

First Occurrence of a Rare *Thecocardium* Medusa (Anthomedusae, Ptilocodiidae) from Riviera Beach, Florida, USA

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Abstract. One individual of *Thecocardium* medusa, measuring 7 mm in diameter (the largest wild specimen among four individuals recorded in this genus) and possessed many linear nematocyst spurs at the umbrellar margin, many exumbrellar nematocysts, and umbrellar marginal four furrows (each houses base of each of four tentacles), was recorded at Riviera Beach, Florida, USA as the first record of this genus in the Atlantic Ocean.

Key words: biogeography, diving, medusa, new record, *Thecocardium*

A very unique hydromedusa of the genus *Thecocardium* was described by Jarms (1987) after successful laboratory rearing of the hydroid collected in a sea in Mombasa, Kenya. Since then, such a form of medusa was only collected in Japanese waters (only three individuals on three occasions) by Kubota (1993), Akiyama et al. (2013), and Minemizu et al. (2015).

Recently on an occasion of night diving observation of various animals, such a unique and rare medusa was photographed (Fig. 1) on a Black Water dive out of Riviera Beach, Florida, USA (26.41.826N, 079.59.551E) on June 17, 2016. This medusa floated 12 m in depth, measuring 7 mm in diameter, clearly belongs to the genus *Thecocardium* from such characteristics as many linear nematocyst spurs at the umbrellar margin, many exumbrellar nematocysts, and umbrellar marginal four furrows (each houses base of each of four tentacles). Here we record it as the fourth wild specimen and the largest



Fig. 1. Side view of living *Thecocardium* sp. photographed in a Riviera Beach, Florida, USA.

one of *Thecocardium*, though its specific status is not yet determined since it was not collected.

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Addendum. In the Gulf Stream off the coast of Palm Beach County in southeast Florida, USA (c 10 m deep), Ms Linda Ianniello, who is a friend of Suzan Meldonian, photographed a similar specimen (c 7 mm wide) on July 28, 2016.