

Table S4. Cnidae from column of at least three *Pachycerianthus multiplicatus* showing number (n), abundance of measured cnidae, mean values of (range length) x mean values of (range width) and mean values of length/width in μm . Congruent cnidae recorded by Carlgren (1940) and den Hartog (1977) are noted.

CNIDA TYPES and subtypes	n	Abundance	Mean (range length) x mean (range width) in μm	Length/width mean in μm	Carlgren 1940 Recorded cnidae <i>Pachycerianthus multiplicatus</i>	den Hartog 1977 Recorded cnidae <i>Pachycerianthus curacaoensis</i>
b-MASTIGOPHORES		abundant				spirulae, spirulae 2, common
Small, broad	6	se	18.9 (15.0-24.0) x 3.8 (3.5-4.5)	4.99		rare-common, 20.3 (17.2-25.1) x 4.1 (4-4.6)
Small, narrow	1	se	24.0 x 3.0	7.18		
Medium, broad, shaft short to long	93	xxx	39.4 (29.0-47.0) x 7.5 (5.5-12.0)	5.35	41-50 x 5-6	rare-common, 38 (35.6-43.6) x 7.5 (6.6-9.2)
Medium, narrow, shaft long	23	x	30.8 (25.0-39.5) x 4.9 (3.0-6.5)	6.39		common, 35.8 (33-38.9) x 5.6 (5-5.9)
Large, elongate, tiny "Faltstück"	6	se	51.4 (50.0-54.0) x 7.4 (5.5-9.0)	7.08	rare, 60 x 10	
ISORHIZAS		seldom			not mentioned	homotrichs, rather common
Medium, broad	11	abs-se	46.35 (44.0-49.0) x 12.2 (8.5-15.0)	4.0		
Large, broad	18	se	70.9 (62.0-79.5) x 15.8 (10.5-20.0)	4.6		rare-common, 56.8 (53.4-60.7) x 18.1 (15.2-21.1)
Very large, broad	28	abs-se	86.5 (81.0-96.5) x 16.8 (14.5-19.0)	5.1		
SPIROCYSTS		seldom				not mentioned
Small to medium, densely coiled	3	se	26.9 (21.0-36.5) x 2.9 (2.5-3.5)	9.1		
Medium, elongate	2	se	41.1 (33.5-49.0) x 6.6 (4.5-9.0)	6.5		
Large, elongate	1	se	61.0 x 7.0	8.9		
PTYCHOCYSTS		dominant			atrichs, very numerous, very varying in size	atrichs, very numerous, rather common
Medium, elongate to drop-shaped	9	se	45.3 (26.0-49.0) x 13.7 (7.5-19.5)	3.4		
Medium, elongate, broad	13	se	45.9 (43.0-49.5) x 13.8 (12.0-15.5)	3.4		rare-common, 32.1 (1.7-33.0) x 9.9 (8.6-11.9)
Medium, elongate, narrow slightly bent	24	x	43.7 (28.0-49.0) x 7.7 (6.0-10.0)	5.8		rare-common, 32.1 (31.7-33) x 9.9 (8.6-11.9)

Medium, apically bent, broad	35	xxx	44.2 (37.5-50.0) x 13.0 (10.0-16.5)	3.5		
Medium, apically bent, narrow	5	se	41.6 (33.0-50.0) x 7.1 (5.0-9.5)	5.9		
Large, drop-shaped, broad	79	xxxx	69.0 (52.0-79.0) x 23.0 (16.5-35.5)	3.1		rare-common, 57.2 (49.5-66.0) x 22.3 (17.8-26.4)
Large, drop-shaped, narrow	16	x	63.1 (56.0-70.0) x 14.5 (10.5-16.5)	4.4		
Large, elongate, broad	33	xxx	56.3 (50.0-68.5) x 12.5 (9.5-19.0)	5.0		rare-common, 57.2 (49.5-66.0) x 22.3 (17.8-26.4)
Large, elongate, narrow	21	xx	57.3 (50.0-69.5) x 8.3 (7.0-9.5)	7.0		
Large, apically bent, broad	51	xxx	61.4 (51.0-76.5) x 14.8 (11.0-20.0)	4.2		
Large, apically bent, narrow	38	xx	58.5 (50.5-67.5) x 9.5 (6.0-11.5)	6.3		
Very large, drop shaped	10	x	86.1 (80.0-101.5) x 30.9 (26.5-38.5)	2.8	up to 113 x 43	
Very large, broad	1	se	85.3 x 29.4	2.9	up to 113 x 43	

Abbreviations: *n*, number of measured cnidae; *, micro- to mesobasic shaft. Increased cnida abundance shown by; seldom, present, common, abundant, dominant represented by se, x, xx, xxx, xxxx; Approximate capsule size ranges (length x width) in μm are given for: small ($\leq 25.0 \times 3.0$ -5.5); medium (25.0-49.9 x 3.0-13.0), large (50.0-80.0 x 6.0-35.0), very large (80.0-110.0 x 15.0-46.0) cnidae. Given size ranges might slightly overlap. Blank cell, no cnida observation. Dominating or characteristic cnida subtypes are marked in bold.