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Scientific note

A deep water pycnogonid close to the beach: *Colossendeis macerrima* Hoek, 1881 spotted at 18 m in the Chilean fjords

(Chelicerata, Pycnogonida, Colossendeidae)

Günter Försterra*, Vreni Häussermann*, Roland R. Melzer** & Andrea Weis**

Pycnogonida of the family Colossendeidae are in general deep sea inhabitants only exceptionally reported from depths less than 100 m. A face to face encounter with a *Colossendeis* during a scuba dive is therefore a singular experience. In the framework of the expeditions organized by the Huinay Scientific Field Station to create an inventory of Southern Chilean benthic communities and species (e.g. Häussermann & Försterra 2009), a specimen of *Colossendeis macerrima* (ZSM collection number ZSMA20130110) was spotted at a depth of only 18.3 m on a rocky slope at Canal Farquhar (−48.52S, −74.24W) during the “HF13 – Puerto Eden” expedition to the Central Patagonian Zone. *C. macerrima* has a recorded range of depth between 121 and 4000 m, and in the Chilean fjord region this species was previously found at approx. 500 m (summarized in Weis & Melzer 2012). Thus, this is the only record from the upper in-

fralitoral and euphotic zone. Earlier records of deep water species from various benthic marine groups in the upper part of the water column have been suggested to indicate deep water emergence, a special feature of the Chilean fjords (Försterra & Häussermann 2003).

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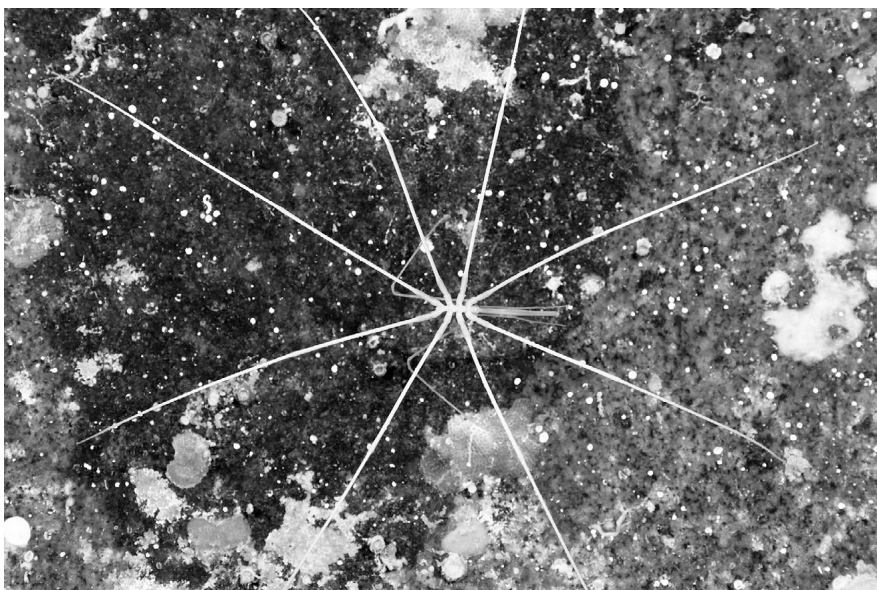


Fig. 1. *Colossendeis macerrima* Hoek, 1881 at a depth of 18 m in Canal Farquhar.

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