

Old specimens establish a new bamboo worm genus and species

July 6 2016



Maldanidae are an easily recognizable family of bristle worms. Their common name they receive because of their elongated segments, ending with an appendage, which gives them the joint appearance of slender bamboo-shoots.
Credit: Yueyun Wang

Bamboo worms (family Maldanidae) comprise an easily recognizable family of bristle worms (class Polychaeta). Their common name they receive because of their elongated segments, ending with an appendage,

which gives them the joint appearance of slender bamboo-shoots. These often fragile marine inhabitants can be found in mud-walled tubes in shelf sediments.

However, bamboo [worms](#) are tough to identify from each other. The problem is that to safely recognize them, a researcher needs both anterior and posterior ends from the same specimen. Nevertheless, now PhD student Wang Yueyun and Dr Li Xinzheng from the Marine Biological Museum, Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences have discovered two [new species](#) and a new [genus](#) (*Paramaldane*). The new bamboo worms are described in the open access journal *ZooKeys*.

Several specimens of the new genus were found during re-examination of specimens collected from South China Sea between 1959 to 1962. The [new genus](#) is characterized by the collar-like glandular band on the sixth chaetiger. This is the first discovery of a collar-like structure in the subfamily of Maldaninae. Moreover, there is only one [species](#) in this genus till now.

Another discovery, published in the present study, is the second new species, called *Maldane adunca*, which belongs to another genus within the family. It is similar to the cosmopolitan species *Maldane sarsi*, yet the differences are clear. The shape of its nuchal grooves, a kind of sense organ, is much more curved, thus resembling hooks. Therefore, it is called *adunca*, meaning 'hooked' in Latin.

Both new species are only found in mud sediment of offshore waters of Hainan Island.

More information: Yueyun Wang et al, A new Maldane species and a new Maldaninae genus and species (Maldanidae, Annelida) from coastal waters of China, *ZooKeys* (2016). [DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.603.9125](https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.603.9125)

Provided by Pensoft Publishers

Citation: Old specimens establish a new bamboo worm genus and species (2016, July 6) retrieved 12 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-07-specimens-bamboo-worm-genus-species.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.