Boloceroides mcmurrichi (Kwietniweski, 1898)

Boloceroides mcmurrichi is looking like an untidy mop, this anemone is sometimes seen in sea grass areas on many of our shores. It is possibly seasonal. Sometimes, large numbers are seen (up to 10-20 animals in a trip) and then none at all. Maximum length is 2 cm in Persian Gulf (Iran, Kish Island). Tiny swimming anemones may sometimes be confused with Sea grass anemones which have translucent tentacles with tiny spots. The swimming anemone harbors symbiotic single-celled algae (zooxanthellae). The algae undergo photosynthesis to produce food from sunlight. The food produced is shared with the sea anemone, which in return provides the algae with shelter and minerals. The oral disk and tentacle muscles are used to obtain, retain, and ingest prey; in B. mcmurrichi tentacles can autotomize if it is needed to evade a predator. Tentacles can control body form by use of their endodermal muscles. Retractors are longitudinal muscles that will aid in withdrawing tentacles and the oral disk if they are exposed to the open air. This hypothesis is furthered because in comparison to other sea anemones, B. mcmurrichi is loosely attached to its respective substrate, thus allowing the pedal disk to detach quickly resulting in a rapid swimming response. B. mcmurrichi can reproduce both sexually and asexually. As Anthozoans, B. mcmurrichi produce sexually by bypassing the medusa life cycle stage; this allows B. mcmurrichi (and all Anthozoans) to release their egg and sperm creating planula a bilaterally symmetrical, flattened, ciliated, motile larva.

Feeding: For some coelenterates the feeding response is controlled by a specific amino acid, in particular for sea anemones of the B. mcmurrichi their feeding pathway is controlled by the amino acid valine.

Distribution: B. mcmurrichi found solitarily or in small groups among coastal algal reefs. We report B. mcmurrichi for the first time from Persian Gulf (Kish Island). This species widely distributed in the Indo-West Pacific from Red Sea, it can also be found off the coast of Africa and South America, west and east the coast of Australia.

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Cnidaria
Class: Anthozoa
Order: Actiniaria
Infraorder: Boloceroidaria
Family: Boloceroididae
Genus: Boloceroides
Species: B. mcmurrichi

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