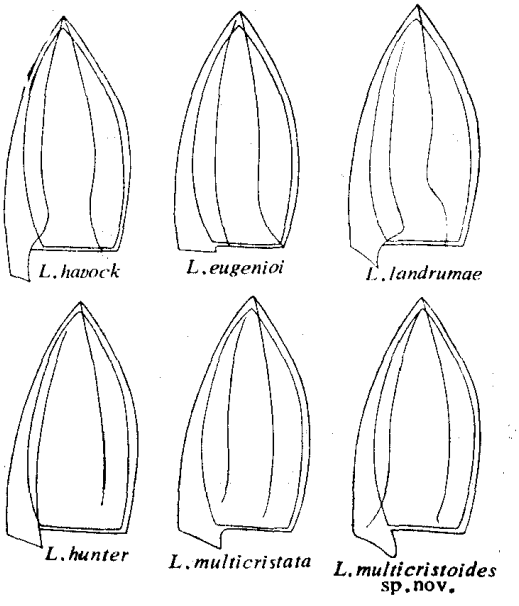

Fig. 2. Diagram of *Lensia multicristoides* sp. nov. with some similar species.

Posterior nectophore and eudoxid phase: unknown.

Discussion. There are 33 species (including subspecies) in the genus of *Lensia* (Alvarino and Wojtan, 1984; Bigelow, 1911; Daniel and Daniel, 1963; Leloup, 1934; Lens and Van Riemsdijk, 1908; Margulis, 1971; Rengarjan, 1973; Stepanyants, 1967; Stepanyants, 1970; Stepanyants, 1977; Totton, 1941; Totton, 1954; Totton, 1965; Totton and Bargmamm, 1965) , of which 15 have been described by Chinese researchers and 12 out of 15 were found in China Seas (Zhang, 1984; Zhang and Xu, 1980; Gao, 1982). This new species is similar in having seven ridges to *L. havock* Totton (Totton, 1941); *L. eugenioi* Alvarino et Wojtan (Alvarino *et al.*, 1984); *L. landrumae* Alvarino et Wojtan (Alvarino *et al.*, 1984); *L. hunter* Totton (Totton, 1941); *L. multicristata* (Moser) (Zhang, 1984), but differs from the latters in the characteristics as shown in Table 2 and Fig. 2.

Distribution. Found only in waters below 200 m in the middle South China Sea (12°–18°N, 114°–117°E).

Table 2. Comparison between *L. multicristoides* sp. nov. and some other similar species

Species	Dorsal-laterals	Ventro-laterals	Somatocyst
L. havock Totton 1941	complete, terminates arrive at ostium at 1/3 of dorsal ridge	complete, arrive at both apex and basal margin	spindle-shaped, shorter, about 1/3 of nectophore in length, with a stalk undistinguished
L. landrumae Alvarino et Wojtan, 1984	complete, arrive at ostium at 1/3 of dorsal ridge	incomplete, without reaching apex but benting to ventral side in ostial rigion onto basal margin	large, massive and globular-oval in shape, about 2/5 of nectophore in length
L. eugenioi Alvarino et Wojtan, 1984	complete, arrive at ostium at dorsal ridge	incomplete, arrive at apex but not ostium	short, pear-shaped, about 1/7 of nectophore in length
L. hunter Totton 1941	incomplete, not reach ostium	incomplete, without reaching apex but reaching basal margin	moderate, bilobed and asymmetrical, left side longer than the right, about 1/4 of nectophore in length
L. multicristata (Moser, 1925)	incomplete, not reach ostium	incomplete, reach neither apex nor basal margin	linear-shaped, about 1/2 of nectophore in length, with a stalk
L. multicristoides sp. nov.	incomplete, not reach ostium	incomplete, reach neither apex nor basal margin, but at the level of ostium	spindle-shaped, a little shorter than 1/3 of netophore in length, with a distinct stalk

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