

Table S5. Cnidae from actinopharynx of three *Pachycerianthus multiplicatus* specimens showing for each cnida subtype numbers (n) and abundance of measured cnidae, mean values of (range length) x mean values of (range width) and mean vales 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 Stomodeum <i>Pachycerianthus curacaoensis</i>
b-MASTIGOPHORES		abundant				spirulae. spirulae 1, 2, common
Small, long shaft	2	se	20.3 (17.0-24.0) x 3.8 (3.5-4.0)	5.33		rather common, 24.0 (21.0-26.4) x 3.8 (3.0-3.4)
Medium, broad	63	xxx	38.0 (26.5-49.5) x 6.1 (4.0-10.0)	6.29	34.0-38.0 x 5.0-6.0	common, 34.3 (27.1-41.6) x 6.3 (5.3-7.3)
Medium, broad, tiny "Faltstück"	64	xxx	39.0 (26.0-49.5) x 6.6 (5.0-9.5)	6.08	43.0-58.0 x 6.0-7.5	
Medium, narrow	10	se	33.3 (26.5-36.0) x 4.3 (3.0-5.0)	7.87	31.0-34.0 x about 4	rather common, 22.6 (20.5-27.1) x 3.4 (3.3-3.6)
Large, elongate, tiny "Faltstück"	81	xxxx	58.2 (50.0-69.5) x 8.9 (6.5-12.0)	6.68	43.0-58.0 x 6.0-7.5	
ISORHIZAS	0	not found	no information			
SPIROCYSTS		present				spirocysts, uncommon
Small, broad	3	se	20.1 (15.5-24.5) x 3.6 (3.5-4.0)	5.5		
Small, narrow	1	se	20.5 x 3.8	5.4		
Small to medium, densely coiled	2	se	29.6 (27.5-31.50) x 3.7 (3.7-3.7)	8.0		
Medium, elongate	8	x	42.1 (37.0-49.5) x 5.8 (4.5-7.0)	6.0		
Large, broad	6	se	65.2 (59.5-71.0) x 10.4 (9.0-12.0)	6.3		
Large, elongate	16	xx	60.2 (52.5-69.5) x 8.6 (5.0-10.0)	7.2		
PTYCHOCYSTS		abundant			atrichs, numerous	atrichs, common
Medium, drop-shaped	4	se	38.7 (34.1-42.5) x 13.1 (10.5-16.0)	3.0		
Medium, elongate, slightly bent	71	xxxx	45.2 (38.0-50.0) x 6.9 (5.5-9.5)	6.5	43.0-58.0 x 5.5-6.0	30.8 (29.0-34.3) x 6.3 (5.3-7.3)
Medium, elongate, apically bent	4	se	49.9 (41.0-49.5) x 10.7 (9.5-14.0)	4.3		
Large, drop-shaped, broad	15	x	67.1 (60.0-71.5) x 25.6 (24.5-27.5)	2.6		
Large, drop-shaped, narrow	5	se	58.2 (53.0-64.5) x 14.4 (13.0-15.5)	4.1		
Large, elongate slightly bent	62	xxxx	53.0 (50.0-61.77) x 7.5 (5.5-9.0)	7.1	43.0-58.0 x 5.5-6.0	
Very large, drop-shaped	6	se	87.3 (76.0-100) x 31.5 (21.5-38.0)	2.8		

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 $\times$ 3.0-13.0), large (50.0-80.0 $\times$ 6.0-35.0), very large (80.0-110.0 $\times$ 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.