
Opisthobranch molluscs of the Northern Black Sea. I. Short history of studies and the first record of a non-indigenous nudibranch species *Trinchesia perca* (Er. Marcus, 1958) (Nudibranchia: Tergipedidae)

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ABSTRACT. The history of studies on opisthobranch molluscs of the Northern Black Sea are critically reviewed. Data on opisthobranch distribution and ecology are given, some taxonomical problems are discussed. A non-indigenous, warm-water Atlantic tergipedid species *Trinchesia perca* (Er. Marcus, 1958) (= *Cuthona perca*) is recorded in the Black Sea for the first time. Morphological and ecological data on the Black Sea specimens of *T. perca* are provided. Taxonomy and distribution of *T. perca* are discussed. This paper begins a series of reviews of opisthobranchs of the Northern Black Sea, based on newly collected material and critical revision of previous records.

One of the characteristic features of the Black Sea opisthobranchs (especially shellless groups) is their apparent rarity and difficulty to collect. To date, 18 species of Opisthobranchia are known from the Northern Black Sea along Georgian, Russian and Ukrainian coasts [Milaschewitsch, 1916; Martynov, 2006 a,b]. Northern Black Sea is the oldest region of the marine biological studies, and opisthobranch molluscs were documented there already in the middle 19th century [Sovinsky, 1904]. Despite the long history of study, a considerable part of our knowledge on the opisthobranchs of the Northern Black Sea is based in fact on a single list published in the 19th century and still scarcely confirmed by recent findings.

A series of works by Nordmann [1844, 1845, 1846, 1850] appeared between initial studies of Pallas [1788] and the new period of researches on Russian nudibranchs started in the 1890s. The Nordmann's monographs on natural history and embryonic development of a common Black Sea tergipedid species, *Tergipes tergipes* (Forsskål, 1775) (under the name *T. edwardsii* Nordmann, 1844) also included a description of another common amphi-

boreal species, *Tenellia adspersa* (Nordmann, 1845) that was largely neglected until Roginskaya [1970] reestablished the name. Ulyanin [1872] and Schmankevich [1873] further reported on presence of both species in the Black Sea.

Sofia Pereyaslavtzeva, an enthusiastic scientist and the second director of the Sevastopol Biological Station, published in 1891 a work on the Black Sea invertebrates, including a short list of the opisthobranchs from the Black Sea. It consisted of 7 species and was based exclusively on her ten-year personal observations in Sevastopol Bay [Pereyaslavtzeva, 1891]. It was the first list of Opisthobranchia for the Russian part of the Black Sea and probably for the entire Black Sea as well. In the same work Pereyaslavtzeva for the first time described the most aberrant, worm-shaped interstitial nudibranch, as a new genus and species *Pseudovermis paradoxus*. Pereyaslavtzeva collected opisthobranchs mostly in a single bay, called in that time Boen Bay. This bay lies at the entrance of Sevastopol harbor, and now its landscape is considerably changed by construction of a long massive pier. Therefore, it is difficult to compare correctly the recent list of opisthobranchs of this bay with Pereyaslavtzeva's records. However, in neighboring bay *Tergipes tergipes* and *Tenellia adspersa* were found recently on the *Obelia longissima* (Pallas, 1766) in *Mytilus galloprovincialis* Lamarck, 1819 fouling community. Since Pereyaslavtzeva, with exception of *Pseudovermis paradoxus*, did not mention the diagnostic features of newly discovered nudibranchs species, there are serious doubts in correction of her identifications. For instance, two common British species of the genus *Trinchesia* (recorded by Pereyaslavtzeva as *Eolis amoena* Alder et Hancock, 1845 and *Eolis olivacea* Alder et Hancock, 1842) might potentially have been easily misidentified with several Mediterranean species of that genus, described only in the 1960s.