

Reeling them in: Taxonomy of marine annelids used as bait by anglers in the Western Cape Province, South Africa

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Background. Common names are frequently used inconsistently for marine annelid species used as bait in the peer-reviewed literature, field guides and legislative material. The taxonomy of many such species based on morphology only also ignores cryptic divergences not yet detected. Such inconsistencies hamper effective management of marine annelids, especially as fishing for recreation and subsistence is increasing. This study investigates the scale of the problem by studying the use and names of bait marine annelids in the Western Cape Province of South Africa. **Methods.** Fifteen recreational and six subsistence fishers at 12 popular fishing sites in the Western Cape Province donated 194 worms which they identified by common name. Worms were assigned scientific names according to a standard identification key for polychaetes from South Africa, and mitochondrial cytochrome oxidase I (COI) amplified and sequenced. **Results.** This study identified 11 nominal species known by 10 common names, in families Siphonosomatidae, Arenicolidae, Sabellaridae, Lumbrineridae, Eunicidae, Onuphidae and Nereididae ~~used~~. Cryptic diversity was investigated through employing mitochondrial COI sequences and these data will facilitate future identifications among widely distributed species. Several species (*Siphonosoma dayi*, *Abarenicola gilchristi*, *Scoletoma* cf. *tetraura*, *Marphysa corallina*, *Lysidice natalensis*, *Heptaceras quinquedens*, *Perinereis latipalpa*) are reported as bait for the first time, and while the names blood- and moonshineworms were consistently applied to members of Arenicolidae and ~~Onuphidae~~, respectively, coralworm was applied to members of Sabellaridae and Nereididae. Analysis of COI sequences supported morphological investigations that revealed the presence of two taxonomic units each for specimens identified as *Gunnarea gaimardi* and *Scoletoma* cf. *tetraura* according to identification keys. Similarly, sequences for *S.* cf. *tetraura* and *Lysidice natalensis* generated in this study do not match those from specimens in China and India, respectively. Further research is required to resolve the species complexes detected and also to refine the use of names by fishermen over a wider geographic range.

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16

17 **Abstract** 

18 **Background.** Common names are frequently used inconsistently for marine annelid species
19 used as bait in the peer-reviewed literature, field guides and legislative material. The taxonomy
20 of many such species based on morphology only also ignores cryptic divergences not yet
21 detected. Such inconsistencies hamper effective management of marine annelids, especially as
22 fishing for recreation and subsistence is increasing. This study investigates the scale of the
23 problem by studying the use and names of bait marine annelids in the Western Cape Province
24 of South Africa.

25 **Methods.** Fifteen recreational and six subsistence fishers at 12 popular fishing sites in the
26 Western Cape Province donated 194 worms which they identified by common name. Worms
27 were assigned scientific names according to a standard identification key for polychaetes from
28 South Africa, and mitochondrial cytochrome oxidase I (COI) amplified and sequenced.

29 **Results.** This study identified 11 nominal species known by 10 common names, in families
30 Siphonosomatidae, Arenicolidae, Sabellaridae, Lumbrineridae, Eunicidae, Onuphidae and
31 Nereididae used. Cryptic diversity was investigated through employing mitochondrial COI
32 sequences and these data will facilitate future identifications among widely distributed species.
33 Several species (*Siphonosoma dayi*, *Abarenicola gilchristi*, *Scoletoma* cf. *tetraura*, *Marphysa*
34 *corallina*, *Lysidice natalensis*, *Heptaceras quinquedens*, *Perinereis latipalpa*) are reported as bait
35 for the first time, and while the names blood- and moonshineworms were consistently applied
36 to members of Arenicolidae and **Onuphidae**, respectively, coralworm was applied to members
37 of Sabellaridae and Nereididae. Analysis of COI sequences supported morphological
38 investigations that revealed the presence of two taxonomic units each for specimens identified
39 as *Gunnarea gaimardi* and *Scoletoma* cf. **tetraua** according to identification keys. Similarly,
40 sequences for *S.* cf. *tetraura* and *Lysidice natalensis* generated in this study do not match those
41 from specimens in China and India, respectively. Further research is required to resolve the
42 species complexes detected and also to refine the use of names by fishermen over a wider
43 geographic range.

44

45 **Keywords: COI mtDNA, common name, pseudocryptic species, taxonomy, bloodworm,**
46 **coralworm, moonshineworm, musselworm, polychaetes, puddingworm, wonderworm**
47

48 Introduction

49

50 In South Africa, shore-based marine fishing is an important recreational activity and part of the
51 livelihood for many subsistence fishermen and has shown a steady increase over the last
52 decades (McGrath et al., 1997; Sowman et al., 2014; Saayman et al., 2017). There is a close link
53 between shore fishing and bait collecting (MacKenzie, 2005), so an increase in fishing intensity
54 will certainly correlate with an increase in harvesting of natural stocks of bait species (Nel &
55 Branch, 2014 cf. Hodgson, Allanson & Cretchley, 2000; Napier, Turpie & Clark, 2009; Simon et
56 al., 2019a). However, in a recent assessment of the impacts of recreational and subsistence
57 fishing in marine ecosystems in South Africa, impacts of bait collecting received just a passing
58 mention (Majiedt et al., 2019). This supports Watson et al. (2017) who suggested that despite
59 their wide use, marine annelids (i.e., polychaete worms) and probably many other bait species
60 are universally a poorly managed resource.

61

62 A wide variety of marine invertebrates are used as bait by South African fishermen (Branch et
63 al., 2016; DAFF, 2017; Simon et al., in review). However, live marine annelids (indigenous or
64 imported) are not sold in bait shops and are instead collected by subsistence and recreational
65 fishermen who should possess appropriate permits (DAFF, 2017; Simon et al., in review).
66 Collection is controlled by taxon-specific daily limits (DAFF, 2017), but these restrictions have
67 remained almost unchanged since the 1970s (Simon et al., in review). Furthermore, very little
68 biological information is available to inform management strategies, or to accommodate taxa
69 with different life history patterns (Simon et al., in review), while restrictions on collection also
70 do not accommodate the different bait collecting habits by recreational and subsistence
71 fishermen (Simon et al. 2019a). Knowing which species are being utilised is an important step
72 towards improving management of a resource as many bait species, including those that may
73 be morphologically very similar, may have different life history traits and habitat requirements
74 (Hutchings & Lavesque, 2021), which may influence the vulnerability of species to exploitation.
75 The Marine Recreational Activity Information Brochure issued by the Department of
76 Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in South Africa (now the Department of Environment,

77 Forestry and Fisheries; DAFF 2017) identifies bait worms generically as seaworms, polychaetes
78 and flatworms, and by various common names. The only taxa identified by genus are *Arenicola*
79 Lamarck, 1801, *Nereis* Linnaeus, 1758, *Pseudonereis* Kinberg, 1865b and *Gunnarea* Johannson,
80 1927. As no images are included in the brochure, it is unclear what the worms listed by
81 common name are. However, the popular *Two Oceans: A guide to the Marine Life of southern*
82 *Africa* (Branch et al., 2016) provides images and common and scientific names for some
83 baitworms: bloodworm (*Arenicola loveni* Kinberg, 1866), musselworm (*Pseudonereis podocirra*
84 (Schmarda, 1861) as *P. variegata* (Grube & Kröyer, 1858)), wonderworm (*Eunice aphroditois*
85 (Pallas, 1788)), Cape reef worm (*Gunnarea gaimardi* (Quatrefages, 1848), as *G. capensis*
86 (Schmarda, 1861) in earlier editions), and the estuarine wonderworm (*Marphysa haemasoma*
87 Quatrefages, 1866 previously as *M. elityeni* Lewis & Karageorgopolous, 2008, see Kara et al.
88 2020). The species names for bloodworm, musselworm and Cape reef worm (also known as
89 coralworm in Branch et al., 2016) correspond with those provided in the Government Gazette
90 No. 39790 (Marine Living Resources Act 2014). The latter source, however, uses different
91 names for *E. aphroditois* (Bobbit or errant worm), *Arabella iricolor* (Montagu, 1804)
92 (moonshineworm) and *M. haemasoma* (wonderworms and listed as *M. sanguinea* (Montagu,
93 1813)). The situation is further complicated by reports of bait worms in other sources; for
94 example, *Diopatra* Audouin & Milne-Edwards, 1833 species have been called case worm (Day,
95 1974), moonshineworm (Napier, Turpie & Clark, 2009; van Rensburg, Matthee & Simon, 2020),
96 estuarine wonderworm (Smith & Smith, 2012; Allanson et al., 2016) and coralworm (Fielding,
97 2007, Fielding personal communication), while *E. aphroditois* has also been called coralworm
98 (Wooldridge & Coetzee, 1998). Thus, management of utilised worms may be hampered by
99 confusion around the identities of the species that are harvested, and a lack of consensus in the
100 names used among fishermen, scientists and managers active in South Africa.

101

102 The confusion around the use of common names is further complicated by recent taxonomic
103 research which emphasised how poor our understanding of the biodiversity of South African
104 marine annelids, including some used as bait, is. For example, *P. podocirra* and *M. haemasoma*
105 were removed from synonymy with apparently globally widespread *P. variegata* and *M.*

106 *sanguinea*, respectively, so both are in fact indigenous to South Africa (Lewis &
107 Karageorgopoulos, 2008; Kara, Macdonald & Simon, 2018; 2020). By contrast, the *Diopatra*
108 species used as bait in two estuaries on the south and southeast coasts of the country (van der
109 Westhuizen & Marais, 1977; Fielding, 2007; Napier, Turpie & Clark, 2009; Simon et al., 2019a),
110 was only recently identified as *D. aciculata* Knox & Cameron, 1971 (van Rensburg, Matthee &
111 Simon, 2020). This species was originally described in Australia (Knox & Cameron, 1971) and is
112 probably alien in South Africa (Elgetany et al., 2020; van Rensburg, Matthee & Simon, 2020). At
113 least two other bait species, *A. iricolor* and *E. aphroditois*, are also apparently globally
114 widespread with type localities geographically distant from South Africa (see Day, 1967), and
115 may therefore either be misidentified indigenous, or unacknowledged alien species. Some
116 species that are harvested (e.g., *P. podocirra*, *E. aphroditois*, *A. iricolor*, *G. gaimardi*) are also
117 widespread within South Africa (Day, 1967; Branch et al., 2016). The ranges of these species,
118 which have planktonic larvae, span multiple known phylogeographic barriers to gene flow in
119 the region. It is thus likely that complexes of genetically distinct but morphologically identical or
120 similar lineages exist (i.e., cryptic or pseudocryptic species, respectively), each with discrete
121 distributions. This was shown for species previously identified as *Pseudopolydora antennata*
122 Claparède, 1869 from temperate and subtropical regions of the country (Simon, Sato-Okoshi &
123 Abe, 2019b), emphasising the need for thorough taxonomic studies of seemingly widespread
124 species.

125

126 This study builds on taxonomic information gathered to date, and explores the use of common
127 names and the nomenclature of marine annelid worms used as bait in the Western Cape
128 Province where fishing is particularly popular (Madjiet et al., 2019), and where harvesting of
129 worms is high (Turpie et al., 2003). Furthermore, the province spans two vicariant barriers to
130 gene flow at Cape Point and Cape Agulhas (Teske et al., 2011, Fig. 1), and this may also split
131 species into different taxonomic units. The specific aims of the study are to: 1) identify and
132 provide updated descriptions of the annelid species collected as bait by recreational and
133 subsistence fishermen in the Western Cape Province of South Africa; 2) collate the common
134 names used by the fishermen towards developing consensus for improved management; and 3)

135 generate mtCOI sequences to explore the existence of species complexes locally and globally
136 and facilitate identifications.

137

138 **Methodology**

139 Sample sites and collection

140 Sampling was conducted at 12 popular beach and estuarine fishing locations in the Western
141 Cape Province, South Africa (Fig. 1), from June 2016 to May 2017. Collectively, these sites
142 included sandy (Saldanha Bay, Muizenberg, Strand, Betty's Bay, Pearly Beach, Struisbaai,
143 Witsand, Knysna) and or rocky (Velddrif, Melkbosstrand, Kommetjie, Betty's Bay, Hermanus,
144 Witsand) habitats, which would influence the presence and absence of species collected. Most
145 worms were donated by bait collectors who all gave their prior consent to participate in the
146 project. Involvement by most recreational fishermen was confirmed prior to sampling via
147 fishing mailing lists or word of mouth. Some additional recreational and all subsistence
148 fishermen were approached on site. After the aims of the study were described to participants
149 and verbal consent received (ethical clearance number: SU-HSD-001609 from Stellenbosch
150 University), worms were collected according to the permitted methods (DAFF 2017), under
151 permit RES2017-27 issued to CAS by the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries.
152 Additional samples of arenicolids (bloodworm) were collected by the authors using the same
153 techniques (see Simon et al., 2020). The common names used by the bait collectors were noted
154 for all worms. All sampling was conducted during low tide, with specific collection methods for
155 the different taxa included in the systematic accounts below. In some instances, fishermen
156 were only willing to donate a small piece of the worm that was sufficient for genetic analysis.

157

158 Specimen identification and processing

159 Samples were relaxed in an isotonic solution of 7% MgCl₂ in tap water, measured and
160 photographed. A section of each specimen from the mid-body or posterior was placed in 96%
161 ethanol for molecular analysis. The rest of the specimen was fixed in 4% formalin in seawater
162 for at least 2 days, washed in distilled water and stored in 70% ethanol. Samples were
163 examined on Leica DM1000 light and MZ75 dissecting microscopes, and photographed with a

164 Leica EC3 camera attachment, or on Leica DM750 light and M80 dissecting microscopes and
165 photographed with an Olympus Targus TG5 attached to the microscope eyepieces. Where
166 necessary, images were stacked in Helicon Focus Version 7.6.4 and processed in Photoshop
167 Version C6. Specimens were identified using Day (1967; 1974), and where necessary, more
168 recent literature appropriate to individual taxa. All specimens were deposited at IZIKO South
169 African Museum (Table 1).

170

171 DNA extraction, amplification and sequencing

172 Approximately 25 mg of tissue was used either from mid-section or posterior end to extract
173 DNA using the Zymo Quick DNA™ MiniPrep Plus kit (Zymo-Spin™) according to manufacturer's
174 protocol. The universal primer pair: LCO1490 and HCO2198 (Folmer et al., 1994) was used to
175 amplify a fragment of the cytochrome oxidase subunit 1 gene for all species. The following PCR
176 thermal conditions were used: 94°C for 3 minutes; 34 cycles with 94°C for 45 seconds, 42°C for
177 1 minute and 72°C for 1 minute and a final extension at 72°C for 7 minutes (Bleidorn et al.,
178 2005). The amplified PCR products were visualised on a 1% agarose gel using 3 µl of PCR
179 product and 5 µl of Quick-Load Purple 100bp DNA ladder (New England BioLabs Inc.), following
180 Simon et al. (2020). All PCR products were sequenced using Sanger sequencing at the Central
181 Analytical Facility at Stellenbosch University. All newly generated sequences were uploaded on
182 GenBank (Table 1).

183

184 Molecular analysis

185 Sequences were edited in BioEdit Version 7.2.6 (Hall, 1999) and aligned using ClustalW with
186 default parameters in MEGA X (Kumar et al., 2018). Neighbour joining trees were constructed in
187 the same program, per family. Nodal support was obtained using 10 000 bootstrap replicates
188 using the maximum composite likelihood method, with uniform rates and pairwise deletion.

189

190 **Results**

191

192 Worms were donated by 15 recreational and six subsistence fishers, with two additional fishers
193 who were not categorised (Table 1). In total, these fishers donated 194 specimens belonging to
194 seven families and 11 nominal species: *Siphonosoma dayi* Stephen, 1942, *Abarenicola gilchristi*
195 Wells, 1963, *Arenicola loveni*, *Gunnarea gaimardi*, *Scoletoma* cf. *tetraura*, *Marphysa* cf.
196 *corallina*, *M. haemasoma*, *Lysidice natalensis* Kinberg, 1865, *Heptaceras quinquedens* (Day,
197 1951), *Perinereis latipalpa* (Schmarda, 1861) and *Pseudonereis podocirra* (Table 1). Together,
198 these species were referred to by 10 common names (Table 1). Sequences could not be
199 generated for *Heptaceras quinquedens* and *Perinereis latipala* even after multiple attempts,
200 with the remaining nine species representing 11 genetically distinct species, including two
201 species each of *Gunnarea* and *Scoletoma* (Table 1).

202

203 Taxonomic account

204 Order: Sipuncula Stephen, 1964

205 Family: Siphonosomatidae Kawauchi, Sharma & Giribet, 2012

206 Genus: *Siphonosoma* Spengel, 1912

207 Species: *Siphonosoma dayi* Stephen, 1942

208 Figs 2 & 3

209

210 *Siphonosoma dayi* Stephen, 1942: 246 – 247, Pl. XI, Figs 1 & 2; Day 1974: 49

211 Common name: Sandworm

212

213 *Material examined*: Knysna: 34°03'56.0"S 23°02'57.4"E, 2 specimens, MB-A090313 and MB-
214 A090318, 27 January 2017, coll. A. N. du Toit, mid-intertidal sandflats in estuary.

215

216 *Description*: Trunk length 198 and 230 mm, introvert of former 17 mm. In life body light to dark
217 pink, colour retained after fixation (Fig. 2A), internally pearlescent pink (Fig. 2E – H). Skin
218 covered with oval shaped papillae in longitudinal rows, following contours of circular muscle,
219 appear white after fixation. Introvert has terminal mouth ringed with short tentacles (Fig. 2B);
220 papillae chitinised, tubular, scale-like and with dark edges arranged in rows on circular muscle

221 bands (Fig. 2B – D); larger and more numerous in anterior end (Fig. 2C) than posterior (Fig. 2D).
222 Longitudinal muscle-layer divided into 21 or 22 bands (Fig. 2E, G, black arrows), anastomosing
223 anteriorly to form single sheet in region of introvert (Fig. 2E, black arrowhead). Four retractor
224 muscles; dorsal pair attached to body wall anteriorly, ventral pair attached more posteriorly
225 (Fig. 2E, G, H white arrowheads). Two branches of spindle muscle inserts close to dorsal
226 retractor muscles (Fig. 2H, black arrowhead). One pair of nephridia (Fig. 2E, F).

227

228 *Remarks:* New specimens match the original description by Stephen (1942). Although only two
229 specimens were collected and sequenced, *S. dayi* (Fig. 3) forms a well-supported clade which is
230 independent from other known species within the genus.

231

232 *Collection method:* Hand digging and pumping.

233 *Type locality:* Knysna, Western Cape Province, South Africa [↵](#)

234 *Known distribution in South Africa:* Knysna (Day, 1974) [↵](#)

235 *Ecology:* In sand in low to mid intertidal in estuary.

236

237 Subclass: Sedentaria Lamarck, 1818

238 Infraclass: Scolecida Rouse & Fauchald, 1997

239 Family: Arenicolidae Johnston, 1835

240 Genus: *Arenicola* Lamarck, 1801

241 Species: *Arenicola loveni* Kinberg, 1866

242 Figs 4 – 6A & B

243

244 *Arenicola loveni* Kinberg, 1866: 355; Ashworth 1911: 2 – 17, Figs 1 – 3; Wells 1962: 348, Pl. 2 &
245 4; Day 1967: 610, Fig. 29.1 f – k; Day 1974: 62, Fig. 54; Branch et al. 2016: 72, Fig. 27.9

246 Common name: Bloodworm [↵](#)

247

248 *Material examined:* Betty's Bay: 34°22'39.6"S 18°51'21.6"E, 3 specimens, MB-A090220 – MB-
249 A090222, 10 February 2017, mid-intertidal, sandy beach, coll. A. du Toit. Knysna: 34°03'28.6"S

250 23°02'30.9"E, 3 specimens, MB-A090231 – MB-A090233, 27 January 2017, 34°03'54.3"S
251 23°03'03.7"E, 2 specimens MB-A090234 – MB-A090235, 28 January 2017, 2 specimens,
252 34°03'54.3"S 23°03'03.7"E, 29 January 2017, MB-A090236 – MB-A090237, mid-intertidal sandy
253 beach, coll. A. du Toit. Muizenberg, 34°06'18.7"S 18°28'47.4"E, 1 specimen, MB-A090230, 13
254 March 2017, coll. A. du Toit, 34°06'27.6"S 18°28'22.3"E, 1 specimen, MB-A090227, 2 specimens,
255 34°06'18.7"S 18°28'47.4"E, MB-A090228 – MB-A090229, 25 February 2017, 34°06'27.6"S
256 18°28'22.3"E, 1 specimen, MB-A090374, 25 February 2017, coll. A. du Toit and C. Naidoo; low
257 intertidal in surf zone, sandy beach. Pearly Beach: 34°39'33"S 19°29'27.43.6"E, 3 specimens
258 MB-A090246 – MB-A090248, 12 February 2017, coll. A. du Toit and H. van Rensburg, low-
259 intertidal, sandy beach. Saldanha Bay: 33°00'26.9"S 17°56'46.3"E, 7 specimens, MB-A090257 –
260 MB-A090263, 27 May 2017; 32°59'49.3"S 17°57'58.3"E, 3 specimens, MB-A090264 – MB-
261 A090266, 27 May 2017, 33°00'26.9"S 17°56'46.3"E, 1 specimen, MB-A090375, 27 May 2017,
262 coll. C. Naidoo, low intertidal, sandy beach. Struisbaai: 34°47'41.1"S 20°02'57.6"E, 1 specimen,
263 MB-A090238, 12 February 2017; 3 specimens, MB-A090239 – MB-A090241, 10 April 2017, 4
264 specimens, MB-A090242 – MB-A090245, coll. C. Naidoo, A. du Toit and H. van Rensburg, mid to
265 low intertidal, sandy beach. Witsand: 34°23'59.9"S 20°49'47.5"E, 7 specimens, MB-A090250 –
266 MB-A090256, coll. C. Naidoo, low intertidal, sandy beach.

267

268 *Description:* Live specimens up to 580 mm, including tail. Fixed specimens up to 296 mm long
269 (excluding achaetous tail), 19.2 mm wide at chaetiger 1. In life, body colour variable; pink to
270 brown, dark brown to black; usually darker in anterior, becoming lighter from branchial region
271 posteriorly (Fig. 4A, B, D), colour retained when fixed. Epidermis tessellated to chaetiger 5 or 6,
272 papillated from chaetae 6 or 7 onward, including achaetous tail. Chaetigerous annuli
273 prominent, number of annuli between first 4 chaetigers 2-3-4, thereafter 4 (Fig. 4D).
274 Anterior region consists of trilobed, non-retractable prostomium with nuchal groove on each
275 side (Fig. 4E, arrows). One achaetous segment with 2 annuli (Fig. 4C). Proboscis eversible;
276 covered with papillae, no pigment (Fig. 4C, E – H). Papillae on proximal section large and
277 triangular (Fig. 4C, E, F, H). Papillae in median section more densely packed, small and nipple-
278 shaped, becoming larger and more conical distally (Fig. 4C, F, G). One pair of long septal

279 pouches that reach back to at least third diaphragm (Fig. 5A, B). One pair of conical
280 oesophageal caecae (Fig. 5A). Thorax with 19 chaetigers. Notopodia rounded triangles,
281 retractable lobes in oval torus (Fig. 5E). Notochaetae capillaries in two rows, anterior row
282 shorter than posterior; with lateral toothed-crests and spinulose lamina (Fig. 6A). Neuropodia
283 oval bearing single row of unidentate hooks (Fig. 6B), sometimes with faint denticle.
284 Neuropodia long, approach midline of venter in branchiate region. Branchiae on chaetigers 7 –
285 19 (13 pairs), highly vascularised, highly branched, arborescent (tree-shaped) (Fig. 5F). On
286 chaetiger 7 branchiae vestigial; 2 – 10 short gill stems, palmar membrane sometimes
287 inconspicuous (Fig. 5E). Up to 22 main gill stems on branchiae on chaetigers 8 to 18, usually
288 fewer on chaetiger 19. Palmar membrane fuse lower third of gill stems (Fig. 5F), sometimes
289 papillated (Fig. 5G). Five pairs of nephridia on chaetigers 5 – 9; nephridiopores hooded, partially
290 hooded (Fig. 5C, D) or unhooded, posterior to dorsal end of neuropodium. Tail achaetous,
291 papillated, anus terminal.

292

293 *Remarks:* Specimens examined here conform to descriptions by Ashworth (1911) and Wells
294 (1962) which included type material, but maximum size is larger. However, oval depressions
295 seen by Ashworth (1911) ventral to some notopodia were not observed. The colour variants of
296 *A. loveni* from all sites form a well-supported clade (Fig. 7) which is exemplified by the fact that
297 those illustrated in Fig. 4A, B and D are represented by an identical sequence (MK 922158). This
298 clade includes two subclades, representing specimens collected on the west and south coasts,
299 respectively. The structure seen here was previously reported in Simon et al. (2020), where
300 nuclear data confirmed that these west and south coast clades represent a single species. The
301 separation between these clades is demarcated by Cape Point, a location known to present a
302 barrier to gene flow (Teske et al. 2011; Simon et al. 2020).

303

304

305 *Type locality:* Durban, Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa

306 *Collection method:* By pump or digging with hand or trowel and hooking out with a wire. In
307 Muizenburg collected from within surfzone.

308 *Known distribution in South Africa:* Saldanha Bay (Western Cape Province) to Durban (Kwa-Zulu
309 Natal) (Day 1967).

310 *Ecology:* In sand in low to mid intertidal on sheltered sandy shores and estuaries.

311

312 Genus: *Abarenicola* Wells, 1959

313 Species: *Abarenicola gilchristi* Wells, 1963

314 Figs 6C & D & 8

315

316 *Abarenicola gilchristi* Wells, 1963: 147 – 149, Fig. 6c, Pl. 2 & 5; Day 1967: 611 – 612, Fig. 29.2

317 *Arenicola assimilis* var. *affinis* Ashworth 1911: 18, Figs 4 & 5 (in part); Day 1955: 427

318 Common name: Bloodworm, bakkiewurm

319

320 *Material examined:* Betty's Bay: 34°22'S 18°51'E, 4 specimens (incomplete) (MB-A090223 – MB-

321 A090226), 3 June 2016, mid-intertidal, sand, coll. E. Newman. Pearly Beach: 34°39'48.4"S

322 19°29'17.2"E, 1 specimen (MB-A090249), 10 April 2017, low-intertidal, sand, coll. A. du Toit and

323 C. Naidoo.

324

325 *Description:* Up to 89 mm long (excluding achaetous tail), 11 mm wide at chaetiger 1. In life,

326 body orange-pink (Fig. 8A), light to dark pink when fixed (Fig. 8B). Epidermis tessellated to

327 chaetiger 4 or middle of chaetiger 5, papillated thereafter. Chaetigerous annuli of first 3

328 chaetigers prominent, number of annuli between first 4 chaetigers 2-2 (3 in one specimen)-4,

329 thereafter 4 (Fig. 8B). Anterior region consists of trilobed, non-retractable prostomium and 4

330 achaetous segment (Fig. 8B, D). Nuchal groove on each side (Fig. 8D). Proboscis eversible;

331 covered in papillae, no pigment (Fig. 8C). Papillae on proximal section sparsely distributed,

332 prominent, irregular in size, rounded (Fig. 8H). Papillae in median section densely packed, small,

333 rounded, skin folded (Fig. 8G). Papillae of distal section densely packed, conical (Fig. 8F).

334 Oesophageal caecae with one elongate and 11 to 20 smaller caecae on either side of mid-line

335 (Fig. 8E), elongate 2 to more than 3 times length of short caecae.

336 Thorax with 19 chaetigers. Notopodia rounded triangles, retractable lobes in oval torus.
337 Notochaetae spinulose capillaries (Fig. 6C) in single row. Neuropodia oval bearing single row of
338 unidentate, finely serrated, hooks (Fig. 6D). Neuropodia short, do not approach midline of
339 venter. Branchiae on chaetigers 8 – 19 (12 pairs) (Fig. 8A). Branchiae highly vascularised, large,
340 up to 19 main gill stems; highly branched, arborescent (tree-shaped), with lateral branches and
341 gill filaments off each stem (Fig. 8I). Palmar membrane fuse lower third to half of gill stems (Fig.
342 8I). Five pairs of nephridia on chaetigers 5 – 9; nephridiopores unhooded, hooded, and partially
343 hooded (Fig. 8J – L), posterior to dorsal end of neuropodium. Tail achaetous, papillate, anus
344 terminal.

345

346 *Remarks:* Specimens examined here conform to description by Wells (1963) and Day (1967), but
347 are smaller. *Abarenicola gilchristi* formed part of a distinct lineage in a well-supported clade
348 (Fig. 7) also comprising *Abarenicola brevior* (Wells, 1963) and *A. wellsii* Darbyshire, 2017.

349

350 *Collection method:* By hand or digging with trowel.

351 *Type locality:* Buffelsbaai, Cape Peninsula, Eastern Cape province, South Africa

352 *Known distribution in South Africa:* Lambert's Bay to Walker Bay. Presence in Pearly Beach
353 extends known distribution (Day, 1967) eastwards by only a few kilometres. Namibia: Luderitz.
354 Report in Tamil Nadu, India (Thilagavathi et al., 2013) must be treated with caution.

355 *Ecology:* In sand in mid to low intertidal on sheltered shores

356

357 Order: Sabellida Levinsen, 1883

358 Family: Sabellariidae Johnston, 1865

359 Genus: *Gunnarea* Johannson, 1927

360 Species: *Gunnarea gaimardi* (Quatrefages, 1848) 

361 Fig. 9

362

363 *?Pallasia gaimardi* Quatrefages, 1848a: 24, 1866: 322, Pl. 13. Figs 17 & 18.

364 ?*Hermella capensis* Schmarda, 1861: 23, Pl. 23. Fig. 171. ?*Sabellaria capensis* McIntosh 1885:
365 418, Pl. 25A Figs 24 & 25, Pl. 26A Figs 11 712.

366 *Gunnarea capensis* Day 1967: Fig. 33.2.d-i (NOT Schmarda, 1861), in partum. 

367 *Gunnarea gaimardi* Kirtley 1994: Fig. 3.1.2.a-e, in partum. 

368 *Gunnarea gaimardi* Branch et al. 2016: 73, Fig. 28.3

369 Common name: Coralworm, Cape reef worm, polwurm.

370

371 *Material examined:* Velddrif: 32°46'08.8"S 18°08'44.2"E, 10 specimens (incomplete), MB-
372 A090356 – MB-A090358, MB-A090360, MB-A090364, MB-A090367 – MB-A090371, 26 May
373 2017, sand reefs in the mid-intertidal rock pools, coll. A. N. du Toit. Bettys Bay: 34°22'39.6"S
374 18°51'21.6"E, 5 specimens (incomplete), MB-A090336, MB-A090337, MB-A090339 – MB-
375 A090441), 3 June 2016, reefs in the lower intertidal zone, coll. E. Newman. Hermanus:
376 34°24'41.1"S 19°16'44.8"E, 8 specimens (incomplete), MB-A090341 – MB-A090348), 11
377 February 2017, low to mid intertidal, coll. A. N. du Toit and H. van Rensburg.

378

379 *Description:* Body a maximum of 110 mm in length; body colour opaque white and cream with
380 irregular dark brown spots when fixed (Fig. 9A – C). Opercular crown and opercular stalk
381 completely fused (Fig. 9B). Two rows of golden outer and inner paleae, arranged in two
382 concentric rows (Fig. 9B). Approximately 44-48 outer paleae and 35-46 inner paleae. Outer
383 paleae geniculate, obtuse in shape with a single weak tooth on the antero-lateral margin (Fig.
384 9D1, 3). Inner paleae geniculate with elongate, wedge-shaped peaks with sharp tips (Fig. 9D2),
385 arranged toward the midline of the crown with no overlap in paleae (Fig. 9B – C). Anterior
386 margin of crown with 49 – 73 conical papillae (Fig. 9B). Pair of ciliated palps in front of the
387 mouth (Fig. 9E). Buccal lips present, with upper, lower and lateral lips (Fig. 9E). Tentacular
388 filaments compound and branched (Fig. 9C). U-shaped building organ on the thorax (Fig. 9E);
389 neurochaetae consists of capillaries with bipinnate blade margins (Fig. 9F); Parathorax consist
390 of three chaetigers; notochaetae lanceolate interspersed with capillaries (Fig. 9H);
391 neurochaetae alternating lanceolate chaetae of two lengths (Fig. 9G); neurochaetae thinner
392 than notochaetae. Abdomen with pairs of branchiae on each segment; neuropodial lobes

393 reduced on abdominal chaetigers , surrounded by tori; uncini with five teeth (Fig. 9J);
394 neurochaetae verticillate chaetae (Fig. 9I); ventral cirri conical with tapering ends, becoming
395 digitiform with rounded ends, spanning the neuropodial lobe.

396

397 Species: *Gunnarea* sp. 1

398 Fig. 10

399

400 Material examined: Witsand: 34°23'31.9"S 20°51'50.1"E, 2 specimens (incomplete), MB-
401 A090293, MB-A090294, 30 April 2017, low to mid intertidal, coll. A. N. du Toit.

402

403 *Description:* Body maximum of 43 mm (MB-A090293) in length (MB-A090294 = 34 mm), when
404 fixed body colour opaque white with black pigmentation throughout (Fig. 10A, B). Opercular
405 crown and opercular stalk completely fused (Fig. 10B). Two rows of golden inner and outer
406 paleae (Fig. 10B). Approximately 34 – 38 inner paleae and ~~42~~⁴³ outer paleae. Outer paleae
407 geniculate with a single tooth on the antero-dorsal margin (Fig. 10G2, 3), inner paleae
408 geniculate with elongate, wedge-shaped peaks with a sharp tip (Fig. 10G1), and orientated
409 toward the midline, with both rows overlapping and concealing the opercular disk (Fig. 10B).
410 Anterior margin of opercular crown with 50 conical papillae (Fig. 10B). Pair of ciliated palps in
411 front of mouth (Fig. 10E). Buccal lips present with upper, lower and lateral lips (Fig. 10E).
412 Tentacular filaments compound and branched (Fig. 10E). U-shaped building organ as part of
413 thorax (Fig. 10E); neurochaetae capillaries with bipinnate blade margins (Fig. 10C). Parathorax
414 of three chaetigers; notochaetae alternating lanceolate and capillary chaetae (Fig. 10H),
415 neurochaetae lanceolate chaetae of two lengths (Fig. 10I), neurochaetae thinner than
416 notochaetae. Abdomen with a pair of branchiae on each segment; reduced neuropodial lobes
417 surrounded by tori, uncini with seven teeth (Fig. 10F); neurochaetae verticillate (Fig. 10D).
418 Ventral cirri conical with tapering ends, becoming digitiform with rounded ends spanning the
419 neuropodial lobes.

420

421 *Remarks:* Specimens collected from the western (Veldrif, Betty's Bay and Hermanus) and
422 southern sites (Witsand) conformed to the general descriptions according to Day (1967) and 
423 Kirtley (1994). Nonetheless, differences in the morphology of the outer paleae were observed.
424 Day (1967) described two incurving teeth present on the outer paleae, but this differs from
425 what was observed in specimens collected in the present study: one tooth on the antero-lateral
426 margin of the outer paleae for specimens from both western and southern sites. Additionally,
427 according to Day (1967), the inner paleae completely conceal the "fleshy disk" or opercular
428 disk, this was observed for specimens collected from the southern site but was not observed in
429 specimens collected from the western sites as the opercular disk was visible in the mid-section
430 where paleae did not overlap, which was similar to Kirtley (1994).

431

432 Specimens from western and southern sites generally resemble each other. Nonetheless
433 several differences were observed. Firstly, western site specimens were longer (max. of 110
434 mm), whereas southern specimens were a maximum of 43 mm. The most distinct feature
435 between these two morpho-groups was the shape, orientation and arrangement of paleae on
436 the opercular crown. The peaks of the outer and inner paleae are longer in specimens from the
437 southern site compared to that observed in specimens from the western sites; the angle of
438 inclination between the handle and peaks of the inner paleae is larger in western specimens
439 than southern specimens; the outer paleae blades are wider and shorter in specimens from
440 southern sites compared to the longer, thinner blades observed in western specimens. The
441 inner paleae in western specimens do not overlap at the midpoint of the opercular disk,
442 thereby exposing the disk, whereas in southern specimens the paleae overlap, completely
443 concealing the disk. Additionally, the abdominal uncini of western specimens have five teeth,
444 which is two less than that observed for southern specimens. Lastly, western specimens have
445 more opercular papillae than southern specimens when comparing similar sized animals; 73,
446 length 45 mm and 50, length 43 mm, respectively.

447

448 The characters observed for specimens collected from western sites most closely resemble
449 specimens as described by Day (1967) and Kirtley (1994), suggesting that the western group is

450 most likely *Gunnarea gaimardi sensu stricto* while specimens from Witsand (southern site)
451 represent a new undescribed species of the genus. The morphological differences are
452 supported by the molecular analysis which recovered two well supported clades (Fig. 11) and a
453 genetic distance of 6% (± 0.02), thus confirming their separation as two independent species.
454 The first clade, designated *G. gaimardi*, included specimens from Velddrif, Betty's Bay and
455 Hermanus (western group) and the second, designated *Gunnarea* sp. 1, included only the
456 specimens from Witsand (Fig. 11). Morphological differences together with the genetic
457 separation of the clades indicate the presence of two species in what has, till now, been
458 considered a monospecific genus (Capa, Hutchings & Peart 2012). Preliminary observations of
459 *Gunnarea* sp. from Port Shepstone in KwaZulu-Natal suggest that they conform to the
460 description of *Gunnarea* sp. 1 and studies are underway to confirm this.

461

462 *Collection method:* Breaking of pieces of reef by hand or narrow blade to remove worms from
463 tubes.

464 *Type locality:* *Gunnarea gaimardi* - Cape of Good Hope, Western Cape Province, South Africa

465 *Known distribution in South Africa:* the nominal species has been reported from KwaZulu-Natal
466 on the east coast to the west coast of the Western Cape Province; Namibia: Walvis Bay to
467 Luderitz (Day, 1967).

468 *Ecology:* Species form extensive reefs by building sandy tubes on rocks in the low to mid
469 intertidal of exposed shores.

470

471 Order: Eunicida Dales, 1962

472 Family: Lumbrineridae Schmarda, 1861

473 Genus: *Scoletoma* Blainville, 1828

474 Species: *Scoletoma* cf. *tetraura* sp. 1

475 Fig. 12

476

477 ?*Lumbrineris tetraurus* Day 1953: 435

478 ?*Lumbrineris tetraura* Day 1967: 437, 439, Fig. 17.16 U – W, Branch et al. 2016: 70, Fig. 26.10

479 Common name: Puddingworm

480

481 *Material examined:* Betty's Bay: 34°22'S 18°51'E, 1 specimen (incomplete), MB-A090332, 3 June
482 2016, sandy sediment, coll. E. Newman.

483

484 *Description:* more than 145 mm; L10 = 8.1 mm, W10 = 3.4 mm (Fig. 12A). Prostomium conical,
485 peristomium with two rings, second slightly shorter than first (Fig. 12A). No eyes. Prechaetal
486 lobes truncate throughout, postchaetal lobe longer and bluntly triangular, becoming longer
487 towards posterior end (Fig. 12C–E). Winged capillary chaetae from chaetiger 1 to approximately
488 chaetiger 57. Long-headed simple multidentate hooded hooks (about 0.2 mm long) from
489 approximately chaetiger 4, shortening posteriorly (Fig. 12F, G), after about chaetiger 35, head
490 becomes even shorter with flared hood (Fig. 12H), appearing white. Aciculae yellow. Dental
491 formula: MI = 1 + 1, MII = 5 + 5, MIII = 2 + 2, MIV = 1 + 1 (Fig. 12B), MV free, lateral to MIV and
492 MIII.



493

494 Species: *Scoletoma* cf. *tetraura* sp. 

495 Fig. 13

496

497 ?*Lumbrinereis tetraurus* Day 1953: 435

498 ?*Lumbrineris tetraura* Day 1967: 437, 439, Fig. 17.16 u-w, Branch et al. 2016: 70, Fig. 26.10

499 Common name: Puddingworm

500

501 *Material examined:* Hermanus, Kammabaai: 34°24'41.1"S 19°16'44.8"E, 6 specimens
502 (incomplete), MB-A090349 – MB-A090354, 11 February 2017, from rock pools in low to mid
503 intertidal, coll. A. N. du Toit and H van Rensburg.

504

505 *Description:* up to more than 300 mm; L10 = 6.8 to 9.8 mm, W10 = 1.9 to 3.4 mm. Prostomium
506 conical, peristomium with two rings, second slightly shorter than first (Fig. 13A). No eyes.

507 Prechaetal lobes truncate, short and rounded throughout, postchaetal lobe longer and bluntly

508 triangular in anterior chaetigers, becoming digitiform and longer towards posterior end (Fig.
509 13C–E). Winged capillary chaetae from chaetiger 1 to approximately chaetiger 56 to 70. Long-
510 headed simple multidentate hooded hooks (about 0.15mm long) from approximately chaetiger
511 4, shortening posteriorly (Fig. 13F, G), after about chaetiger 25, but usually after about
512 chaetiger 30 to 35, head becomes even shorter with flared hood (Fig. 13H), appearing white
513 (Fig. 13E). Aciculae yellow. Dental formula (variation): MI = 1 +1, MII = 5 (6) + 5, MIII = 2 (1) + 1
514 (2), MIV = 1 + 1 (Fig. 13B), MV free, lateral to MIV and MIII.

515

516 *Remarks:* All seven specimens conform to the general description of *S. tetraura* according to
517 Schmarda (1861) and Day (1967), and no characters could be identified to distinguish the
518 specimens collected here from the description of specimens from Chile. However, there were
519 morphological differences between the specimen from Betty's Bay and those from Hermanus.
520 In *S. cf. tetraura sp. 2* from Hermanus, the long-headed simple hooded hooks are about 25%
521 shorter than those of *S. cf. tetraura sp. 1* from Betty's Bay, and post-chaetal lobes are about
522 30% longer in the posterior. Furthermore, the segments of *S. cf. tetraura sp. 2* appear to be
523 longer than those of *S. cf. tetraura sp. 1*; in specimens that are similarly wide, specimens of the
524 former are 1.5 to 1.8 mm longer for the first 10 chaetigers than in the latter. Finally, specimens
525 of the two species were collected from different habitats (see below). Further research is
526 needed to determine which, if any, refers to the species recorded previously by Day (1967).

527

528 The morphological separation is supported by molecular analyses (Fig. 14) that retrieved two
529 well-supported operational taxonomic units, *Scoletoma cf. tetraura sp. 1* (from Betty's Bay) and
530 *S. cf. tetraura sp. 2* (from Hermanus). The two *S. cf. tetraura* species from South Africa form part
531 of a weakly supported clade together with *Scoletoma fragilis* (O.F. Müller, 1776), *Lumbrineris*
532 *aberrans* Day, 1963, *Lumbrineris erecta* Moore, 1904, *Lumbrineris japonica* Marenzeller, 1879,
533 and *Lumbrineris perkinsi* Carrera-Parra, 2001 which is separate from *S. tetraura* from China. The
534 separation of *S. cf. tetraura spp 1 and 2* from South Africa and *S. tetraura* from China in two
535 different clades with high support suggests that they are independent species. However,
536 without sequences from the species' type locality in Chile, it is impossible to determine

537 whether the specimens found in China and South Africa all represent new species or whether
538 one of them is an alien. Specimens from the extended global distribution of *S. tetraura* need to
539 be examined, as there are likely more species within this complex. Additionally, *S. tetraura* and
540 *S. fragilis* were previously considered members of *Lumbrineris*, so the other *Lumbrineris* species
541 in the clade should be revised to determine whether they are also in the genus *Scoletoma*, or
542 whether this genus is paraphyletic.

543

544 *Collection method*: Samples from Hermanus collected among broken pieces of *Gunnarea* tubes.

545 Sample from Betty's Bay collected with a small trowel from sediment.

546 *Apparent distribution in South Africa*: Namibia to KwaZulu-Natal, but discrete ranges unknown.

547 *Apparent distribution globally*: Chile, Northwestern Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of
548 Mexico, Eastern Mediterranean Sea, Ireland.

549 *Ecology*: Burrows into sand in rock pools and among *Gunnarea* tubes.

550

551 Family: Eunicidae Berthold, 1827

552 Genus: *Marphysa* Quatrefages, 1866

553 Species: *Marphysa* cf. *corallina*

554 Fig. 15

555

556 *Marphysa corallina* Day 1967: 400, Fig. 17.7 F – J; Branch et al. 2016: 70, Fig 26.7

557 Common name: Wonderworm [x](#)

558

559 *Material examined*: Witsand: 34°23'31.9"S 20°51'50.1"E, 5 specimens, (incomplete) MB-

560 A090276 – MB-A090280, 30 April 2017, under rocks in rock pools in mid-intertidal, coll. A. N. du

561 Toit.

562

563 *Description* : Body length more than 120 mm; L10 = 8 – 11 mm, W10 = 0.4 – 0.5 mm. In live
564 specimens, body colour medium to dark brown in anterior becoming light brown in posterior;
565 iridescent throughout (Fig. 15A). Prostomium bilobed, lobes frontally rounded; sulcus deep.

566 Prostomial appendages semi-circular with white tapering tips (Fig. 15A); pair of palps extend to
567 second peristomial ring; pair of lateral antennae reaching second segment and one median
568 antenna extending to third segment (Fig. 15A). Black reniform eye spots below pair of lateral
569 antennae (Fig. 15A, black arrows). Four pairs of maxillary plates and one maxilla; MI = 1 + 1, MII
570 = 3 + 3, MIII = 5 + 0, MIV = 4 + 6, MV = 1 + 1 (Fig. 15F). Branchiae pectinate, from chaetiger 35 –
571 47 onwards present as a single filament, reaching up to five to seven filaments in middle
572 chaetigers (Fig. 15B). Dorsal cirri digitiform in anterior, middle and posterior chaetigers. Ventral
573 cirri conical in anterior chaetigers and reduces to an oval swelling with a rounded tip in
574 posterior chaetigers. Aciculae blunt with dark brown tips and ends and black shafts (Fig. 15B, E);
575 3 per fascicle in anterior segments, reducing to 2 and then 1 in middle segments; subacicular
576 hooks, light brown tips with black shafts, present from 40th chaetiger with bidentate tips and
577 guards (Fig. 15B, E). Limbate capillaries present in supracicular fascicle throughout (Fig. 15D, E).
578 Pectinate chaetae present in supracicular fascicle; isodont broad blades and fine teeth (Fig.
579 15E). Compound falcigers, bidentate tips, short blades with guards, present in subacicular
580 fascicle (Fig. 15C).

581

582 *Remarks:* Specimens collected in this study conform to the general description according to Day
583 (1967). Unfortunately, the original description of *M. corallina* (Kinberg, 1865a) was poor, with
584 no illustrations against which to compare the specimens collected in this study. However, since
585 the type locality of *M. corallina* is in Hawaii and the species has a global disjunct distribution, it
586 is probable that the specimens collected here are really an incorrectly identified indigenous
587 species. We therefore take the more conservative route and refer to the species collected in
588 South Africa as *M. cf. corallina*. All specimens collected during this study were incomplete,
589 missing their posterior ends, so characters such as anodont chaetae, the number of branchial
590 filaments and the number of aciculae in the posterior regions were not documented and thus
591 could not be commented on.

592

593 All sequences generated clustered with *M. corallina* from KwaZulu-Natal (KT823410) (Kara,
594 2015), with high bootstrap support, indicating that it is a single species (Fig. 16). Further
595 investigation is underway to confirm the taxonomic status of *M. corallina* in South Africa.

596

597 *Collection method*: By hand from sediment under rocks.

598 *Known distribution in South Africa*: Mabibi in northern KwaZulu-Natal to Mgazana in the Eastern
599 Cape Province, Witsand in Western Cape Province (Day, 1967; current study).

600 *Apparent distribution globally*: Mozambique, New Zealand, Red Sea, Australia, Marshall Islands,
601 Lakshadweep Island and Juluit Atoll (Day, 1967; Read & Fauchald, 2021).

602 *Ecology*: Occupies burrows in sediment under rocks in the mid-intertidal zone.

603

604 *Species*: *Marphysa haemasoma* Quatrefages, 1866

605 Fig. 17

606

607 *Marphysa haemasoma* Quatrefages, 1866: 334-334, Figs. 4B, 6 & 7; Grube 1870: 299

608 *Marphysa sanguinea* Day 1967: 396, fig. 17.5 U – Y (NOT Montagu, 1815)

609 *Marphysa elityeni* Lewis & Karageorgopoulos 2008: 280-281, Figs. 1 & 2; Branch et al. 2016: 69,

610 Fig. 2.5

611 *Marphysa haemasoma* Kara et al. 2020: 16 – 21, Figs 4B, 6 & 7

612 *Common name*: Wonderworm, bloukoppies. Listed as estuarine wonderworm in Branch et al.
613 (2016).

614

615 *Material examined*: Knysna: 34°02'17.5"S 23°02'23.4"E, 2 specimens (incomplete), MB-

616 A090326, MB-A090328), 29 January 2017, coll. A. N. du Toit. Betty's Bay: 34°22'S 18°51'E, 5

617 specimens (incomplete), MB-A090331, MB-A090333 – MB-A090335, MB-A090338), 3 June

618 2016, digging with a trowel in mid-intertidal rock pools, coll. E. Newman. Strand: 34°07'03.2"S

619 18°49'29.4"E, 2 specimens, MB-A090271, MB-A090315), 13 January 2017, digging with trowel

620 in gravel under rocks in the mid-intertidal, coll. A. N. du Toit. Soetwater: 34°09'33.0"S

621 18°19'40.7"E, 5 specimens (incomplete specimens), MB-A090272 – MB-A090275, MB-A090317,

622 10 March 2017, under rocks in mid-intertidal rock pools, coll. A. N. du Toit. Melkbosstrand:
623 33°43'40.3"S 18°26'17.6"E, 4 specimens (incomplete), MB-A090267 – MB-A090270), 26
624 February 2017, under rocks in mid-intertidal rocky reef, coll. A. N. du Toit and C. Naidoo.
625

626 *Description:* Body length more than 470mm. In life body colour variable: dark brown/red
627 anterior with white iridescent spots for about 7 chaetigers (Fig. 17A), becoming medium brown
628 in middle and darker towards the posterior. Specimens from Knysna and Betty's Bay with blue
629 colouration in anterior for about 6 chaetigers (Fig. 17B, white arrow), becoming light brown in
630 middle to posterior. Body iridescent in all specimens. Prostomium bilobed, lobes frontally
631 rounded, sulcus deep (Fig. 17A, B). Prostomial appendages in semi-circle with a brown band just
632 before the tapering ends in live specimens; pair of palps reaching first peristomial ring, pair of
633 lateral antennae extending to second segment and one median antenna reaching first chaetiger
634 (Fig. 17A, B). Pair of eyes under the lateral antennae. Four pairs of maxillary plates and a maxilla
635 (variation); MI = 1 + 1, MII = 3 (4) + 4, MIII = 5 + 0, MIV = 3 + 5, MV = 1 + 1 (Fig. 17C). Branchiae
636 pectinate, present from chaetiger 26 onwards as two filaments, reaching a maximum of 8
637 filaments in middle, reducing to a single filament in middle to posterior, absent in posterior end
638 near pygidium. Acicula black (Fig. 17E) throughout, 5₂ per fascicle in anterior chaetigers,
639 reducing to 3₁ in posterior; subacicular hooks not observed. Simple capillaries and pectinate
640 chaetae present in supracicular fascicle. Four types of pectinate chaetae; isodonts with fine
641 teeth and symmetrical blades (Fig. 17F) in anterior segments and anodonts with medium and
642 coarse teeth (Fig. 17D, G) in middle to posterior chaetigers. Compound spinigers with short and
643 long blades present in subacicular fascicle throughout.

644

645 *Remarks:* Specimens collected here conformed to the description by Kara et al. (2020), except
646 for those collected from Knysna and Betty's Bay which have a blue anterior (approximately first
647 6 chaetigers), becoming light brown in the middle to posterior end. Phylogenetic analysis
648 recovered a single well-supported clade that comprised all specimens from Knysna, Betty's Bay,
649 Strand, Kommetjie (Soetwater) and Melkbosstrand, indicating that the colour morphs are a
650 single species (Fig. 16). Lewis & Karageorgopolous (2008) observed colour variation in

651 specimens which included iridescent blues and greens for the reproductive segments along the
652 length of the body, from chaetigers 70 – 80. This does not conform to the colour morphs found
653 in the specimens in the present study in which the colour was observed in the anterior regions.
654 Nonetheless, the colour on the remaining parts of the body, “medium brown in the middle and
655 darker toward the posterior”, conform to that reported by Lewis & Karageorgopolous (2008).

656

657 The use of two species of *Marphysa* in the Western Cape Province supports recent research
658 showing that globally, multiple species of this genus, especially members of the *M. sanguinea*
659 complex, are used as bait, even within regions (see review by Hutchings & Lavesque, 2021).
660 Although the current study showed that different colour morphs represent a single species,
661 further research is needed to determine whether individuals occupying different habitats, as
662 described by Day (1967) and Lewis & Karageorgopoulos (2008), are also a single species.

663

664 *Collection method:* By hand from sediment under boulders in boulder fields.

665 *Type locality:* Cape of Good Hope, Western Cape, South Africa.

666 *Known distribution in South Africa:* Langebaan Lagoon on the west coast to Port Elizabeth on
667 the south coast (Day, 1967; Kara et al., 2020).

668 *Ecology:* Occupies burrows in sediment typically grey/black medium to coarse grains and rich in
669 sulphur. In Knysna, specimens were found in sandier sediments.

670

671 Genus: *Lysidice* Lamarck, 1818

672 Species: *Lysidice natalensis* Kinberg, 1865

673 Fig. 18

674

675 *Lysidice natalensis* Kinberg, 1865: 566; Hartman 1948: 84, 85, Pl. XI Figs 1 - 2; Day 1951: 40; Day
676 1953: 435; Day 1960: p336; Day 1967: 401, Fig. 17.7 k-r; Branch et al. 2016: 70, Fig. 26.9

677 *Lysidice atra* Schmarda, 1861

678 *Lysidice capensis* Grube, 1868: 12, Fig. 4; Day 1934: 53

679 Common name: Musselworm. Listed as three-antennaed worm in Branch et al. (2016).

680

681 *Material examined:* Witsand: 34°23'31.9"S 20°51'50.1"E, 11 specimens (2 complete), MB-
682 A090281 – MB-A090289, MB-A090291, MB-A090292, 30 April 2017, from under rocks, in rock
683 pools in mid-intertidal zone, coll. A. du Toit.

684

685 *Description:* Complete specimens 62 and 63 mm long for 126 and 156 chaetigers. L10 5.28 – 9.8
686 mm, W10 1.84 – 4.5 mm. Colour reddish-brown with white spots, both extending into middle of
687 prostomium and antennae, margin of prostomium and tips and base of antennae white (Fig.
688 18A). Prostomium bilobed, antennae tapered, lateral antennae shorter than prostomium,
689 median antenna slightly longer, proximal part brown, tips white (Fig. 18A). Mandibles thick; MI
690 1 + 1; MII 3 + 3; MIII 2-3 + 0; MIV 2-3 +4-7; MV 1 + 1. Parapodia with slender dorsal cirri (Fig.
691 18B), becoming shorter and thinner from chaetiger 22 to 38 onwards (Fig. 18E, H). Ventral
692 cirrus bluntly triangular (Fig. 18B), getting shorter posteriorly (Fig. 18E), nipple-shaped in
693 posteriormost chaetigers (Fig. 18H). Post-chaetal lobe truncate (Fig. 18B), getting shorter
694 posteriorly (Fig. 18E), inconspicuous in posteriormost chaetigers (Fig. 18H). Superior chaetae
695 limbate capillaries and comb chaetae of two sizes (Fig. 18F). Inferior compound chaetae with
696 short blades, bidentate, teeth usually of similar sizes (Fig. 18C, D), but proximal tooth may be
697 thicker and or longer. Acicula black with blunt tips, one in anterior chaetigers, two in middle
698 and posterior (Fig. 18B, E, H); bidentate acicula hook with small hood from chaetiger 25 – 28
699 onwards (Fig. 18E, H), teeth may be worn, giving unidentate appearance (Fig. 18G).

700

701 *Remarks:* Original description by Kinberg (1865a) is poor, but this material is later described by
702 Hartman (1948). Specimens collected here generally match this latter description, and those by
703 Day (1951, 1953, 1967), although the posterior ventral cirrus is more prominent than described
704 by Day (1967). The wide distribution within South Africa is suggestive of multiple species and
705 may be further reflected by the two species that Day (1967) synonymised with *L. natalensis*
706 without explanation. It is therefore possible that *L. capensis* and *L. atra*, both originally
707 described from the temperate Western Cape Province in Kalk Bay and the Cape of Good Hope,
708 respectively, are not *L. natalensis* which was first described from Durban in the subtropical

709 KwaZulu-Natal. Additionally, Day (1967) provides no explanation for why *L. atra*, which was
710 described four years before *L. natalensis* and therefore claims priority, was synonymised with
711 the latter. More specimens from throughout the distribution range and any available type
712 material need to be examined to resolve the taxonomy of this species. The description of *L.*
713 *natalensis* from Pakistan by Mustaquim (2000) is not very detailed, and the only differences
714 from samples examined here are differently shaped post-chaetal lobes. All specimens from
715 Witsand form a well-supported clade that is not reciprocally monophyletic with *L. natalensis*
716 from India (Fig. 16; Sigamani et al., 2020). Identity of the species in Pakistan is also doubtful.

717

718 *Collection method:* By hand.

719 *Type locality:* Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

720 *Known distribution in South Africa:* From Namibia to northern KwaZulu-Natal (Day 1967).

721 *Ecology:* Habitat variable; in the current study specimens were collected from under rocks in
722 rock pools, Day (1934) reported them from muddy sand.

723

724 Family: Onuphidae Kinberg, 1865

725 Genus: *Heptaceras* Ehlers, 1868

726 Species: *Heptaceras quinquedens* (Day, 1951)

727 Fig. 19

728

729 *Onuphis quinquedens* Day, 1951: 40—42, Fig. 6A—H; Day 1967: 422, Fig. 17.13A—E; Fauchald

730 1982: 100, Fig. 28B

731 *Heptaceras quinquedens* Paxton 1986: 58 - 60, Fig. 36I, J

732 Common name: moonshineworm

733

734 *Material examined:* Pearly Beach: 34°40'00.5"S 19°29'42.7"E, 5 specimens (incomplete), MB-

735 A090432—MB-A090436, 23 January 2017, coll. H. van Rensburg & A. du Toit. Strand beach:

736 34°06'37.6"S 18°49'14.6"E, 1 specimen (incomplete), MB-A090442, 13 January 2017, coll. H.

737 van Rensburg and A. du Toit. Struisbaai Main Beach: 34°47'32.3"S 20°02'54.8"E, 15 specimens

738 (incomplete), MB-A090421—MB-A090431, MB-A090437—MB-A090440, 27 January 2017, coll.
739 H. van Rensburg, A. du Toit and C. Naidoo.

740

741 *Description:* Large species reaching 350mm in length and 6mm width at 10th chaetiger. Anterior
742 section rounded, becoming dorso-ventrally flattened and ventrally convex from chaetiger 3—6
743 onward (Fig. 19D). In life, prostomium and peristomium white (Fig. 19B), rest of body pale,
744 white-brown ventrally and more reddish-brown dorsally (Fig. 19E), becoming paler towards
745 median and posterior sections, dorsum covered with small red-brown spots, more prominent
746 towards anterior (Fig. 19B). Irregularly spaced red-brown or black dots on ceratophoral rings
747 with a single white patch within final elongated distal ring (Fig. 19B). All colouring disappears
748 after preservation (Fig. 19A, C, D). Iridescent shine observed over entire body in live and
749 preserved specimens (Fig. 19A—D).

750 Prostomium with frontal extension forming palpochores for frontal palps (Fig. 19C). Lateral
751 antennae reaching chaetiger 4—7 on posterior part of prostomium, shorter median antenna
752 reaching chaetiger 2—4 placed anterior to lateral antennae. Proximal ceratophoral rings wide,
753 covering most of prostomium (Fig. 19A). Ceratophores with 15—30 rings on median antennae
754 and 20—48 rings on lateral antennae, each terminating in an elongated distal ring.

755 Ceratophores at least as long as styles but up to twice the length of styles which taper distally
756 (Fig. 19B, D). Peristomium as long as, or longer than, prostomium with deep mid-dorsal notch
757 on the dorsal margin, flanking an elevated prostomial ridge (Fig. 19A). Peristomial cirri as long
758 as peristomium, slender and tapering, situated distally on peristomium on either side of the
759 mid-dorsal notch, curving laterally (Fig. 19A, B).

760 Parapodia mounted marginally, anterior three pairs projecting anteriorly, slightly elongated
761 (Fig. 19B, D) and modified with four or five hooded bi- or tridentate pseudo-compound falcigers
762 (Fig. 19G), remaining parapodia directed dorsally. Dorsal cirri simple tapering filament
763 anteriorly with small basal process towards posterior end (Fig. 19H), shorter than branchiae
764 (Fig. 19D, F). Ventral cirri subulate on anterior five chaetigers changing to pad-like globular form
765 (Fig. 19D). Pectinate chaetae from chaetiger 6—8 with 22—28 teeth (Fig. 19J). Superior limbate
766 chaetae from chaetiger 1. Branchiae start as simple tapered filaments on chaetiger 1 (Fig. 19D),

767 become pectinate on chaetiger 8—10 with maximum of 7—12 filaments per branchia (Fig. 19F),
768 continuing throughout rest of body (Fig. 19E). Hooded bidentate acicular chaetae appear from
769 10th chaetiger to the end of the body (Fig. 19I).

770

771 *Remarks:* The specimens examined here match earlier descriptions (Day, 1951; Day, 1967;
772 Fauchald, 1982), but this is the first observation of tridentate falcigers in the modified
773 parapodia, although tridentate falcigers are known to occur within the genus (Paxton, 1986).
774 The third tooth is small (Fig. 19G) and not always present so can easily be overlooked.
775 According to Fauchald (1982) the median antenna is longer than the posterior lateral ones in
776 the holotype (reaching chaetiger three vs. two) but in all of the material examined here, the
777 posterior lateral antennae were longer than the median antenna, conforming to the description
778 by Paxton (1986). The iridescent shine seen on the body of *H. quinquedens* is similar to that of
779 *Diopatra aciculata* (van Rensburg, Matthee & Simon, 2020) and may be why fishermen
780 commonly refer to both species as moonshineworms.

781

782 *Collection method:* “prawn pumps” during low tide.

783 *Type locality:* Umpangazi, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

784 *Known distribution in South Africa:* Western Cape Province to KwaZulu-Natal (Day, 1967).

785 *Apparent distribution globally:* report in India (Sigamani et al., 2020) needs to be confirmed.

786 *Ecology:* They build temporary tubes in the intertidal of sandy beaches, but do not build
787 conspicuous chimneys.

788

789 Order: Phyllodocida Dales, 1962

790 Family: Nereididae Blainville, 1818

791 Genus: *Perinereis* Kinberg, 1865b

792 Species: *Perinereis latipalpa* (Schmarda, 1861)

793 Fig. 20

794

795 *Nereis (Nereis) latipalpa* Schmarda, 1861: 104-105, txt-fig. A, B, Ka & b, Pl. 31,244.

796 *Neanthes latipalpa* Kinberg, 1865b: 171; von Marenzeller 1888: 6 – 7, Fig. 2
797 *Neanthes latipalpa typica* Willey, 1904: 260-261, Pl. 13, Fig. 9, Pl. 14, Fig. 1-2, 2a & b.
798 *Perinereis nuntia vallata* Day 1967: 334, Fig. 14.12 P – S; Branch et al. 2016: 67, Fig. 25.4 (NOT
799 Grube & Kroyer in Grube 1858).

800 *Perinereis namibia* Wilson & Glasby, 1993: 265-266, Fig. 10A – K.

801 *Perinereis latipalpa* Villalobos-Guerrero 2019: 474-483, Figs 3 – 7.

802 Common name: Coralworm.

803

804 *Material examined*: Kommetjie: 34°08'34.5"S 18°19'20.4"E, 3 specimens (complete), MB-
805 A090297 – MB-A090299), 10 March 2017, under rocks in the mid-intertidal zone, coll. A. N. du
806 Toit.

807

808 *Description*: Body up to 170 mm. Live specimens, body colour dark green in anterior region,
809 light brown in the middle, to a pale yellow in the posterior. Red blotchy pigment in the middle
810 of each segment, prominent from chaetiger 7- 10 onwards (Fig. 20A, B, black arrows).
811 Rectangular palpophores with rounded palpostyles. Two antennae, slender with tapering ends
812 (Fig. 20A, D). Two pairs of black eyes in a trapezoidal arrangement (Fig. 20A). Maxillary ring with
813 conical paragnaths (Fig. 20C), Area I = 1 – 2, Area II (variation) = 4(9) + 6(10), Area III = 11 – 17 in
814 an oval patch, Area IV = 8(33) + 16(32), spoon shaped patch. Oral ring with conical paragnaths
815 (Fig. 20D, E), Area V = 1, Area VI = 8(10) + 9(12) in a long arc, Area VII – VIII = 34 – 58 cones in
816 two irregular rows. Dorsal and ventral cirri present throughout. Notochaetae, homogomph
817 spinigers with serrated blades, first 3 teeth at the base of the blade larger, becoming smaller
818 and uniform till the tip (Fig. 20F, hoS). Neurochaetae, homogomph, heterogomph spinigers with
819 serrated blades, uniform teeth (Fig. 20E, heS) and heterogomph falcigers with medium sized
820 blades, finely serrated (Fig. 20G).

821

822 *Remarks*: Specimens collected in this study conformed to the recent redescription in Villalobos-
823 Guerrero (2019). However, variation in body size and paragnath arrangement was noted; total

824 length of paratype is 127 mm and paragnath arrangement, Area III = 9, Area IV = 18-23, Area
825 VII-VIII = 53.

826

827 *Collection method:* From under rocks in the mid-intertidal zone.

828 *Type locality:* Table Bay, Cape of Good Hope, South Africa.

829 *Known distribution in South Africa:* Hondeklip Bay on the west coast to Port St Johns on the east
830 coast; Namibia: extending north to Luderitz Bay; Mozambique (Day, 1967). However, records in
831 Mozambique have not been confirmed and require further investigation.

832

833 Genus: *Pseudonereis* Kinberg, 1865b

834 Species: *Pseudonereis podocirra* (Schmarda, 1861)

835 Fig. 21

836

837 *Mastigonereis podocirra* Schmarda, 1861: 108, Fig. 217.

838 *Nereis (Nereilepas) stimpsonis* Grube, 1866: 176.

839 *Pseudonereis variegata* Day 1967: 331, Fig. 14.12A – F (NOT Grube & Kröyer, 1858); Branch et
840 al., 2016: 66, Fig. 25.1

841 *Pseudonereis podocirra* Kara, Macdonald & Simon 2018: 1286 – 1291, Figs 2 – 4

842 Common name: Musselworm

843

844 *Material examined:* Velddrif: 34°08'34.5"S 18°19'20.4"E, 9 specimens (incomplete), MB-

845 A090355, MB-A090359, MB-A090361 – MB-A090363, MB-A090365, MB-A090366, MB-

846 A090372, MB-A090373), 26 May 2017, from rock pools in the mid-intertidal, coll. A. N. du Toit.

847 Betty's Bay: 34°22'39.6"S 18°51'21.6"E, 3 specimens (incomplete), MB-A090302, MB-A090304,

848 MB-A090305, 10 February 2017, from under mussel beds in the mid-intertidal mussel belt, coll.

849 A. N. du Toit. Hermanus: 34°24'41.1"S 19°16'44.8"E, 6 specimens (incomplete), MB-A090306 –

850 MB-A090310, MB-A090443, 11 February 2017, from under mussels in the mid-intertidal mussel

851 belt, coll. A.N. du Toit and H. van Rensburg.

852

853 *Description:* Body length up to more than 140 mm. Colour variable: greenish-brown, greyish-
854 brown and medium brown (Fig. 21A, B) with white pigmented spots around 4 eyes on
855 prostomium. Black pigmented spots along midpoint of segment boundaries from chaetiger 13
856 (Fig. 21B). A mix of different types of paragnaths; conical, shield-shaped and p-bars; arranged in
857 distinct areas on pharynx. Area I = 1 conical, Area II = 15 – 17 conical in a wedge shape, Area III
858 = 22 conical in three-four rows, Area IV = 27 – 32 conical and p-bars in a closely spaced arc
859 shape, Area V = 1 conical, Area VI = large shield-shaped bars and Area VII – VIII = 40 conical and
860 p-bars alternating in 2 – 4 rows (Fig. 21C). Oral ring (Fig. 21C), AVI-V-AVI pattern, v-shaped:
861 ridges of AVI sub-medially separated producing parallel furrows. Notopodial ligule enlarged and
862 elongated from chaetiger 13 to posterior (Fig. 21F). Dorsal and ventral cirri present (Fig. 21F).
863 Homogomph spinigers with finely serrated blades (Fig. 21E) and heterogomph falcigers (Fig.
864 21D) with concaved and finely serrated blades.

865

866 *Remarks:* Specimens collected in the study conformed to the redescription in Kara, Macdonald
867 & Simon (2018), except for body length which was larger, measuring up to a maximum of 140
868 mm. Molecular analyses (Fig. 22) recovered a single monophyletic group with strong maximum
869 likelihood support, indicating a single genetically similar population, further supporting Kara,
870 Macdonald & Simon (2018). Synonymy of *P. podocirra* with *P. variegata* was recently reversed
871 (Kara, Macdonald & Simon 2018), but it is not known whether *P. variegata* in KwaZulu-Natal in
872 South Africa, Namibia and Mozambique, as reported by Day (1967), are a single species.

873

874 *Collection method:* Breaking off mussels by hand from the mussel bed, or by pouring household
875 bleach over the bed (ADT; pers. obs.). Collection of nereidid species is no longer permitted
876 (DEFF 2017).

877 *Type locality:* Cape of Good Hope, Western Cape, South Africa.

878 *Known distribution in South Africa:* Lamberts Bay to Kidds Beach (Kara, Macdonald & Simon,
879 2018), possibly extending up the east coast to KwaZulu-Natal and Mozambique and up the west
880 coast to Namibia (Day, 1967).

881 *Ecology*: In low intertidal among mussel beds and abandoned *Gunnarea* tubes and barnacle
882 shells.

883

884 **Discussion**

885 This study found that more marine annelid taxa are utilised in South Africa as bait than what
886 has previously been reported. In addition to the widely reported and investigated bait species
887 (*Arenicola loveni*, *Gunnarea gaimardi*, *Marphysa haemasoma* and *Pseudonereis podocirra*; e.g.,
888 van Herwerden, 1989; Lewis 2005; Sowman, 2006; Lewis & Karageorgopoulos, 2008; Branch et
889 al., 2016), several taxa were recorded for the first time (*Abarenicola gilchristi*, *Gunnarea* **sp. 1**,
890 *Heptaceras quinquedens*, *Lysidice natalensis*, *Marphysa* cf. *corallina*, *Perinereis latipalpa*,
891 *Scoletoma* cf. *tetraura* **spp 1 and 2**). This is also the first published report of *Siphonosoma dayi*
892 being used, even though there have been anecdotal reports of fishermen in Knysna collecting
893 sandworm there since at least 2009 (M.K.S. Smith, South African national Parks, Knysna, pers.
894 comm.). By contrast, *Arabella iricolor* and *Eunice aphroditois* (or species matching their general
895 descriptions), which are listed as bait in legislation and field guides (Marine Living Resources
896 Act, 2014; Branch et al., 2016), were not collected in this study. This suggests that more species
897 are used in the province than collected by us, possibly because these species did not occur at
898 the sites sampled, and or that identifications of these species being used were incorrect. For
899 example, one of the authors never found *E. aphroditois* in the Western Cape Province even
900 after extensive sampling in apparently appropriate substrate, although she did find *Eunice*
901 species in the subtidal in KwaZulu-Natal on the east coast (JK, personal observations).
902 Furthermore, *A. iricolor* is superficially similar to lumbrinerid species, and it is possible that both
903 taxa are collected, or that these species were confused in the records for bait collecting.
904 Finally, it is not possible to determine whether species that were collected at single sites (*L.*
905 *natalensis* and *P. latipalpa*) are targeted more widely, or were misidentified since both were
906 called by names more widely used for other species.

907

908 Including *Diopatra aciculata* collected in Knysna in a parallel study (van Rensburg, Matthee &
909 Simon, 2020), 14 species were identified in the Western Cape Province by ten common names,

910 excluding Afrikaans translations. For species collected multiple times and from different
911 locations, individual common names were sometimes applied to more than one species.
912 Species of the same family or genus were often known by a single common name; for example,
913 arenicolids (*Arenicola loveni* and *A. gilchristi*) are bloodworm, onuphids (*D. aciculata* and *H.*
914 *quinquedens*) are moonshineworms, *Scoletoma* species are puddingworms and *Marphysa*
915 species are wonderworms. For the arenicolids and onuphids this is true even when the species
916 show clear morphological or environmental differences which may have been noted by
917 fishermen, as evidenced by fishermen in Pearly Beach who distinguished between bloodworm
918 (*A. loveni*) and the bakkiewurm (*A. gilchristi*). This was the first time that a second arenicolid is
919 reported as bait, even though DAFF (2017) acknowledges that more than one species may be
920 used when they specify that bloodworm are “All species of the genus *Arenicola*”, although this
921 is inaccurate as only one species of *Arenicola* has been recorded locally. Individual species were
922 sometimes called by multiple common names that were not translations of the same thing. For
923 example, *M. haemasoma* was identified as wonderworm, bloodworm or bloukoppie (this is
924 Afrikaans for ‘blue head’, referring to the blue anterior of worms from Knysna and Betty’s Bay);
925 *G. gaimardi* was identified as coralworm and polwurm (‘pol’ is Afrikaans for a tuft, tussock or
926 clump of grass, and may here refer to the clumps of tubes formed by the worms); *P. podocirra*
927 was identified as musselworm and coralworm, while *D. aciculata* was also called the
928 pypiewurm (this is Afrikaans for ‘pipe worm’, undoubtedly alluding to the chimneys that extend
929 from the mouths of the tubes) by bait collectors in Port Elizabeth (van Rensburg, Pers. Obs.). It
930 is also apparent that individual common names were sometimes applied to species from
931 different families, such as coralworm (*G. gaimardi*, *P. latiplapa*, *P. podocirra*) and musselworm
932 (*P. podocirra*, *L. natalensis*).

933

934 For the most part, subsistence and recreational fishermen used the same names (e.g., for
935 arenicolids, sabellarids, onuphids and *Marphysa* species). Variations in use of names may
936 suggest unfamiliarity with bait worms among some subsistence fishermen, such as bloodworm
937 for *M. haemasoma* in Melkbosstrand, or differences in the use of names depending on
938 geographic region and or type of fishermen, such as coralworm for nereidids at Kommetjie and

939 Velddrif. Interestingly, none of the fishermen used the names from Branch et al. (2016) for *M.*
940 *haemasoma* (estuarine wonderworm which distinguishes it from *E. aphroditois*, the
941 wonderworm), *G. gaimardi* (Cape reef-worm), *L. natalensis* (three-antennaed worm) or *S. cf.*
942 *tetraura* (false earthworm). Finally, several common names that appear in DAFF (2017), such as
943 rock, shingle, or pot worms, were not used for any of the species collected in this study. The
944 results of this study confirm that common names are sometimes applied in an inconsistent
945 manner by managers and bait collectors. These differences may be maintained through the
946 transfer of knowledge, across generations of bait collectors, of the identification of worms by
947 morphology and ecological patterns. However, it is possible that the application of common
948 names has changed (e.g., the name moonshineworm applied to onuphids and not *A. iricola*
949 (Marine Living Resources Act, 2014)).

950

951 The genetic data confirmed the presence of complexes of morphologically similar species within
952 South Africa and globally. Day (1967) reported *Gunnarea gaimardi* and *S. tetraura* from
953 Namibia to northern KwaZulu-Natal. Given that this range spans the cold Namaqua, warm
954 Agulhas, and subtropical Natal ecoregions (Sink et al., 2018) and barriers to gene flow at Cape
955 Point, Cape Agulhas, Algoa Bay and Wild Coast (Teske et al., 2011), it is not surprising that these
956 nominal species each included two genetically distinct species with geographic and habitat
957 separation, respectively. This may also apply to *L. natalensis* that has a similar distribution (Day,
958 1967; Branch et al., 2016). Even though all specimens identified here as *Gunnarea* (including
959 *Gunnarea* sp. and *G. gaimardi*) and the *Scoletoma* cf. *tetraura* species from Hermanus and
960 Betty's Bay matched the descriptions of the nominal species provided in Day (1967), the two
961 genetic groups identified in each could be easily distinguished after thorough morphological
962 examination. This supports Hutchings & Kupriyanova (2018) who suggested that many
963 descriptions contained in Day (1967), especially of species described before the 1900s such as
964 the two species under discussion, are too generic to enable accurate identification. Similarly,
965 sequences of *L. natalensis* and ***S. cf. tetraura* sp. 1 and 2** generated in this study do not match
966 those generated for *L. natalensis* and *S. tetraura* collected in India and China, respectively (Zhou
967 et al., 2010; Sigamani et al., 2020; Unpublished data: Chen et al., 2017; Yao et al., 2017; Xing &

968 Zang 2020), indicating the presence of complexes of species that may be morphologically
969 similar but genetically distinct, from different locations around the world. Sigamani et al. (2020)
970 used Day (1967) to identify their samples which also included *H. quinquedens*, originally
971 described from South Africa; unfortunately, we were unable to obtain sequences for the
972 samples that we gathered to test whether the specimens from the two countries are
973 conspecific. However, our results again support Hutchings & Kupriyanova (2018) who warned
974 that using Day (1967) to identify polychaetes outside of southern Africa may erroneously inflate
975 the distribution ranges of polychaete species.

976

977 Resolving the identities of marine annelids used as bait has several important management
978 implications. This is exemplified by the recent discovery that moonshineworm collected in
979 Swartkops and Knysna estuaries is *D. aciculata*, a species originally described in Australia and is
980 probably an alien in South Africa (Elgetany et al., 2020; Van Rensburg et al., 2020). Thus, the
981 focus of management of this species must change from conserving populations to preventing
982 further population growth and spread (Van Rensburg, 2019; Van Rensburg et al. 2020). This
983 could be done by permitting increased removal by bait collectors, but preliminary investigations
984 suggest that this is unfeasible (van Rensburg, 2019) and that alternative management strategies
985 need to be explored. Knowing the identity of the worms used may also have important
986 implications for the movement of bait species between sites where worms are collected and
987 where fish are caught, since unused bait that can regenerate is frequently discarded in the
988 latter (M.K.S. Smith, South African National Parks, Knysna). This is especially important if the
989 species is alien (as *D. aciculata*), or if species thought to be locally widespread are multiple
990 species with restricted distributions (as may be the case for *Gunnarea*, *Scoletoma* and *Lysidice*
991 species).

992

993 The disjunction between the common names used by collectors and managers is especially
994 problematic when considering the worms that should not be collected. The most recent
995 brochure issued by DAFF (2017) states that Cape reef worm (specified as *Gunnarea*), cannot be
996 collected, but that coralworm can. Since collectors contributing to this study all called *Gunnarea*

997 coralworm, and because it is unlikely that many would know the genus name, bait collectors
998 could collect this species not knowing that they are breaking the law (or use it as a defence if
999 they do). The prohibition on collection of *Gunnarea* and musselworms (identified as *Nereis* and
1000 *Pseudonereis* by DAFF (2017)) is related to the structural damage caused to reefs and mussel
1001 beds during collection (van Herwerden, 1989), although this is not clearly articulated in the
1002 information brochure. It may therefore be more effective to specify the prohibition of taxa
1003 based on the habitats that they occupy, and not just name.

1004

1005 This study was limited by several constraints. Firstly, the geographical coverage was restricted
1006 relative to the total coastline of the province; the fishing sites were selected according to where
1007 participants could be recruited in advance (because bait collecting is time consuming and needs
1008 to coincide with low tides which further limited sampling opportunities, we contacted a core of
1009 the participants via fishing mailing lists to ensure success in collection) while we also avoided
1010 sites that were potentially unsafe, such as Strandfontein and Monwabisi beaches along the
1011 northern shores of False Bay. Because of this sampling strategy, there was a bias towards
1012 recreational fishermen because subsistence fishermen could not be contacted in advance.
1013 Instead, subsistence fishermen were approached on an *ad hoc* basis if they were active at the
1014 preselected sampling sites. Additionally, many subsistence fishermen were unwilling to donate
1015 bait to the project because bait collecting is so time consuming. We were also reluctant to offer
1016 compensation to fishermen because the sale of worms is prohibited by law (Marine Living
1017 Resources Act, 2014). Consequently, our understanding of the use of common names is still
1018 incomplete because species reportedly used as bait, but not found, could not be addressed in
1019 this study. This is further exacerbated when fishermen from different fishing sectors and who
1020 speak different languages (e.g., English, Afrikaans, isiXhosa) use different names.

1021

1022 In conclusion, the current study has confirmed that more polychaete species are currently used
1023 as bait than previously reported. Furthermore, the inconsistent application of common names
1024 across taxa and among users, including for the more popular and widespread species, may
1025 hamper effective management. The detection of pseudocryptic species complexes among some

1026 bait species may have further implications for the management of these taxa as individual
1027 species should form separate management units, especially if they are spatially separated.
1028 Finally, diversity of marine annelids in general, and bait species in particular, has been
1029 underestimated in South Africa, and the global distribution of some has been overestimated.
1030 Research to clarify the taxonomy of the members of the pseudocryptic species complexes
1031 identified here, i.e., *Scoletoma cf. tetraura* sp. 1 and 2 and *Gunnarea* sp., and the use of
1032 polychaetes and common names across a wider geographic range is ongoing.

1033

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1038 **Additional information and declarations**

1039 **Author contributions**

1040 CAS: Conceived and funded project, processed samples and wrote the manuscript

1041 JK: Processed and analysed samples and contributed to writing the manuscript

1042 HvR: Collected and processed samples and contributed to writing the manuscript

1043 AdT and CN: Collected and processed samples

1044 CAM: Co-supervised student authors, and participated in analysis of samples and editing final
1045 document.

1046

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Table 1 (on next page)

Museum and GenBank accession numbers with location and collector details

Table 1: Museum and GenBank accession numbers with location and collector details.

GenBank accession numbers may be repeated when haplotypes are shared among different individuals. Samples were received from contributing fishermen and processed by Alheit du Toit (AdT), Caveshlin Naidoo (CN), Carol Simon (CS), and Hendré van Rensburg (HvR). NS - no sequences. # Sequences were previously published in Simon et al. (2020).

Table 1: Baitworm species from Western Cape, South Africa, found in this study, including common names, locations, collector details. GenBank accession numbers may be repeated when haplotypes are shared among different individuals. Samples were received from contributing fishermen and processed by Alheit du Toit (AdT), Caveshlin Naidoo (CN), Carol Simon (CS), Ethan Newman (EN) and Hendré van Rensburg (HvR). NS - no sequences. # Sequences were previously published in Simon et al. (2020).

| Species name | Common name according to fisherman [§] | Location | Fisherman's name | Type of Bait Collector | Collector and sample processor | GenBank Accession Number (COI) (Number of individuals) | Museum Accession Number (number of individuals) |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| <i>Siphonosoma dayi</i> | Sand worm | Knysna Estuary | Gerrie Barnard | Recreational | AdT | MW598440 | MB-A090313 |
| | Sand worm | Knysna Estuary | Gerrie Barnard | Recreational | AdT | MW598441 | MB-A090318 |
| <i>Abarenicola gilchristi</i> | Bloodworm | Betty's Bay | Ethan Newman | Recreational | EN & CS | NS | MB-A090223 - MB-A090226 (4) |
| | Bakkiewurm | Pearly Beach | Frans | Recreational | CN & AdT | MW595992 | MB-A090249 |
| | Bakkiewurm | Pearly Beach | Frans | Recreational | CN & AdT | MW595993 | DNA only |
| | Bakkiewurm | Pearly Beach | Frans | Recreational | CN & AdT | MW595994 | DNA only |
| | Bakkiewurm | Pearly Beach | Frans | Recreational | CN & AdT | MW595995 | DNA only |
| <i>Arenicola loveni</i> [#] | Bloodworm | Betty's Bay | Morne & Victor | Recreational | AdT | MK922184 | MB-A090220 |
| | Bloodworm | Betty's Bay | Morne & Victor | Recreational | AdT | MK922185 | MB-A090221 |
| | Bloodworm | Betty's Bay | Morne & Victor | Recreational | AdT | MK922163 | MB-A090222 |
| | Blood worm | Knysna Estuary | Gerrie Barnard | Recreational | AdT | MK922157 | MB-A090231 |
| | Blood worm | Knysna Estuary | Gerrie Barnard | Recreational | AdT | MK922158 | MB-A090232 |
| | Blood worm | Knysna Estuary | Gerrie Barnard | Recreational | AdT | MK922159 | MB-A090233 |
| | Blood worm | Knysna Estuary | Dewald Kamp | Recreational | AdT | MK922160 | MB-A090234 |
| | Blood worm | Knysna Estuary | Dewald Kamp | Recreational | AdT | MK922161 | MB-A090235 |
| | Blood worm | Knysna Estuary | Albert Kapp | Recreational | AdT | MK922158 | MB-A090236, MB-A090237 |
| | Bloodworm | Muizenberg | Anonymous | Recreational | AdT & CN | MK922158 | MB-A090227, MB-A090229 |
| | Bloodworm | Muizenberg | Anonymous | Recreational | AdT & CN | MK922164 | MB-A090228 |
| | Bloodworm | Muizenberg | Anonymous | Recreational | AdT | NS | MB-A090230 |
| | Bloodworm | Muizenberg | Anonymous | Recreational | AdT & CN | NS | MB-A090374 |
| | Bloodworm | Pearly Beach | Ferdi Joubert | Recreational | AdT & HvR | MK922163 | MB-A090246, MB-A090247 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Bloodworm | Pearly Beach | Ferdi Joubert | Recreational | AdT & HvR | MK922183 | MB-A090248 | |
| Bloodworm | Saldanha Bay | Anonymous | Unspecified | CN | MK922165 | MB-A090257 | |
| Bloodworm | Saldanha Bay | Anonymous | Unspecified | CN | MK922166 | MB-A090258, MB-A090264 | |
| Bloodworm | Saldanha Bay | Anonymous | Unspecified | CN | MK922167 | MB-A090259 | |
| Bloodworm | Saldanha Bay | Anonymous | Unspecified | CN | MK922168 | MB-A090260 | |
| Bloodworm | Saldanha Bay | Anonymous | Unspecified | CN | MK922169 | MB-A090261 | |
| Bloodworm | Saldanha Bay | Anonymous | Unspecified | CN | MK922170 | MB-A090262 | |
| Bloodworm | Saldanha Bay | Anonymous | Unspecified | CN | MK922171 | MB-A090263, MB-A090266 | |
| Bloodworm | Saldanha Bay | Anonymous | Unspecified | CN | MK922172 | MB-A090265 | |
| Bloodworm | Saldanha Bay | Anonymous | Unspecified | CN | NS | MB-A090375 | |
| Bloodworm | Struisbaai | Gert Kotze | Recreational | CN, AdT & HvR | MK922163 | MB-A090238, MB-A090242 | |
| Bloodworm | Struisbaai | Gert Kotze | Recreational | CN & AdT | MK922173 | MB-A090239 | |
| Bloodworm | Struisbaai | Gert Kotze | Recreational | CN & AdT | MK922174 | MB-A090240 | |
| Bloodworm | Struisbaai | Gert Kotze | Recreational | CN & AdT | MK922158 | MB-A090241 | |
| Bloodworm | Struisbaai | Gert Kotze | Recreational | CN | MK922175 | MB-A090243 | |
| Bloodworm | Struisbaai | Gert Kotze | Recreational | CN | MK922176 | MB-A090244 MB-A090245, MB-A090250, MB-A090251, MB-A090254, MB-A090255 | |
| Bloodworm | Struisbaai | Gert Kotze | Recreational | CN | MK922158 | MB-A090255 | |
| Bloodworm | Witsand | Paul | Recreational | CN | MK922178 | MB-A090252 | |
| Bloodworm | Witsand | Paul | Recreational | CN | MK922179 | MB-A090253 | |
| Bloodworm | Witsand | Paul | Recreational | CN | MK922157 | MB-A090256 | |
| <i>Gunnarea gaimardi</i> | Coral worm | Betty's Bay | Morne & Victor | Recreational | AdT | MN045177 | DNA only |
| | Coral worm | Betty's Bay | Morne & Victor | Recreational | AdT | MN045178 | DNA only |
| | Coral worm | Betty's Bay | Morne & Victor | Recreational | AdT | MN045179 | DNA only |
| | Coral worm | Betty's Bay | Ethan Newman | Recreational | CS | MN045177 | MB-A090336, MB-A090337, MB-A090339 |
| | Coral worm | Betty's Bay | Ethan Newman | Recreational | CS | MN045181 | MB-A090340 |
| | Coral worm | Betty's Bay | Ethan Newman | Recreational | CS | MN045180 | MB-A090441 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------|----------|--|
| | Polwurm | Hermanus | Hein Engelbrecht | Recreational | AdT & HvR | MN045177 | MB-A090341, MB-A090342, MB-A090344, MB-A090345, MB-A090347, MB-A090348 |
| | Polwurm | Hermanus | Hein Engelbrecht | Recreational | AdT & HvR | NS | MB-A090343 |
| | Polwurm | Hermanus | Hein Engelbrecht | Recreational | AdT & HvR | MN045182 | MB-A090346 |
| | Coral worm | Velddrif | Anonymous | Subsistence | AdT | MN045177 | MB-A090356 - MB-A090358, MB-A090364, MB-A090367 - MB-A090371 (9) |
| | Coral worm | Velddrif | Anonymous | Subsistence | AdT | MN045179 | MB-A090360 |
| <i>Gunnarea</i> sp.1 | Coral worm | Witsand | Paul | Recreational | AdT | MN045184 | MB-A090293 |
| | Coral worm | Witsand | Paul | Recreational | AdT | MN045183 | MB-A090294 |
| <i>Scoletoma</i> cf. <i>tetraura</i> sp. 1 (Betty's Bay) | Pudding worm | Betty's Bay | Ethan Newman | Recreational | CS | MN419154 | MB-A090332 |
| <i>Scoletoma</i> cf. <i>tetraura</i> sp. 2 (Hermanus) | Pudding worm | Hermanus | Hein Engelbrecht | Recreational | AdT & HvR | NS | MB-A090349 |
| | Pudding worm | Hermanus | Hein Engelbrecht | Recreational | AdT & HvR | MN419157 | MB-A090350 |
| | Pudding worm | Hermanus | Hein Engelbrecht | Recreational | AdT & HvR | NS | MB-A090351 |
| | Pudding worm | Hermanus | Hein Engelbrecht | Recreational | AdT & HvR | NS | MB-A090352 |
| | Pudding worm | Hermanus | Hein Engelbrecht | Recreational | AdT & HvR | MN419156 | MB-A090353 |
| | Pudding worm | Hermanus | Engelbrecht | Recreational | AdT & HvR | MN419155 | MB-A090354 |
| <i>Marphysa corallina</i> | Wonderworm | Witsand | Paul | Recreational | AdT | MN067881 | MB-A090276 - MB-A090278, MB-A090280 (4) |
| | Wonderworm | Witsand | Paul | Recreational | AdT | MN067882 | MB-A090279 |
| <i>Marphysa haemasoma</i> | Wonderworm | Betty's Bay | Ethan Newman | Recreational | CS | NS | MB-A090331 |
| | Wonderworm | Betty's Bay | Ethan Newman | Recreational | CS | MN067877 | MB-A090333, MB-A090335, MB-A090338 (3) |

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|--|--------------|-----------|--------------|--|
| | Wonderworm | Betty's Bay | Ethan Newman | Recreational | CS | NS | MB-A090334 |
| | Wonderworm | Knysna Estuary | Anonymous | Recreational | AdT | MN067879 (3) | DNA only |
| | Wonderworm | Knysna Estuary | Anonymous | Recreational | AdT | MN067878 (2) | DNA only MB-A090326, MB-A090328 |
| | Bloukoppie | Knysna Estuary Melkbos | Anonymous | Subsistence | AdT | MN067878 | (2) |
| | Bloodworm | Strand Melkbos | Lucas | Subsistence | AdT & CN | MN067877 (2) | DNA only MB-A090267 - MB-A090270 |
| | Bloodworm | Strand Soetwater | Lucas | Subsistence | AdT & CN | MN067877 | (4) |
| | Wonderworm | Kommetjie Soetwater | Altus | Subsistence | AdT | MN067877 | DNA only |
| | Wonderworm | Kommetjie Soetwater | Altus | Subsistence | AdT | NS | MB-A090272 |
| | Wonderworm | Kommetjie Soetwater | Altus | Subsistence | AdT | MN067877 | MB-A090273 - MB-A090275, MB-A090317 (4) |
| | Wonderworm | Strand | Marnus | Subsistence | AdT & HvR | MN067880 | DNA only MB-A090271, MB-A090315 |
| | Wonderworm | Strand | Marnus | Subsistence | AdT & HvR | MN067880 | (2) |
| <i>Lysidice natalensis</i> | Musselworm | Witsand | Paul | Recreational | AdT | MN419162 | MB-A090281 |
| | Musselworm | Witsand | Paul | Recreational | AdT | MN419168 | MB-A090282 MB-A090283, MB-A090285 |
| | Musselworm | Witsand | Paul | Recreational | AdT | MN419165 | (2) |
| | Musselworm | Witsand | Paul | Recreational | AdT | MN419164 | MB-A090284 |
| | Musselworm | Witsand | Paul | Recreational | AdT | MN419160 | MB-A090286 |
| | Musselworm | Witsand | Paul | Recreational | AdT | MN419161 | MB-A090287 |
| | Musselworm | Witsand | Paul | Recreational | AdT | MN419158 | MB-A090288 |
| | Musselworm | Witsand | Paul | Recreational | AdT | MN419159 | MB-A090289 |
| | Musselworm | Witsand | Paul | Recreational | AdT | MN419167 | MB-A090291 |
| | Musselworm | Witsand | Paul | Recreational | AdT | MN419163 | MB-A090292 |
| <i>Heptaceras quinuedens</i> | Moonshineworm | Pearly Beach | Ferdi Joubert Hermann Schuch & Charlie Friess | Recreational | AdT & HvR | NS | MB-A090432 - MB-A090436 (5) |
| | Moonshineworm | Strand | Charlie Friess | Recreational | AdT & HvR | NS | MB-A090442 |

| | | | | | CN, AdT & HvR | | MB-A090421 - MB-A090431, MB-A090437 - MB-A090440 (15) |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------|----------|---|
| | Moonshineworm | Struisbaai | Gert Kotze | Recreational | | NS | |
| <i>Perinereis latipalpa</i> | Coral worm | Kommetjie | Mario | Subsistence | AdT | NS | MB-A090297 - MB-A090299 (3) |
| <i>Pseudonereis podocirra</i> | Musselworm | Betty's Bay | Morne & Victor | Recreational | AdT | MN067871 | MB-A090302, MB-A090305 (2) |
| | Musselworm | Betty's Bay | Morne & Victor Hein | Recreational | AdT | MN067870 | MB-A090304 |
| | Musselworm | Hermanus | Engelbrecht Hein | Recreational | AdT & HvR | MN067872 | MB-A090306 |
| | Musselworm | Hermanus | Engelbrecht Hein | Recreational | AdT & HvR | MN067873 | MB-A090307 |
| | Musselworm | Hermanus | Engelbrecht Hein | Recreational | AdT & HvR | MN067871 | MB-A090308, MB-A090309, MB-A090443 |
| | Musselworm | Hermanus | Engelbrecht | Recreational | AdT & HvR | MN067872 | MB-A090310 |
| | Coral worm | Velddrif | Anonymous | Subsistence | AdT | MN067874 | MB-A090355, MB-A090362, MB-A090363, MB-A090365 (4) |
| | Coral worm | Velddrif | Anonymous | Subsistence | AdT | MN067871 | MB-A090359, MB-A090361 (2) |
| | Coral worm | Velddrif | Anonymous | Subsistence | AdT | MN067872 | MB-A090366 |
| | Coral worm | Velddrif | Anonymous | Subsistence | AdT | MN067875 | MB-A090372 |
| | Coral worm | Velddrif | Anonymous | Subsistence | AdT | MN067876 | MB-A090373 |

§ The English names are listed, although fishermen frequently use Afrikaans translations: bloodworm (bloedwurm), Coral worm (koraalwurm), mussel worm (mosselwurm), moonshine worm (maanskynwurm), pudding worm (poedingwurm), wonderworm (wonderwurm). English names were never used for polwurm or bakkiewurm.

Figure 1

Map of South Africa and the Western Cape province with sample sites.

Figure 1. Sample sites in the Western Cape Province, South Africa: Velddrif, Saldanha Bay, Melkbosstrand, Kommetjie (Soetwater), Muizenberg, Strand, Betty's Bay, Hermanus, Pearly Beach, Struisbaai, Witsand, Knysna, with the two main barriers to gene flow in the Western Cape Province, and three main ecoregions along the South African coast.

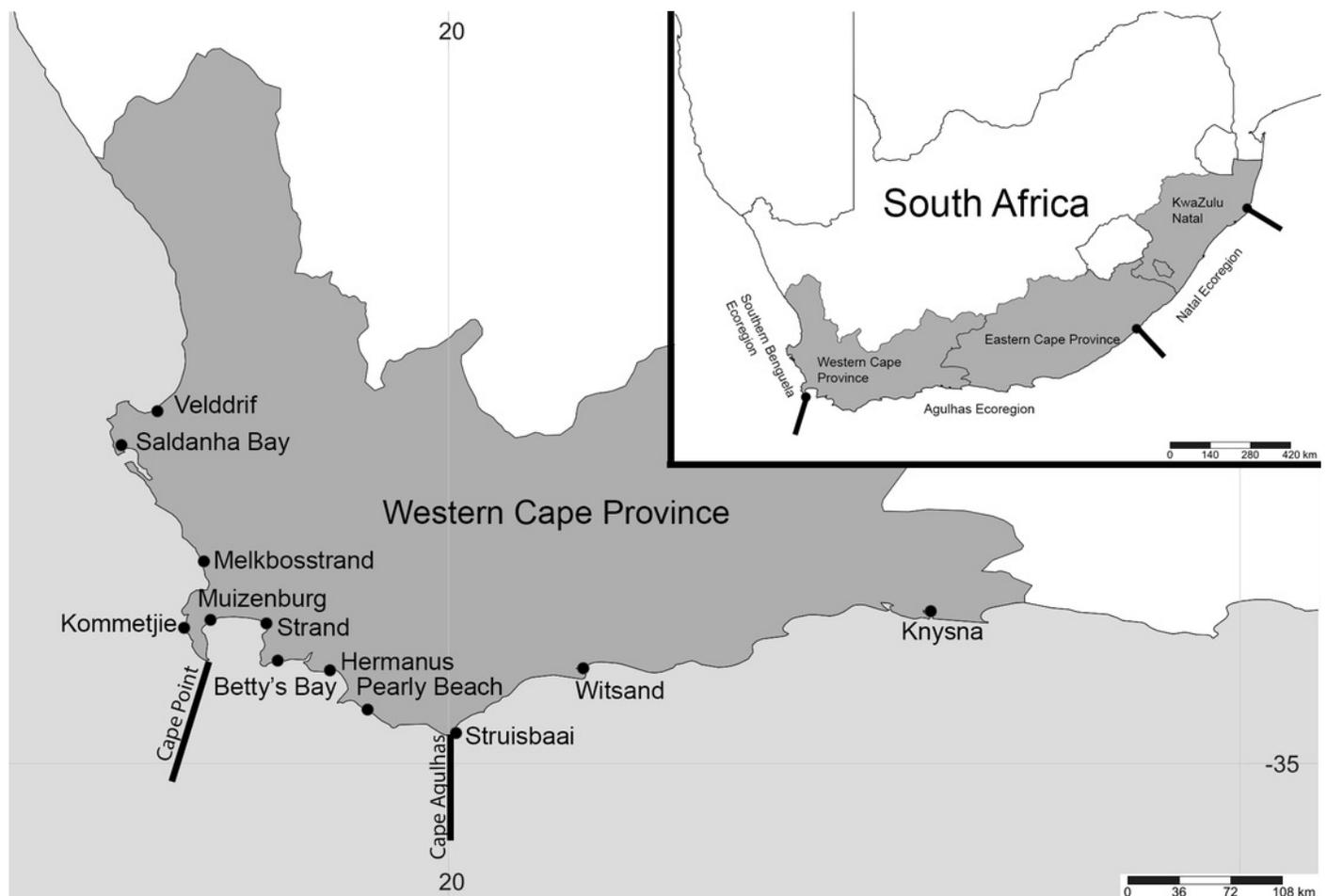


Figure 2

Morphology of *Siphonosoma dayi*

Figure 2. *Siphonosoma dayi* Stephen, 1942. A) Fixed specimen, in two pieces, B) Everted introvert with tentacles, C) Scales on anterior of introvert, D) scales on posterior of introvert, E) Anterior, internal structure showing insertions of introvert muscles (white arrowheads), bands of longitudinal muscles (black arrows), anastomosed sheet of muscle in anterior (black arrowhead) and rectum (*), F) Pair of nephridia (N) and broken rectum (*) with insertion of anus (white arrowhead), G) Magnification of digestive system showing insertions of introvert muscles (arrowheads) and bands of longitudinal muscle (black arrow), H) Close-up of insertion of dorsal introvert muscle (white arrowhead) and spindle muscle (black arrowhead). Scale Bars: A = 10 mm; B, H = 2.5 mm; C = 0.5mm, D = 1 mm; E, F, G = 5 mm; AB - D = MB A090318; E - H = MB A090313

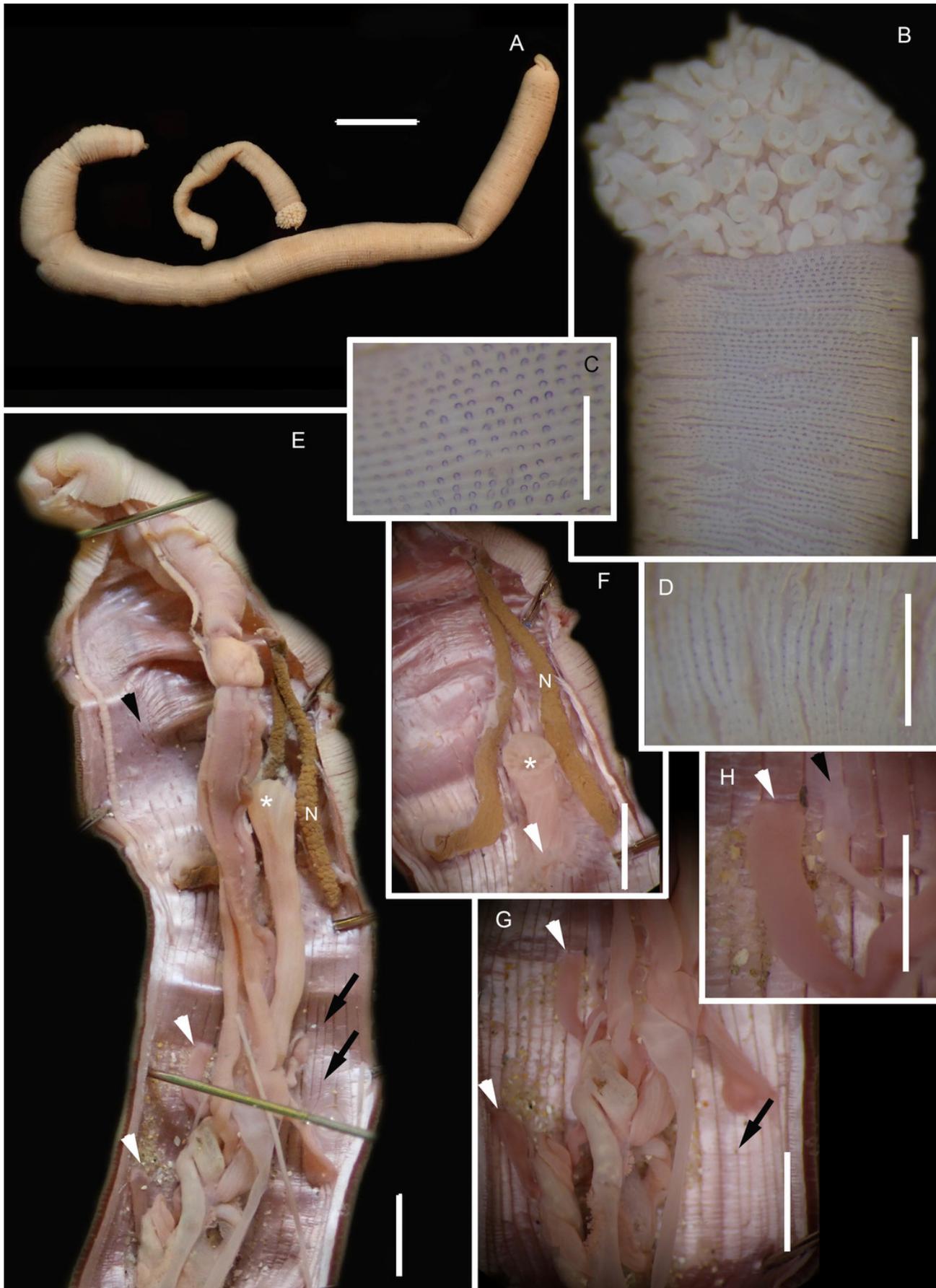
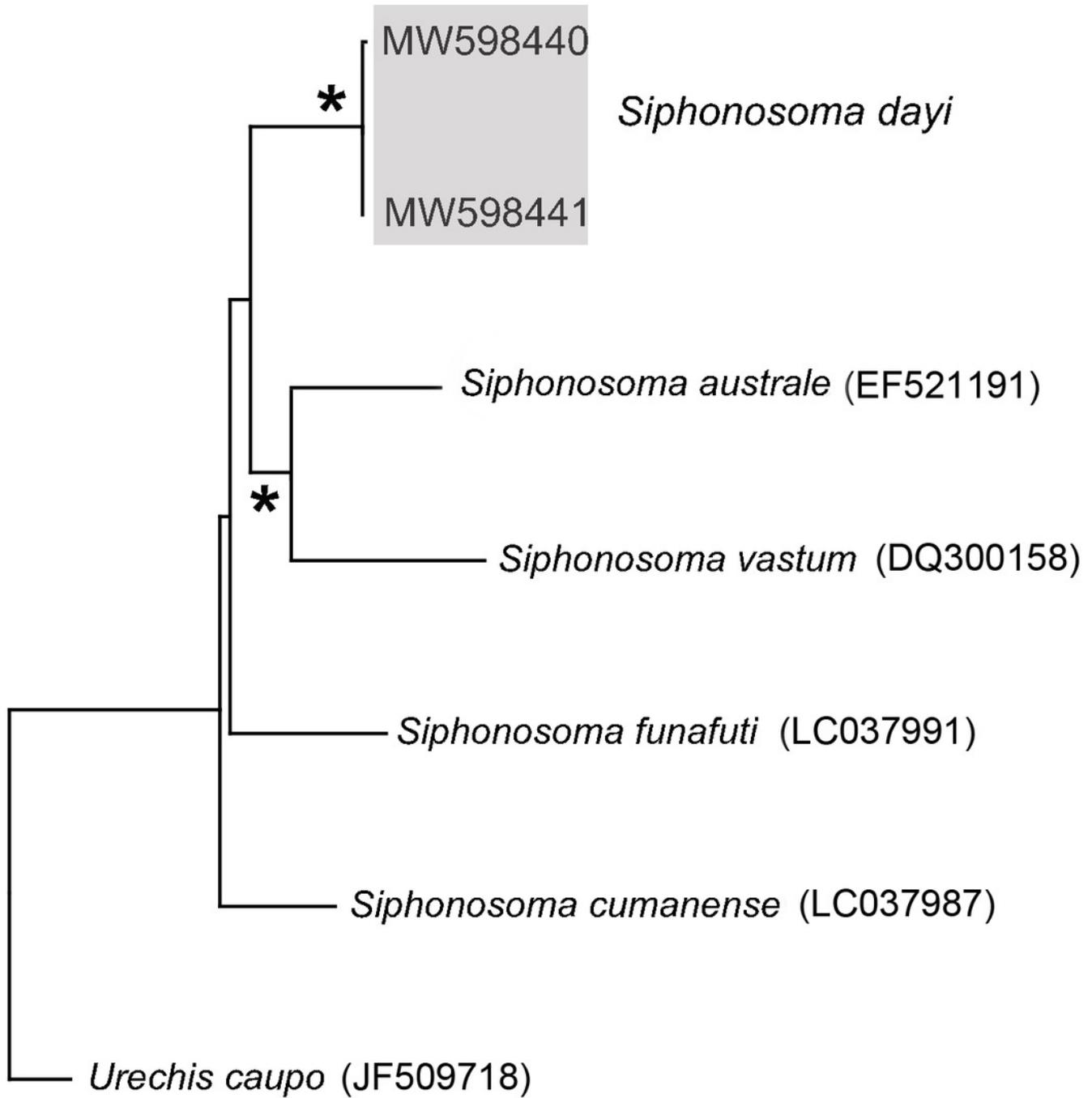


Figure 3

Neighbour Joining tree of *Siphonosoma* species

Figure 3. Neighbour Joining tree using mitochondrial sequences of various *Siphonosoma* Spengel, 1912 species, including *S. dayi* Stephen, 1942 from Knysna. * Indicates bootstrap support greater than or equal to 80%. Sequences obtained in this study are highlighted in grey. *Urechis caupo* Fisher & MacGinite, 1928 was used as the outgroup. Scale bar represents number of substitutions per site.



0.050

Figure 4

External morphology of *Arenicola loveni*

Figure 4. *Arenicola loveni* Kinberg, 1866. A) Almost uniformly dark specimen from Muizenberg, dorsal view, B) Dark specimen with distinctly lighter tail from Struisbaai, lateral view, C) Close-up of proboscis of specimen in (B) showing annuli (white arrowheads), D) Light brown specimen with distinctly lighter branchial and tail region from Muizenberg, showing annuli in anterior chaetigers (white arrowheads), dorsal view, E) Prostomium and partially everted proboscis, dorsal view, arrows show nuchal grooves, F) Proboscis showing papillae in different regions, dorsal view, G) Papillae of distal part of proboscis, dorsal view, H) Papillae of proximal part of proboscis, dorsal view. Scale bars: A, B, D = 2 cm, C, E, F = 5 mm, G, H = 2.5 mm. A = MB-A090229, B = MB-A090241, D = MB-A090227, E - H: MB-A090259

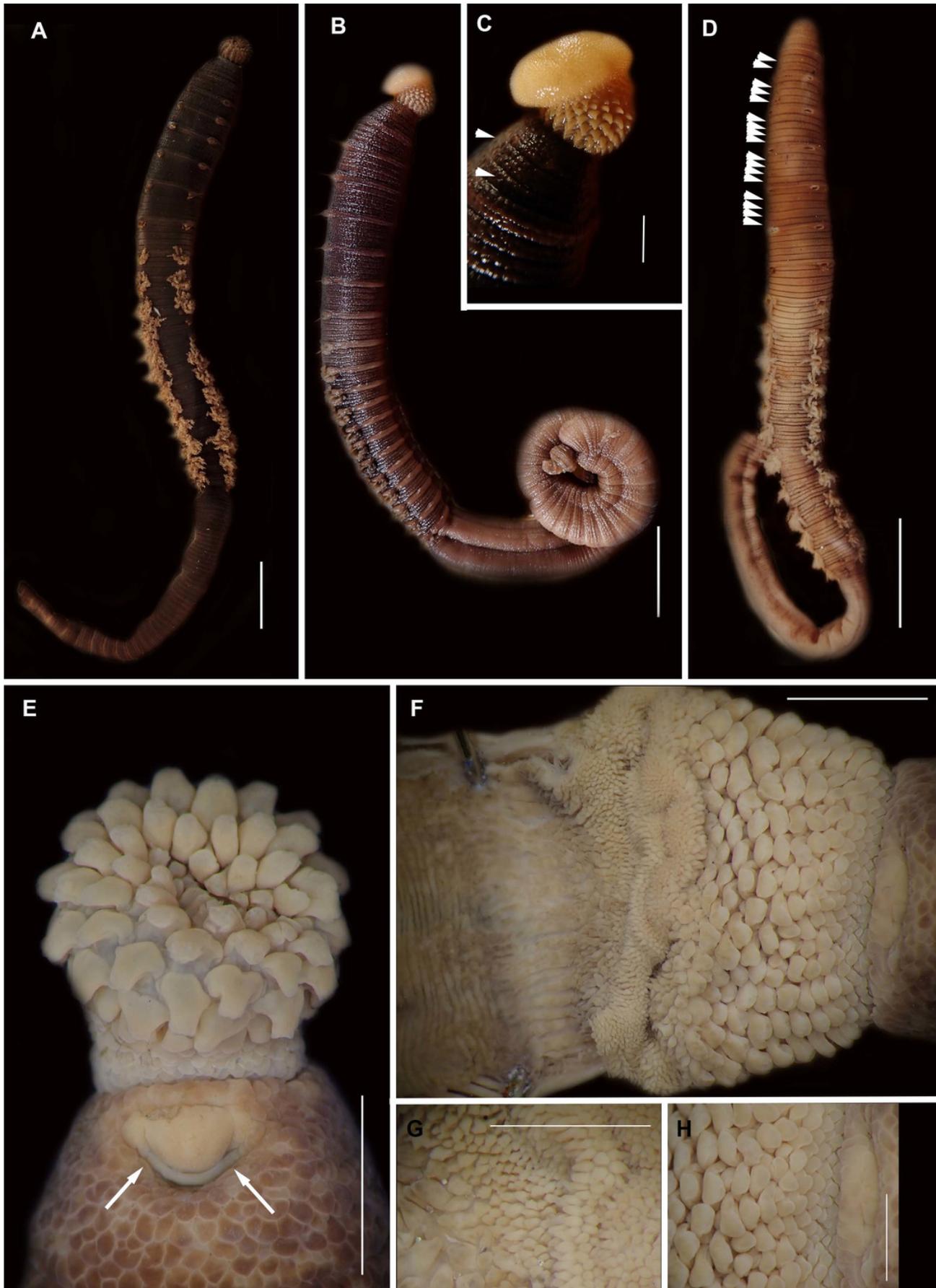


Figure 5

Morphology of *Arenicola loveni*

Figure 5. *Arenicola loveni* Kinberg, 1866. A) Dorsal view of digestive system with septal pouches (arrowhead) and single pair of oesophageal caecae (arrow), B) Close up of anterior digestive system (ventral view) and septal pouches (arrowhead) and partially everted proboscis, C) Hooded nephridiopore, D) Partially hooded nephridiopore, E) Chaetiger 7 with vestigial branchia (arrowhead), F) Fully formed branchiae on chaetiger 14, G) Close up of palmar membrane showing papillated surface. Scale bars: A, B, = 10 mm, C, G = 1.5mm, D - F = 2.5mm, A: MB-A090252, B, D: MB-A090250, C, E - G: MB-A090259.

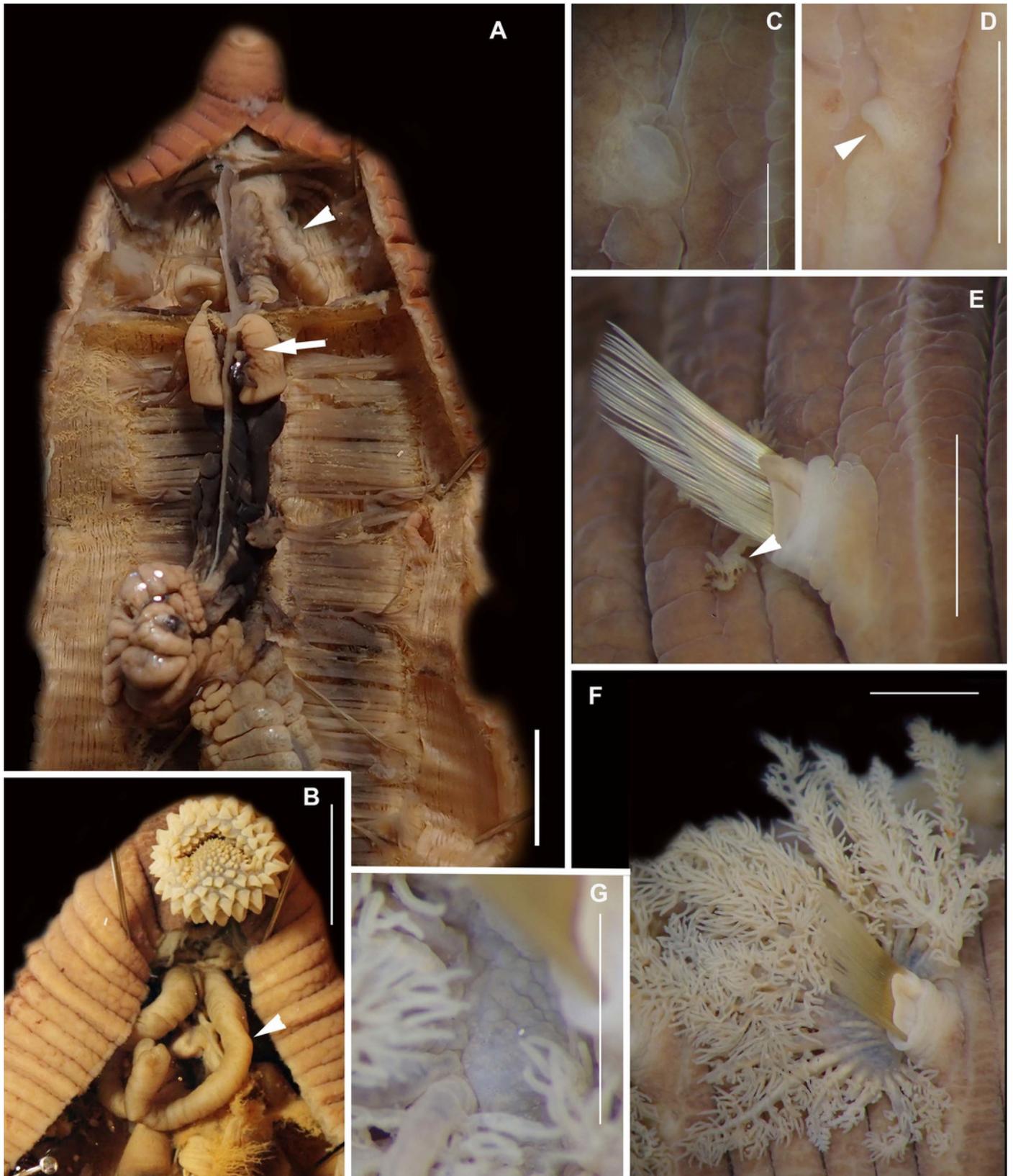


Figure 6

Arenicolid chaetae

Figure 6. Arenicolid chaetae. A) Notochaetae and B) Neuropodial hooks of *Arenicola loveni* Kinberg, 1866, C) Notochaetae and D) Neuropodial hooks of *Abarenicola gilchristi* Wells, 1963. Scale Bars: A - D = 0.1mm. A, B = MB-A090261, C, D = MB-A090225

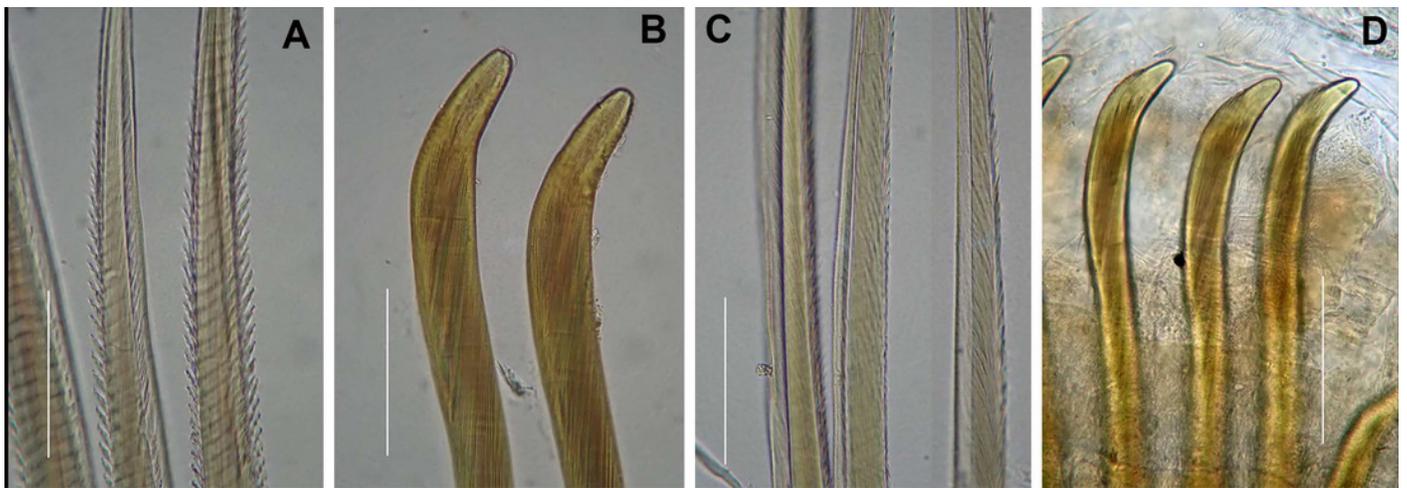


Figure 7

Neighbour joining tree of Arenicolidae

Figure 7. Neighbour Joining tree using mitochondrial sequences belonging to various *Arenicola Lamarck, 1801* and *Abarenicola Wells, 1959* species, including *A. loveni* Kinberg, 1866 and *A. gilchristi* Wells, 1963 from South Africa. * Indicates bootstrap support greater than or equal to 80%. Areas highlighted in grey represent sequences generated in this study. *Maldanidae* sp. was used as outgroup. Scale bar represents substitutions per site.

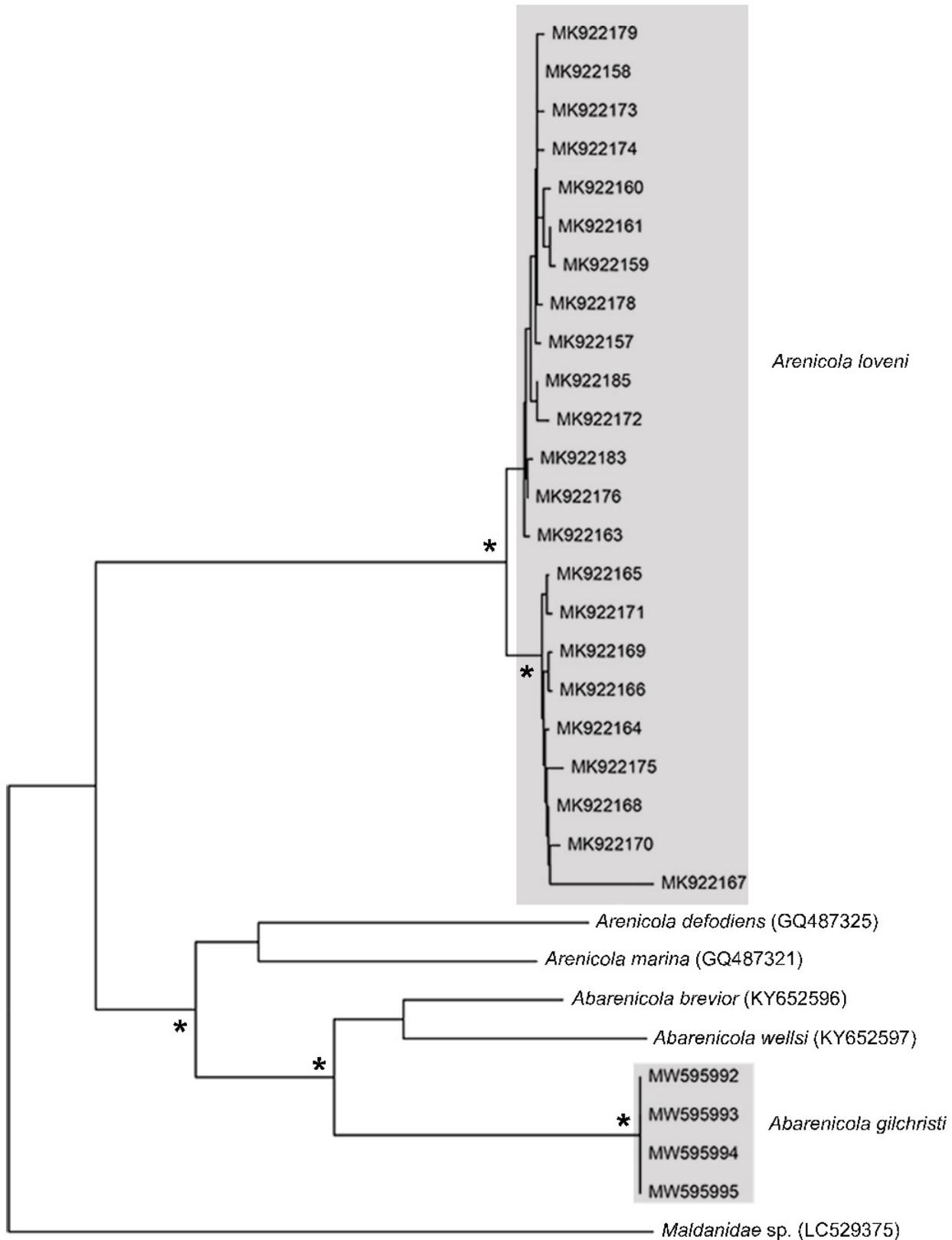


Figure 8

Morphology of *Abarenicola gilchristi*

Figure 8. *Abarenicola gilchristi* Wells, 1963 A) Live specimen, B) Dorso-lateral view of head, showing annulations on chaetigers 1 to 2 (arrowheads), C) Proboscis showing papillations in different regions, D) Dorsal view of head showing prostomium and partially everted proboscis, arrows show nuchal grooves, E) Digestive caecae; one large pair and multiple smaller pairs, F) Papillae of distal part of proboscis, G) Papillae of median part of proboscis, H) Papillae of proximal part of proboscis, I) Branchia on chaetiger 9, J) Unhooded nephridiopore, K) Hooded nephridiopore, L) Partially hooded nephridiopore. Scale bars: A = 2 mm, B, C, D, E = 5mm; I = 2mm, F - H = 2mm, J - L = 0.5mm; A, J: MB-A090223, B, I, K, L = MB-A090224; C - H = MB-A090226.

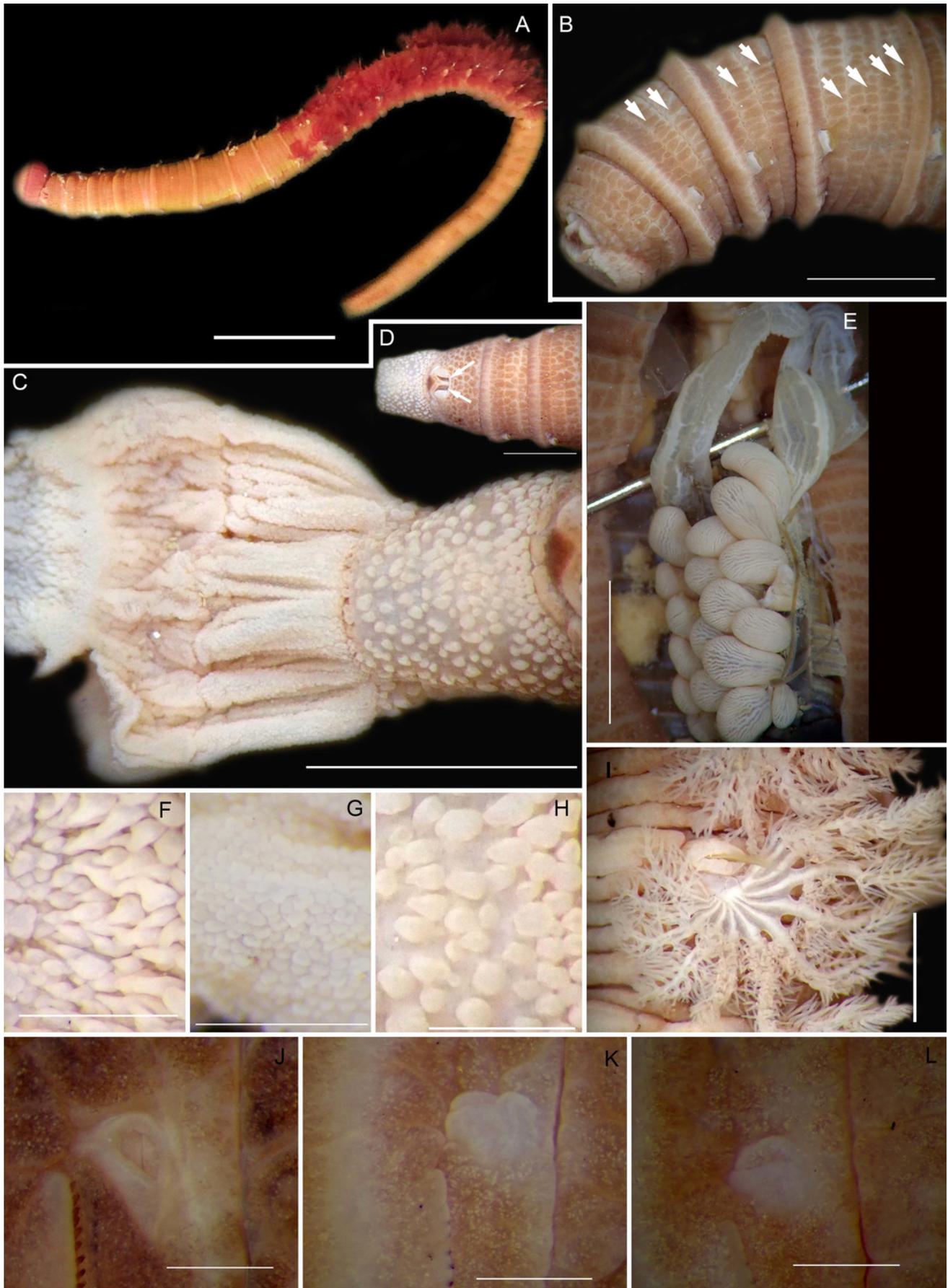


Figure 9

Morphology of *Gunnarea gaimardi*

Figure 9. *Gunnarea gaimardi* (Quatrefages, 1848). A) Live specimen from Betty's Bay, B) Dorsal view of crown showing the inner paleae (ip), outer paleae (op), opercular disk (od), papillae (cp), C) Right side view of crown showing the tentacular filaments (tf), D) Paleae, 1 & 3: outer geniculate paleae with tooth, 2: inner geniculate paleae, E) Ventral view of anterior region showing palps (p), median ridge (mr), and U-shaped building organ (bo), F) Bipinnate capillaries, neurochaetae, G) Lanceolate chaetae of two lengths, neurochaetae, H) Lanceolate and capillaries, notochaetae, I) Verticillate chaetae, neurochaetae, J) Uncini. Scale bars: A & C = 5 mm, B & E = 2mm, D = 0.5mm, F, I, J = 50µm, G & H = 0.2 mm. B, F - J = MB-A090337, c = MB-A090343, d = MB=A090371.

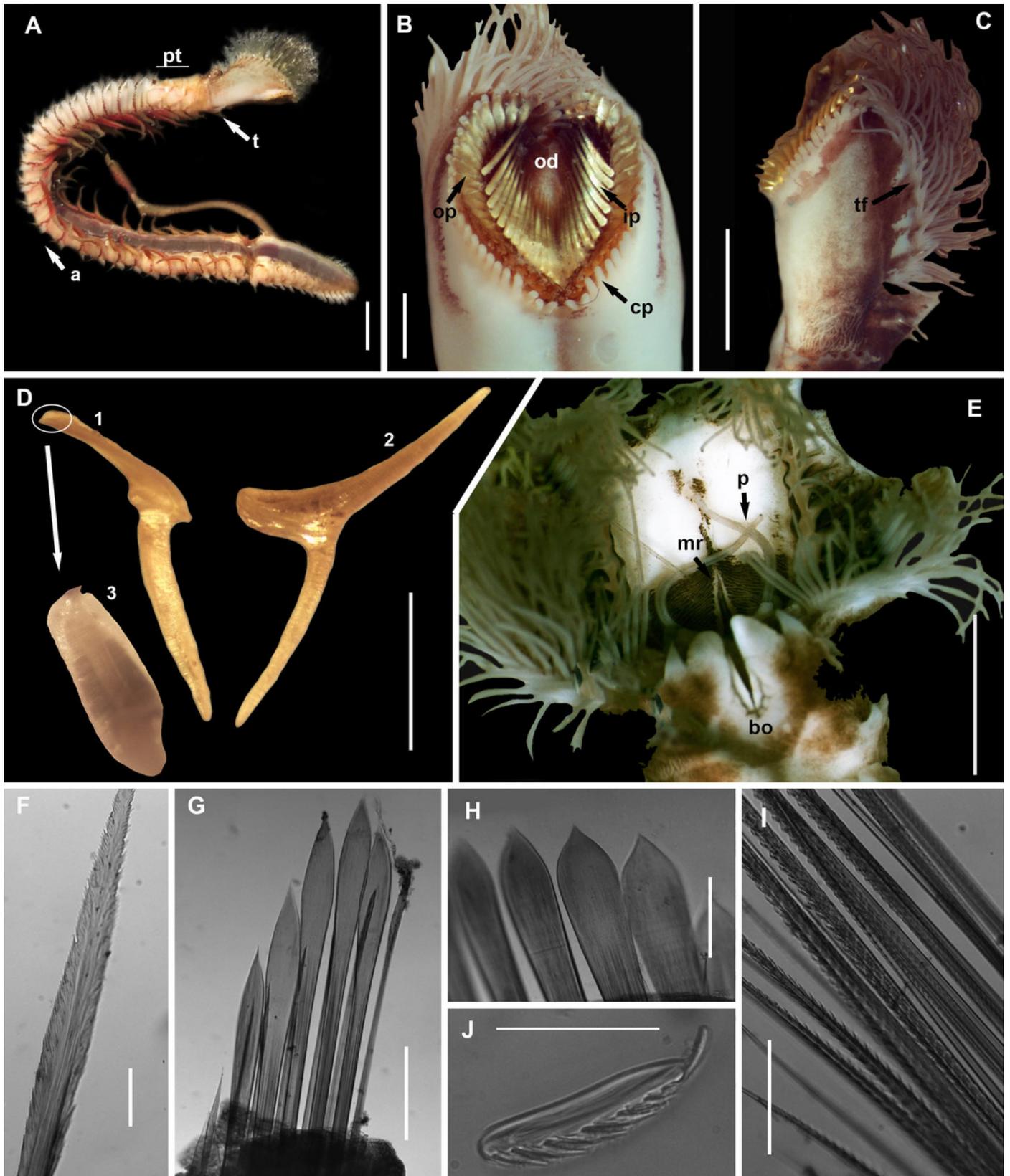


Figure 10

Morphology of *Gunnarea* species

Figure 10. *Gunnarea* Johannson, 1927 species collected from Witsand. A) Live specimen, B) Crown showing the inner paleae (ip) and outer paleae (op), C) Neurochaetae of first thoracic chaetiger, D) Abdominal neurochaetae, E) Anterior region showing palps (p), Buccal lip (upper and lateral sides) and tentacular filaments (tf), F) Posterior uncinus, G) Palaea 1- inner geniculate paleae, 2 & 3 - outer geniculate paleae with tooth, H) Lanceolate notochaetae, I) Neurochaetae. Scale bars: A= 5mm, B & E = 1mm, C, D, F, G = 0.5mm, H-I = 0.2mm. A, C, F - I = MB-A090293, B, E = MB-A090294

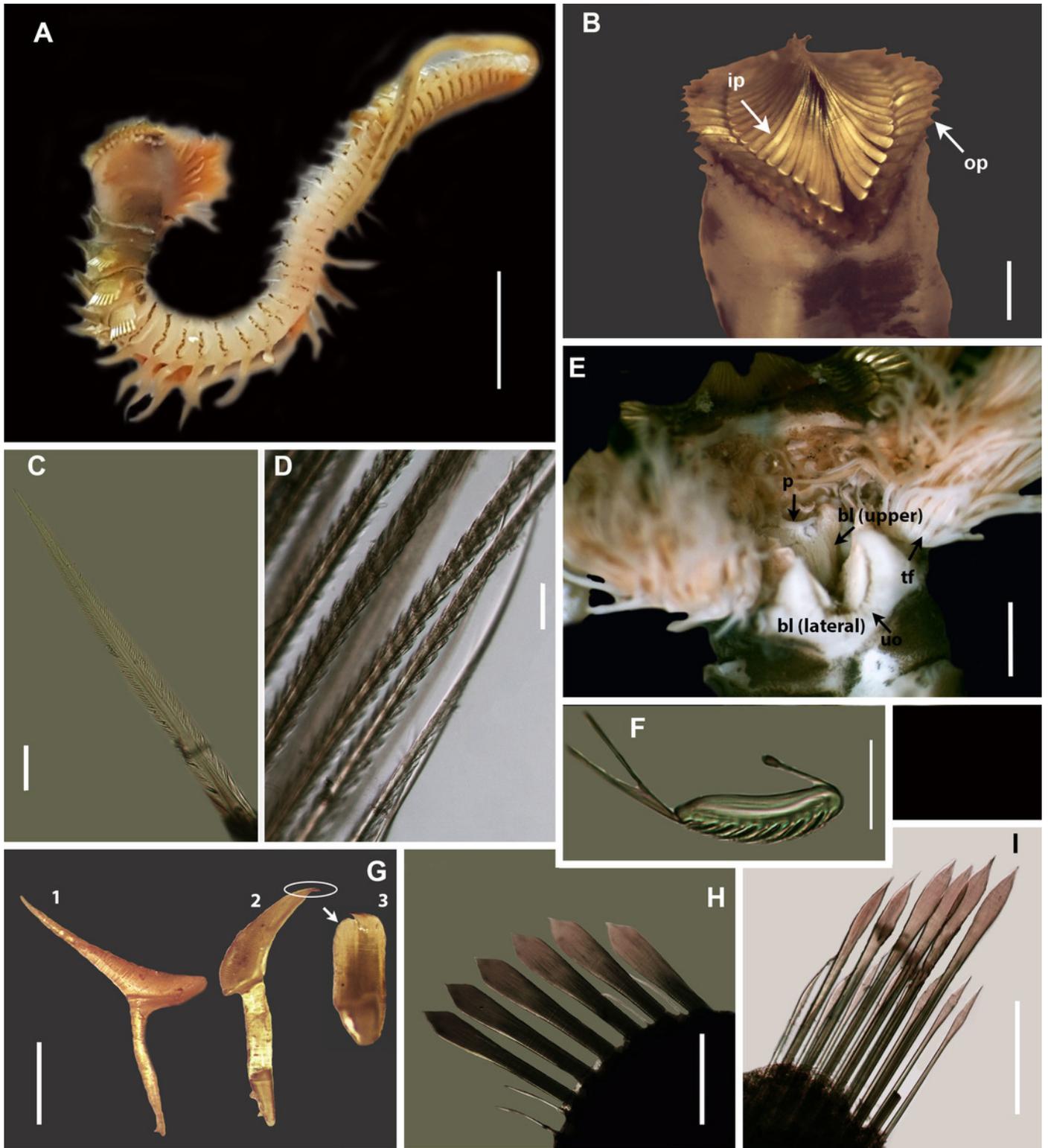


Figure 11

Neighbour joining tree of *Gunnarea*

Figure 11. Neighbour Joining tree of mitochondrial sequences of various species from family Sabellariidae Johnston, 1865 including *Gunnarea capensis* (Schmarda, 1861). * Indicates bootstrap support greater than 80%. Areas in grey represent sequences generated in this study. *Spirobranchus sinuspersicus* Pazoki, Rahimian, Struck, Katouzian & Kupriyanova, 2020 was used to root the tree. Scale bar represents substitutions per site.

Figure 12

Morphology of *Scoletoma* cf. *tetraura* from Betty's Bay

Figure 12. *Scoletoma* cf. *tetraura* from Betty's Bay. A) Dorsal anterior, B) MIII and MIV of jaws, ventral view, C) Chaetiger 5 showing pre-chaetal (Prcl) and post chaetal (Pcl) lobes, anterior view, D) Chaetiger 31 showing prechaetal and post chaetal lobes, anterior view, E) Posterior chaetiger showing prechaetal and post chaetal lobes, anterior view, F) Long-headed multidentate hooded hooks on chaetiger 5, G) Long-headed multidentate hooded hook on chaetiger 31, H) Short-headed multidentate hook with flared hood from posterior chaetiger. Scale bars: A = 5mm, B - E = 0.5mm, F - H = 0.2mm. A - H = MB-A090332

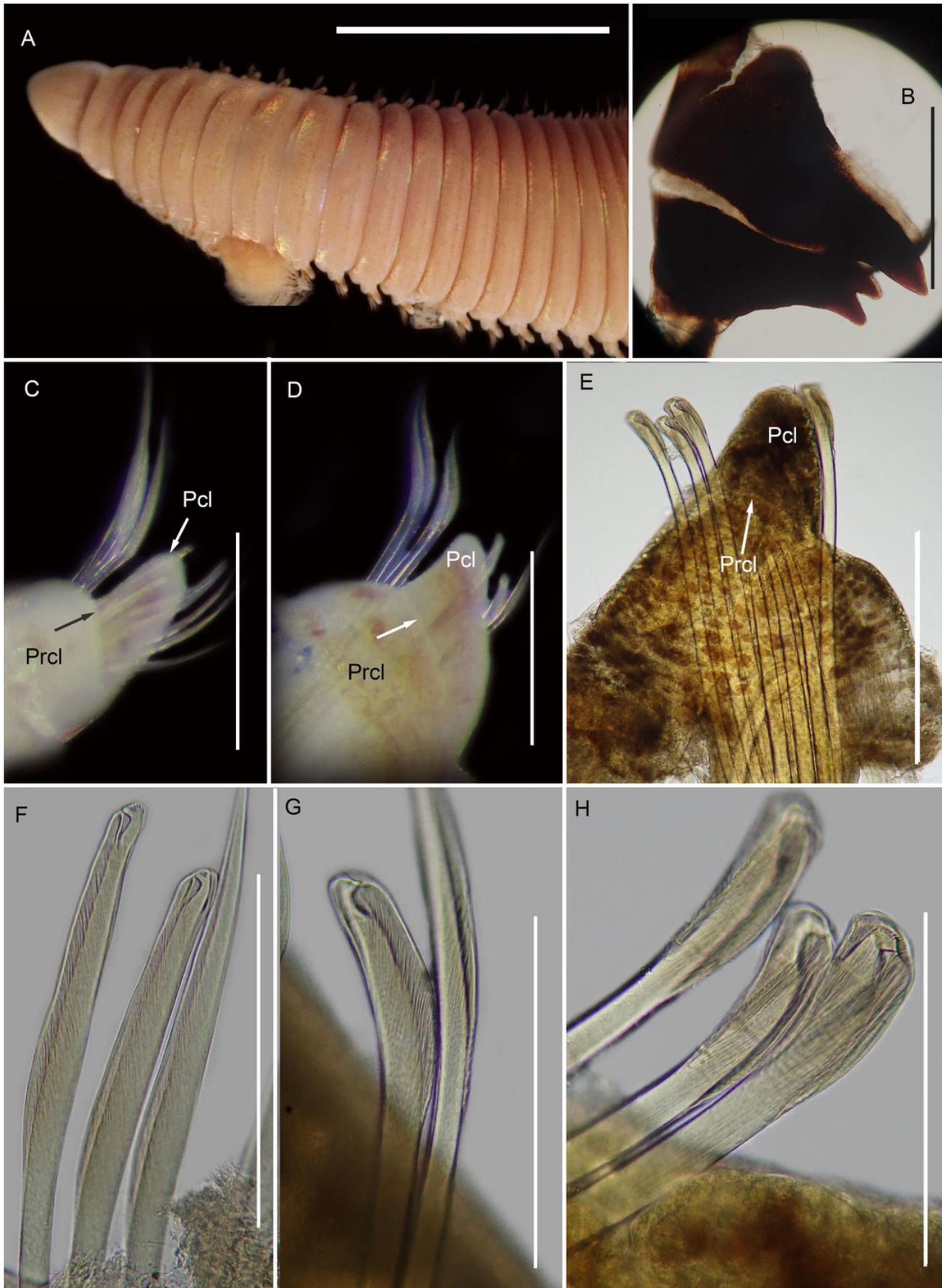


Figure 13

Morphology of *Scoletoma cf. tetraura* from Hermanus

Figure 13. *Scoletoma cf. tetraura* from Hermanus. A) Dorsal anterior, B) MIII and MIV of jaws, ventral view, C) Chaetiger 3 showing pre-chaetal (Prcl) and post chaetal (Pcl) lobes anterior view, D) Chaetiger 30 showing pre- and post chaetal lobes, anterior view, E) Posterior chaetiger showing pre- and post chaetal lobes, anterior view, F) Long-headed multidentate hooded hooks on chaetiger 5, G) Long-headed multidentate hooded hook on chaetiger 31, H) Short-headed multidentate hook with flared hood from posterior chaetiger. Scale bars: A = 5mm, B - E = 0.5mm, F - H = 0.2mm. A - H = MB-A090353

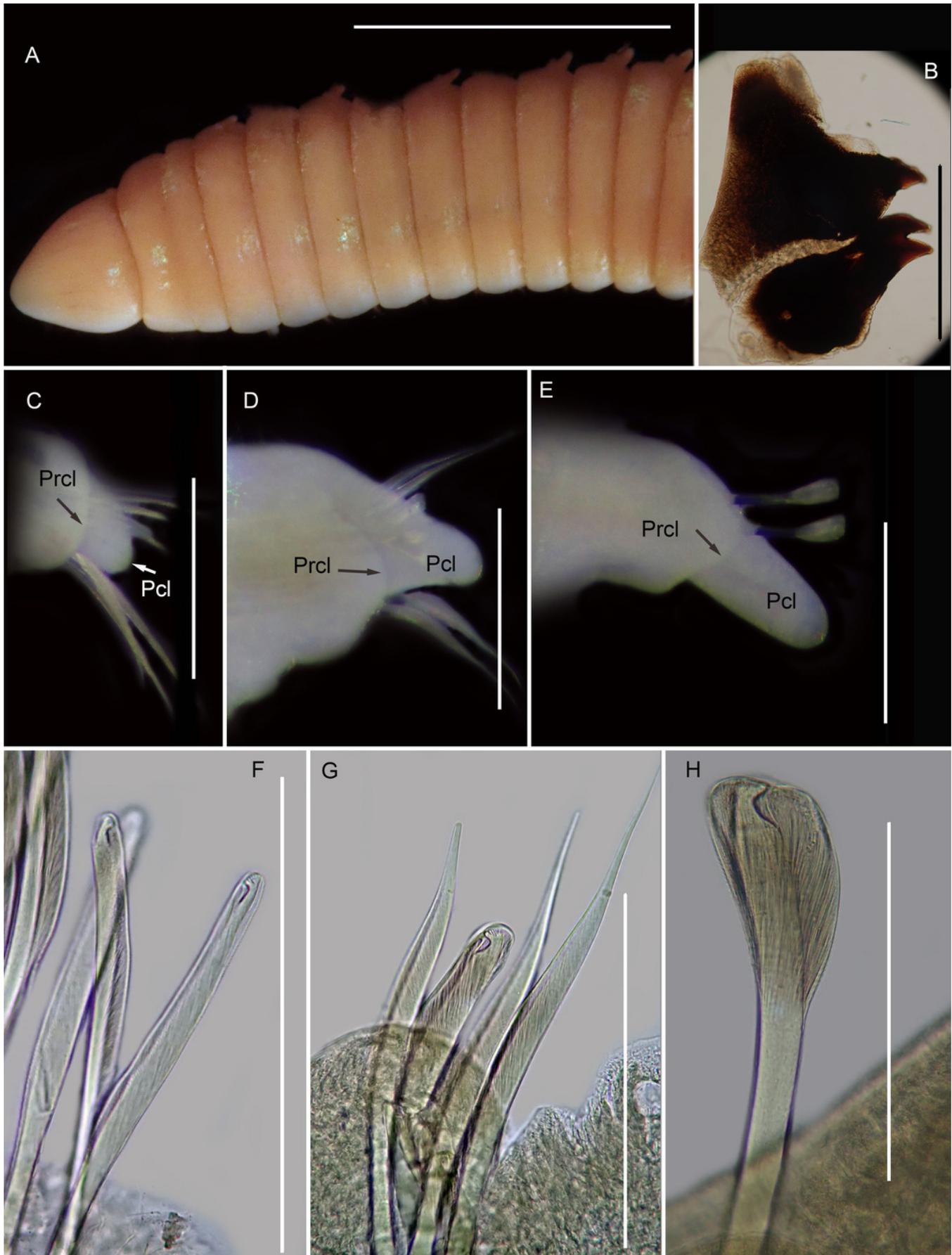
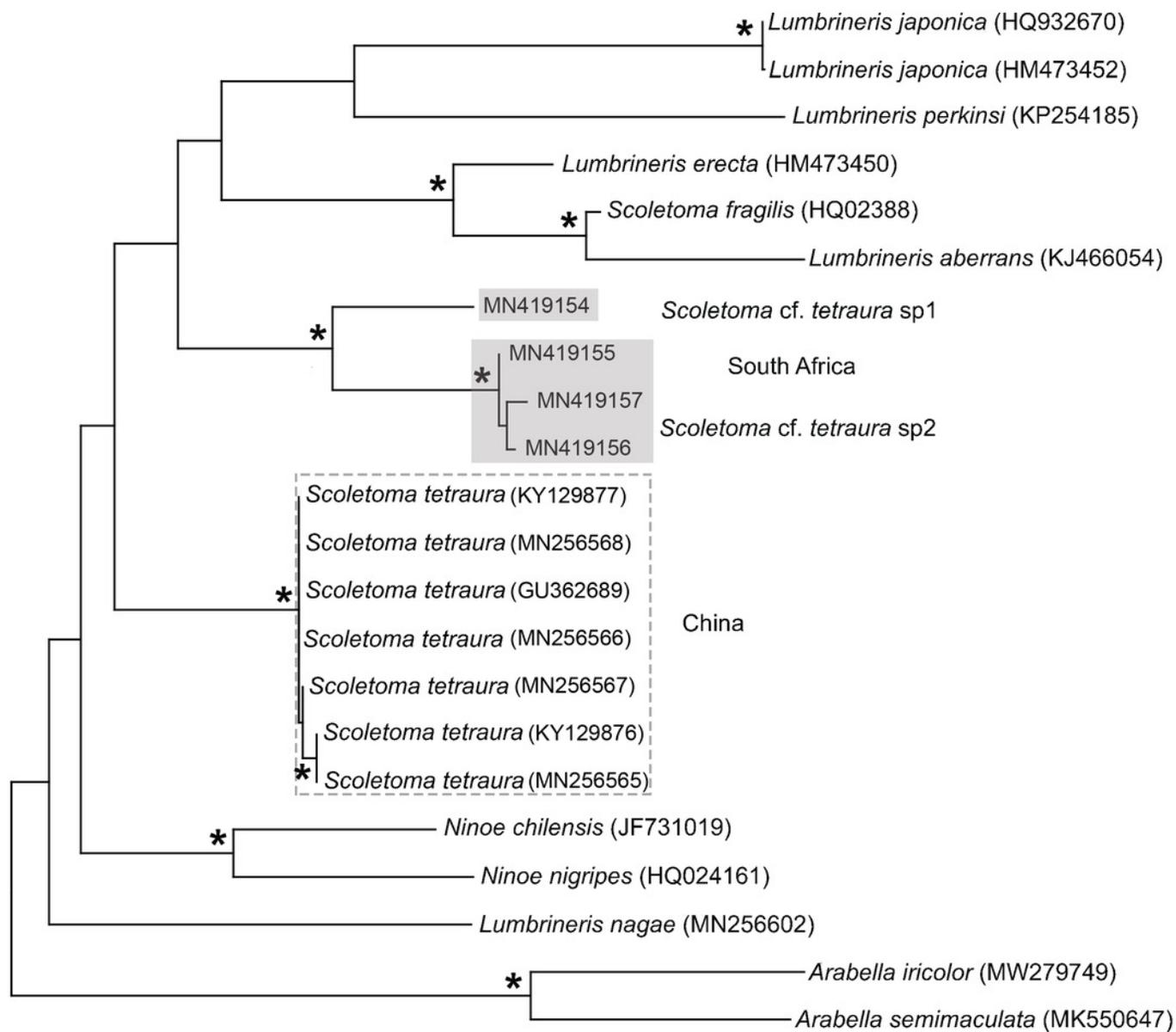


Figure 14

Neighbour joining tree of Lumbrineridae

Figure 14. Neighbour joining tree of mitochondrial sequences of various species in Lumbrineridae, including *Scoletoma tetraura* (Schmarda, 1861) from China. * Indicates bootstrap support greater than 80%. Areas highlighted in grey represent sequences generated in this study; *Scoletoma* cf. *tetraura* sp1 and sp2. Area outlined with grey dashed line represents *S. tetraura* from China. *Arabella iricolor* (Montagu, 1804) and *A. semimaculata* (Moore, 1911) were used as outgroups. Scale bar indicates substitutions per site.



0.10

Figure 15

Morphology of *Marphysa corallina*

Figure 15. *Marphysa cf corallina* A) Anterior region (dorsal), live specimen, B) Posterior chaetiger with branchiae, C) Compound bidentate falcigers with guards, D) Limbate capillaries, E) Chaetae, acicula and subacicular hooks, F) Dorsal view of Maxillary apparatus. Scale bars: A = 5mm, B = 0.5mm, C & D = 50µm, E = 0.2mm, F = 2mm. A, C & D = MB-A090276, E & F = MB-A090280. Figure 16. Neighbour Joining tree of various species belonging to family Eunicidae Berthold, 1827, including *Marphysa* Quatrefages, 1866 and *Lysidice* Lamarck, 1818 from South Africa. * Indicates bootstrap support greater than or equal to 80%. Grey highlighted areas indicate sequences generated in this study. Red branch represents a questionable sequence labelled as *Lysidice natalensis* Kinberg, 1865 from India. *Palola viridis* Gray in Stail, 1847, *Leodice rubra* Grube, 1856 and *Hyalinocea* sp. were used as outgroups. Scale bar represented substitutions per site.

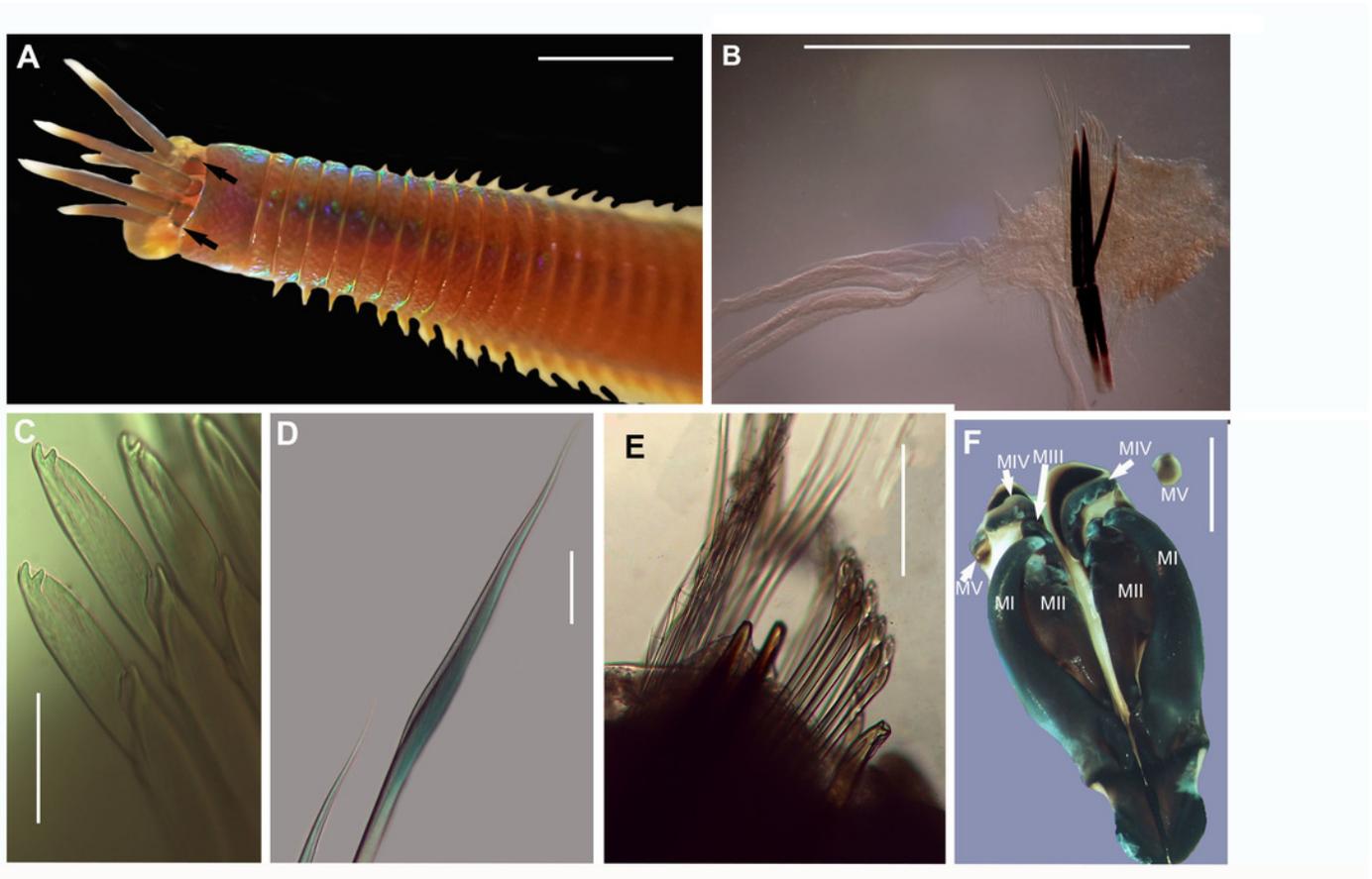


Figure 16

Neighbour Joining tree of Eunicidae

Figure 16. Neighbour Joining tree of various species belonging to family Eunicidae, including *Marphya* and *Lysidice* from South Africa. * Indicates bootstrap support greater than 80%. Grey highlighted areas indicate sequences generated in this study. Red branch represents a questionable sequence labelled as *Lysidice natalensis* from India. *Palola viridis*, *Eunice rubra* and *Hyalinocea* sp. were used as outgroups. Scale bar represented substitutions per site.

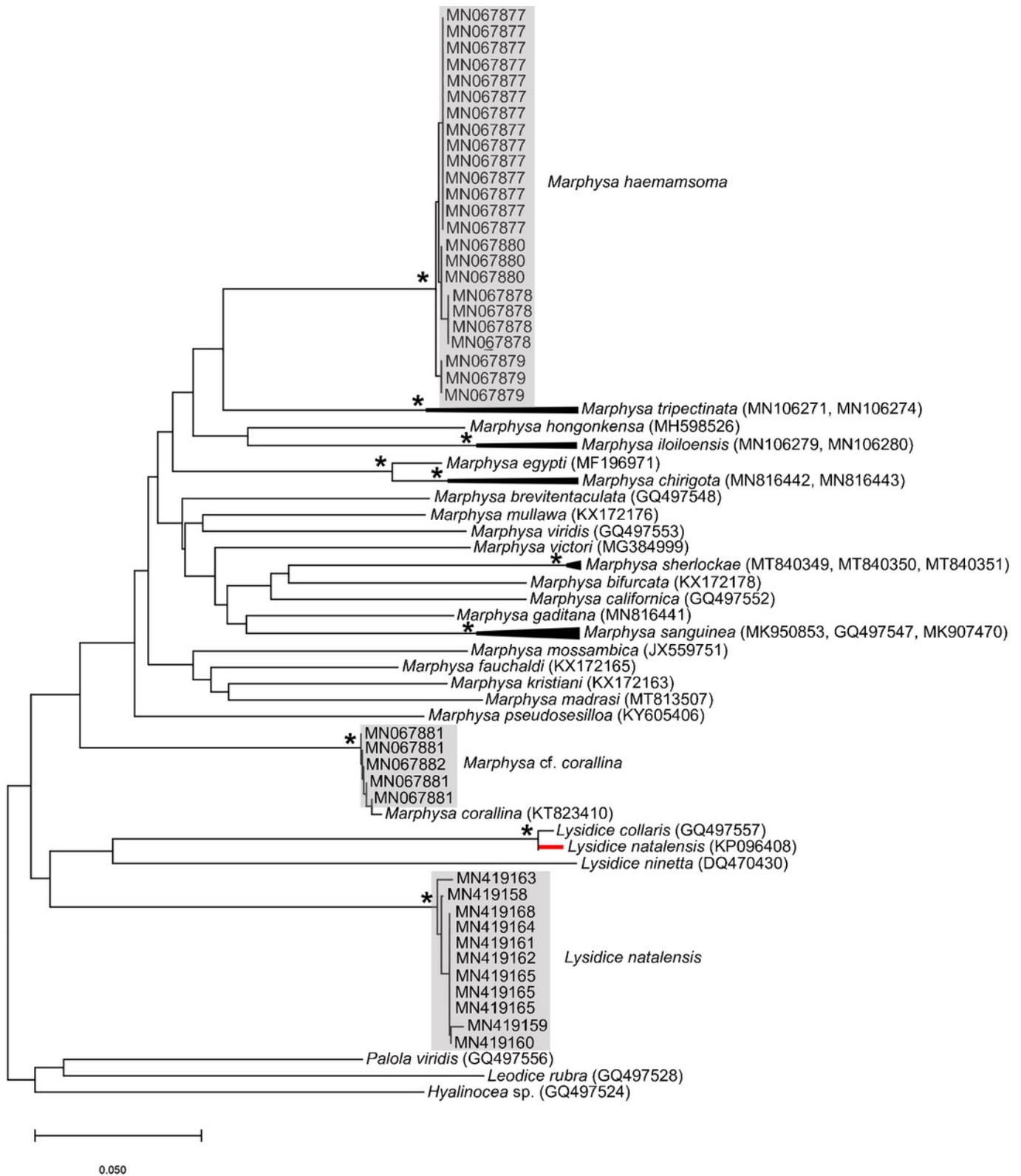


Figure 17

Morphology of *Marphysa haemasoma*

Figure 17. *Marphysa haemasoma* Quatrefages, 1866. A) Dorsal anterior, live specimen B) Dorsal anterior of live specimen, arrow showing blue colouration C) Dorsal view of maxillary apparatus, D) Pectinate anodont chaetae E) Middle chaetiger with branchia, F) Pectinate isodont chaetae, G) Pectinate anodont chaetae. Scale bars: A & B= 5mm, C = 2mm, D, F & G = 50 μ m, E = 0.25mm. A = MB-A090326, B = MB-A090328, C = MB-A090274, D, F - G = MB-A090273.

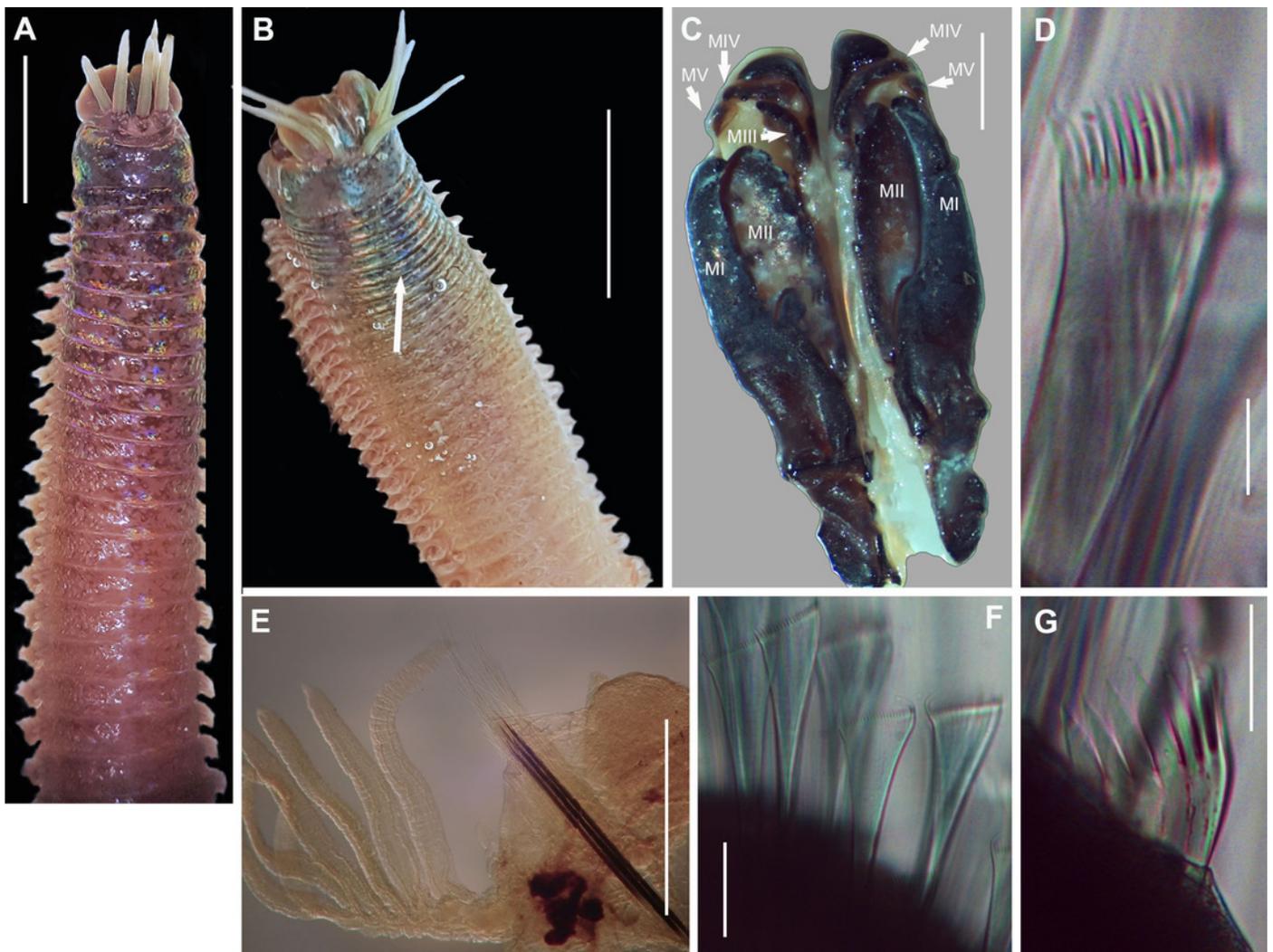


Figure 18

Morphology of *Lysidice natalensis*.

Figure 18. *Lysidice natalensis* Kinberg, 1865. A) Dorsal of head, live specimen, B) Chaetiger 5, anterior view, C) Compound falciger of chaetiger 5, D) Compound falciger of chaetiger 28, E) Chaetiger 28, anterior view F) Limbate and comb (white arrowheads) chaetae of chaetiger 28, G) Acicula hook of chaetiger 28, H) Posterior chaetiger. Scale bars: A = 1mm, B, E, H = 0.5mm, C, D, F, G = 0.05mm. A - H = MB-A090291.

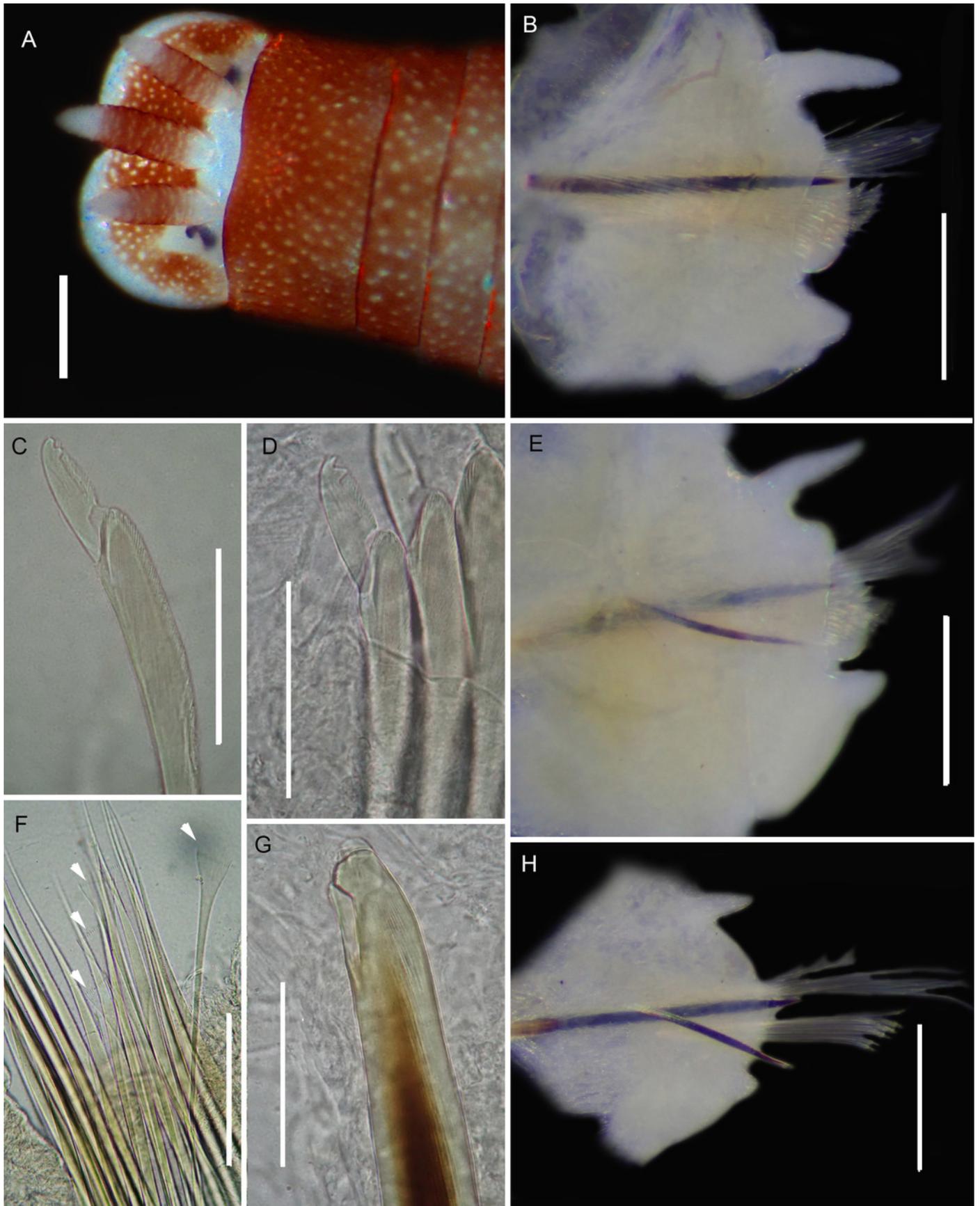


Figure 19

Morphology of *Heptaceras quinquedens*

Figure 19. *Heptaceras quinquedens* (Day, 1951). A) Dorsal anterior of preserved specimen showing peristomial notch flanking prostomial ridge, laterally curving peristomial cirri and iridescent shine that remains after preservation, B) Dorsal anterior of live specimen, insert shows freckled spots on anterior dorsum, C) Ventral anterior of preserved specimen, D) Lateral anterior view of preserved specimen showing cylindrical shape of modified parapodia and progression of ventral cirri from subulate to globular form, E) Dorsal view of live specimen from chaetiger 11 – 92 showing fading of colouration from anterior to middle of body, F) Lateral view of live mid-section, G) Bidentate and tridentate falcigers, with minor third tooth encircled, H) Dorsal cirri from chaetiger 82 with small basal process encircled, I) Bidentate acicular chaetae, J) Pectinate chaetae. DC = Dorsal cirri, BR = Branchiae, VCS = Ventral cirri subulate form, VCG = Ventral cirri globular form, C5 = Chaetiger five. Scale bars: A = 1mm; B, C, D, F = 5mm; E = 10mm; G, I = 0.1mm; J = 5 μ m. A, D, H = MB-A090434; B, E, F = MB-A090442; C, G, J = MB-A090424.

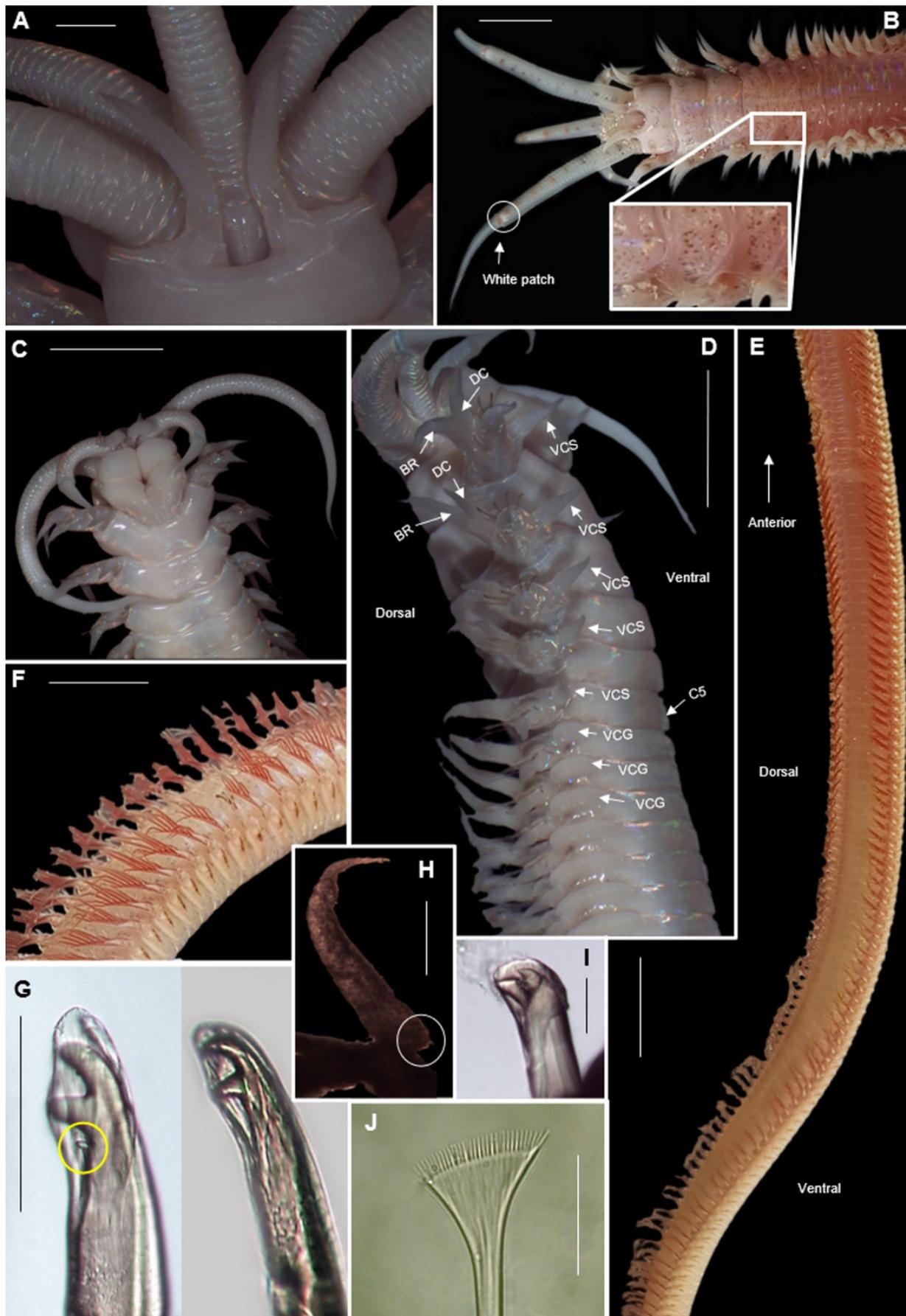


Figure 20

Morphology of *Platynereis latipalpa*

Figure 20. *Perinereis latipalpa* (Schmarda, 1861). A) Anterior region (dorsal), B) Middle region showing red colouration on segments (dorsal), C) Everted pharynx showing Areas 1, 2, 3, 4 (antero-ventral), D) Everted pharynx showing Areas V and VI (dorsal), E) Everted pharynx showing Areas VII-VIII (ventro-lateral), F) Heterogomph spinigers (heS) and homogomph spinigers (hoS) with enlarged teeth at base, G) Heterogomph falcigers with finely serrated blade. Scale bars: A & B, D = 5mm, C & E = 2mm, F - G = 0.1 mm.

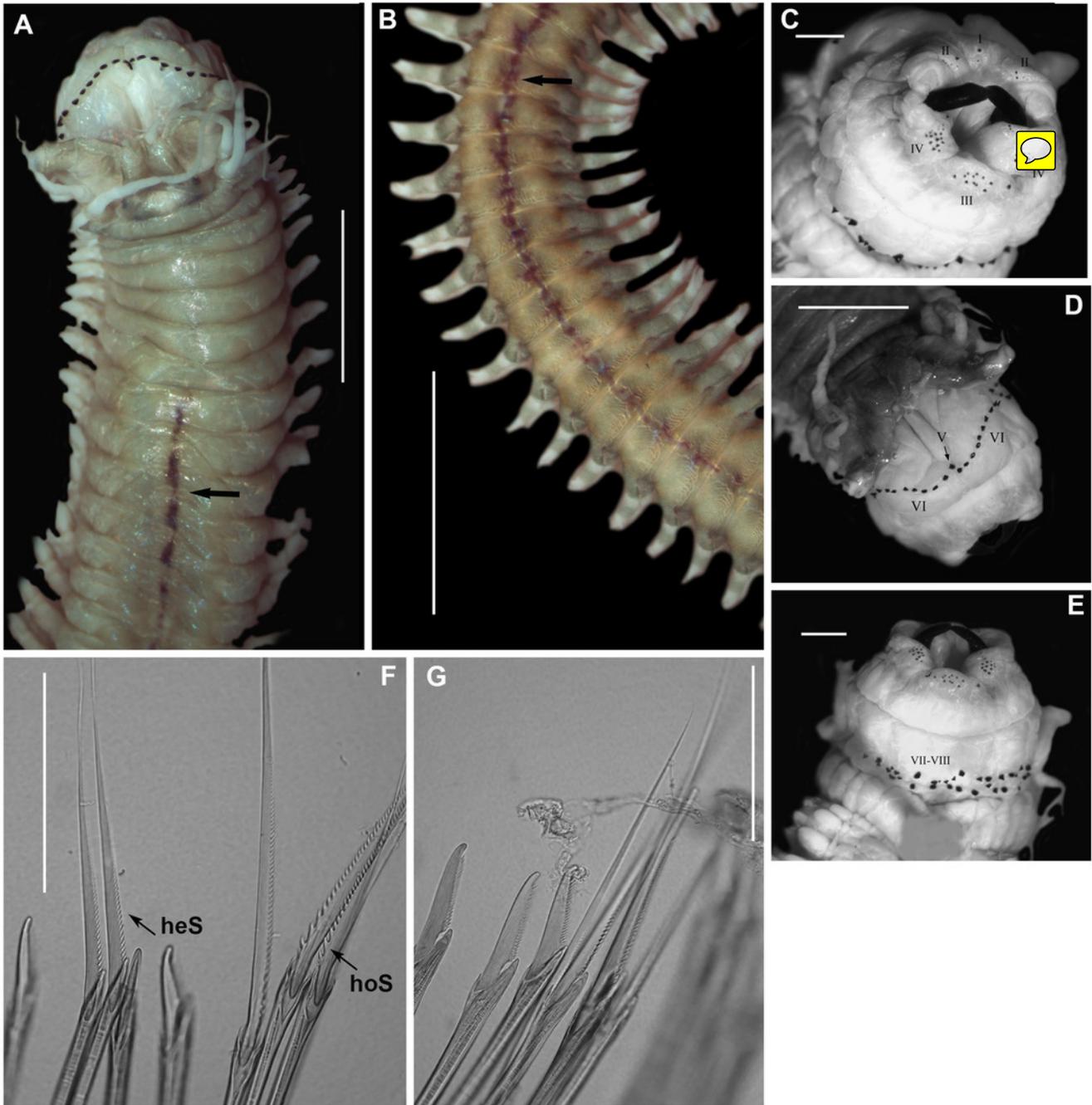


Figure 21

Morphology of *Pseudonereis podocirra*

Figure 21. *Pseudonereis podocirra* (Schmarda, 1861). A) Anterior region (dorsal), B) Posterior region, (dorsal), C) Paragnaths on pharynx, Areas I - VIII, D) Compound falciger with serrated blade, E) Compound spiniger with serrated blade, F) 30th chaetiger (dorsal). Scale bars: A - C = 2mm, D & E = 0.1mm, F = 1mm.

