

First Occurrence of the Hydromedusa *Paralovenia bitentaculata* (Hydrozoa: Leptomedusae) in Japan

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Abstract. The present note describes a small hydromedusa newly recorded for Japan. Two well-developed specimens of *Paralovenia bitentaculata* (Hydrozoa: Leptomedusae) were collected at the sea surface in Sasebo city, Nagasaki Prefecture, Kyushu, the southern main island of Japan. Photographs of the preserved specimens are presented.

Keywords: hydromedusa, *Paralovenia bitentaculata*, new record, description, Kyushu, Japan.

Introduction

The genus *Paralovenia* Bouillon, 1984 contains only two species, *P. bitentaculata* Bouillon, 1984 recorded from Papua New Guinea and China (Bouillon, 1984; Xu and Huang, 2004) and *P. latigaster* Xu and Huang, 2004 from China (Xu and Huang, 2004). As a new member of Japan's hydrozoan fauna, *P. bitentaculata* was recently found in Kyushu, the southern main island of Japan, and its morphology is described here based on two preserved specimens.

Paralovenia bitentaculata

(Japanese name: Chobi-hige-kurage)

(Figs. 1–2)

Paralovenia bitentaculata Bouillon, 1984: 35, fig. 4.;
Xu and Huang, 2004: 109, fig. 2: 7.

Material examined. Two specimens found in plankton samples taken at the surface in coastal waters of Sasebo city, Nagasaki Prefecture, in Kyushu, southern

Japan, by a staff member of the Saikai National Park Kujukushima Aquarium. The first specimen (Fig. 1) was collected at Tawaragaura town (33°7'0" N; 129°40'23" E) on 20 April 2007, and the second (Fig. 2) at Kashimae town (33°9'42"N; 129°40'41" E) on 14 August 2007. Both specimens were preserved in a solution of 5% buffered formaldehyde-seawater, and measurements and photographs were taken thereafter. These medusae are deposited in the collection of the Saikai National Park Kujukushima Aquarium.

Description. Four large marginal bulbs are situated equidistant from each other in the umbrellar margin. Two perradial tentacles issue from a pair of opposed bulbs without cirri. The other two perradial bulbs, also situated opposite each other, do not bear tentacles, but both of them bear a small number of cirri (Figs. 1–2). No rudimentary marginal swellings, statocysts, or radial lobes on the stomach are present. A well-developed oblong gonad (sex undetermined, but possibly male) is situated along each of the four radial canals occupying most of the radial canal, but not reaching the ring canal and stomach. The manubrium is short and small. The umbrella is 0.75–1.8 mm in diameter.

Remarks. The morphology of the present Japanese

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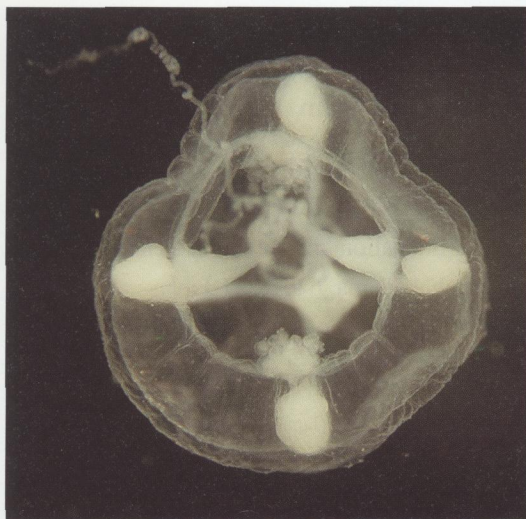


Fig. 1. *Paralovenia bitentaculata* (Hydrozoa: Leptomedusae) from Japan, oral view, 1.8 mm in diameter.



Fig. 2. *Paralovenia bitentaculata* (Hydrozoa: Leptomedusae) from Japan, side view (not same specimen as in Fig. 1), 0.75 mm in diameter.

specimens accords well with that of the medusae of this species described from Laing Island in Papua New Guinea and the southern region of the Taiwan Strait, off China (Bouillon, 1984; Xu and Huang, 2004), although the number of cirri cannot be counted in the present specimens due to contraction (Figs. 1–2). As is often the case in hydromedusa (Kubota, 1995), this number seems to vary according to the developmental stage and size of an individual.

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