



Pôster – Evolução e biogeografia

Disentangling *Astrangia* (Scleractinia, Rhizangiidae)

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Belonging within the family Rhizangiidae (Cnidaria, Anthozoa), the genus *Astrangia* is composed by 15 recent species of which two are recorded in Brazil. In general, the taxonomy of its representatives has been presenting several challenges towards morphological characterization and, consequently, the nomenclature of these species. Although *Astrangia rathbuni* is the only officially reported species through the coast of São Paulo state, sightings of these corals in situ suggest that at least three species of the genus occur sympatrically in the northern shores of São Paulo state as they present distinct changes in their colonial shape and color. Therefore, in order to deepen our knowledge on the most abundant scleractinian corals of São Paulo coast, 32 specimens of potential astrangiids corals were collected mostly around the Arquipélago de Alcatrazes area and analyzed through integrative systematics, including morphology and genetic analysis. The morphological analysis suggested the occurrence of two more species that have never been officially reported previously in the area, *A. solitaria* and one more species that is being called *A. sp.* as the study continues. However, despite the morphological characters suggesting the occurrence of three species, evolutionary reconstructions using the 28S rDNA molecular marker has not shown the support for the morphological analysis as the marker didn't present the precision required to distinguish three different clades within the genus. More studies on the 16S rDNA molecular marker are being carried out.

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