

# An updated checklist of the sipunculans (Phylum Sipuncula) of Cuba

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Members of the phylum Sipuncula (peanut worms) are worm-shaped and inhabit the marine benthos. They generally burrow into sand or mud, into coralline rock or inhabit abandoned mollusc shells. Their geographic distribution ranges from the polar seas to the tropics and their depth range spans from the intertidal zone to 6860 m (Edmonds, 2000).

The first sipunculan reported from Cuba was *Aspidosiphon speciosus* (= *Aspidosiphon laevis*) (Gerould, 1913). More recently Murina (1967a, 1967b, 1968) reported additional sipunculan diversity in Cuban waters. Other records are from Edmonds (1974), who described the interstitial species *Aspidosiphon exiguus*. In general, knowledge about this group in Cuba is very poor.

The objective of this paper is to provide an updated checklist of the sipunculans recorded for Cuban waters.

## METHODS AND MATERIALS

The list was assembled using all known publications on Cuban sipunculans and specimens deposited in Cuban collections. The taxonomy follows the latest revisions by Cutler (1994). Cutler's (1994) revision was preceded by revisions of specific genera: Cutler and Cutler (1983), of the genus *Antillesoma*; Cutler and Cutler (1985a), *Sipunculus*; Cutler and Cutler (1985b) of *Phascolion*; Cutler and Cutler (1986) of *Nephasoma*; Cutler and Cutler (1987), of *Golfingia*; Cutler and Cutler (1988) of *Themiste*; Cutler and Cutler (1989) of *Aspidosiphon* and Cutler and Cutler (1990) of *Phascolosoma*.

## Checklist of sipunculans from Cuba

### Phylum Sipuncula

#### Class Phascolosomatidea

##### Order Aspidosiphoniformes

###### Family Aspidosiphonidae Baird, 1868

###### Genus *Aspidosiphon* Diesing, 1851

*Aspidosiphon* (*Akrikos*) *albus* Murina, 1967

*Aspidosiphon* (*Aspidosiphon*) *exiguus* Edmonds, 1974

*Aspidosiphon* (*Aspidosiphon*) *elegans* (Chamisso and Eysenhardt, 1821)

*Aspidosiphon* (*Paraspidosiphon*) *fischeri* ten Broeke, 1925

*Aspidosiphon* (*Paraspidosiphon*) *laevis* Quatrefages, 1865

*Aspidosiphon* (*Paraspidosiphon*) *parvulus* Gerould, 1913

Genus *Litacrosiphon* Shipley, 1902

*Litacrosiphon cristatus* Sluiter, 1902

#### Order Phascolosomatiformes

##### Family Phascolosomatidae Stephen and Edmonds, 1972

Genus *Antillesoma* Stephen and Edmonds, 1972

*Antillesoma antillarum* (Grübe and Oersted, 1858)

Genus *Apionsoma* Sluiter, 1902

*Apionsoma* (*Apionsoma*) *misakianum* (Ikeda, 1904)

Genus *Phascolosoma* Leuckart, 1828

*Phascolosoma perlucens* Baird, 1868

*Phascolosoma nigrescens* (Keferstein, 1865)

#### Class Sipunculidea

##### Order Golfingiiformes

###### Family Golfingiidae Stephen and Edmonds, 1972

Genus *Golfingia* Lankaster, 1885

*Golfingia elongata* (Keferstein, 1863)

Genus *Nephasoma* Pergament, 1946

*Nephasoma abyssorum abyssorum* (Koren and Danielssen, 1875)

*Nephasoma multiaraneusa* (Murina, 1967)

*Nephasoma pellucidum* (Keferstein, 1867)

###### Family Phascolionidae Cutler and Gibbs, 1985

Genus *Phascolion* Théel, 1875

*Phascolion strombus* (Montagu, 1804)

###### Family Themistidae Cutler and Gibbs, 1985

Genus *Themiste* Gray, 1828

*Themiste* (*Themiste*) *alutacea* (Grübe and Oersted, 1858)

#### Order Sipunculiformes

##### Family Sipunculidae Stephen and Edmonds, 1972

Genus *Siponosoma* Spengel, 1912

*Siponosoma cumanense* (Keferstein, 1867)

Genus *Sipunculus* Linnaeus, 1766

*Sipunculus nudus* Linnaeus, 1766

## DISCUSSION

The majority of Cuban sipunculan species are geographically widespread throughout the Caribbean and beyond, but two species are only known from Cuba. The first of these, *Aspidosiphon exiguus* is a small interstitial species and might have been overlooked in other localities. The second, *Nephasoma multiaraneusa* is only known from a single specimen. Cutler (1994) expresses doubt that the species is actually valid.

Of all known Caribbean countries, Cuba seems to have the highest diversity of sipunculan species.

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