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First occurrence of the larval stage of *Vibilia propinqua* Stebbing, 1888 (Hyperiidia, Amphipoda) as an associate of *Pyrosoma atlanticum* Péron, 1804

RIERA, R., R. HERRERA, L. MORO & J. MARTÍN-BARRIOS (2015). Primer registro del estado larvario de *Vibilia propinqua* Stebbing, 1888 (Hyperiidia, Amphipoda) asociado a *Pyrosoma atlanticum* Péron, 1804. *VIERAEA* 43: 325-327.

The specific taxonomic characteristics of *Vibilia propinqua* Stebbing, 1888 are the antennae 1 with flagellum slightly narrower or equal in width to peduncle and pereopod 7 with narrow basis and telson pointed (Zeidler, 2003 [*Zootaxa*, 280: 1-104]). This species could be considered cosmopolitan since it has been collected all over the world, from the Tasman Sea to the North Atlantic, with the exception of both polar oceans. The hyperiid *Vibilia propinqua* was previously recorded in the Canary archipelago as well as four additional *Vibilia* species (*V. armata*, *V. australis*, *V. stebbingi* and *V. viatrix*) were recorded from “Challenger” and “Discovery” surveys during Challenger expeditions (1873-1876) and Sond cruise (1965) (Lozano-Soldevilla & Fernández-Fernández, 1991 [Bol. Museo Municipal do Funchal, 43: 149-158]).

Formerly, the larval biology of *V. propinqua* was described by Laval (1963) [*Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires des Séances de l'Académie des Sciences*, 257, 1-4]. The larval stages of the studied species has been recorded exclusively in association with several species of salps (Madin & Harbison, 1977 [*Deep-Sea Research*, 24, 449–463]; Larval, (1980) [*Oceanography and Marine Biology, Annual Review*, 18, 11–56]), such as, *Salpa fusiformis*, *S. maxima*, *S. cylindrica*, *Thalia democratica*, *Ihlea punctata* and *Pegea confoederta*.

The studied material was recorded in La Caleta (Tenerife, Canary Islands) (UTM coordinates: 364225x / 3128021y), September 24th 2011, inside a specimen of *Pyrosoma atlanticum* Péron, 1804 at 15 m depth. The material consisted of a 11.5 mm-long gravid female, with 108 larvae ranging from 0.4 to 0.5 mm long.



Figure 1.- (A-D) Adult female of *Vibia propinqua*. **A.** Lateral view. **B.** Dorsal view. Ventral view. **D.** Anterior end. **E.** Larvae.

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