

First insights into marine invasions along the Namibian coast

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Supplementary Material

Details of the taxa reported as alien and cryptogenic from Namibia

Porifera

The cryptogenic sponge, *Hymeniacidon perlevis* Montagu, 1814, was recorded at Lüderitz in 1969 (Penrith & Kensley 1970a), Möwe Bay in the Kunene region in 2014 (Kreiner 2014) and at Swakopmund in 2019 (Kreiner et al. 2019a). It is a common sponge that occupies a wide variety of coastal habitats across most ocean basins (Turner 2020). Hull fouling has been suggested as a likely mechanism of introduction of this species (Schwindt et al. 2020). The sea orange, *Suberites ficus* Johnston, 1842 (alien) was collected at Black rock, Lüderitz in 1998 (Samaai & Gibbons 2005). It is native to the northeast Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea, and alien on the west coast of South Africa (Samaai & Gibbons 2005). The bread sponge, *Halichondria panicea* Pallas, 1766 (alien) was recorded in Lüderitz in the Ikaras region (Samaai & Gibbons 2005). Its persistence was confirmed in 2024 when it was noted in the intertidal zone of Shear water Bay in Lüderitz (Kelp Blue 2024). This sponge is native to the North Atlantic and has a wide alien distribution from Iceland to the Mediterranean, northern Canada to New England and North Pacific (Erpenbeck & Van Soest 2002). The suggested mechanism of introduction for this species is hull fouling. (Schwindt et al. 2020).

Cnidaria

The wiry hydroid *Amphisbetia operculata* Linnaeus, 1758 (cryptogenic) was collected during an intertidal fauna survey at Diaz Point in Lüderitz (Penrith & Kensley 1970a). This hydroid is cryptogenic along the southwestern Atlantic (Schwindt et al. 2020) as well as along the Chilean southern Pacific coast (Leclerc et al. 2020) but is recognized as alien in Australia (Ruiz

et al. 2000). The suggested mechanisms of introduction are shipping related, i.e. hull fouling and ballast water (Schwindt et al. 2020). The pink hydroid, *Coryne eximia* Allman, 1859 (alien) was reported as *Sarsia eximia* Allman, 1859 from Lüderitz (Millard 1975). While this species has a circum-global distribution (Schuchert 2005), the suggested origin is either the North Atlantic or the North Pacific (Mead et al. 2011b). This hydroid is considered alien in the Tunisian part of the Mediterranean Sea (Amor et al. 2016), along the South African coast (Robinson et al. 2016) and the Chilean part of south Pacific Ocean (Leclerc et al. 2020). The plumed hydroid, *Plumularia setacea* Linnaeus, 1758 (cryptogenic), was reported in Namibia from the Kunene River mouth south to Möwe Bay, Henties Bay, Swakopmund, Walvis Bay and Lüderitz (Penrith & Kensley 1970a, Penrith & Kensley 1970b; Gili et al. 1989). This represents a range of more than 812km. This species is thought to have been introduced by hull fouling (Schwindt et al. 2020). The sea thread hydroid, *Obelia dichotoma* Linnaeus, 1758 (cryptogenic) was recorded in the Kunene, Erongo and Ikaras regions (Penrith & Kensley 1970b; Millard 1975; Kensley & Penrith 1980; Gili et al. 1989) while the congener *Obelia geniculata* Linnaeus, 1758 (alien) is known only from Lüderitz (Millard 1975; Gili et al. 1989) in the Ikaras region. Both species are common on kelps and ships hulls but can be distinguished by the presence of a thickened stem below the hydrotheca of *O. geniculata* (Schuchert 2001). The cross-jelly hydroid, *Ptychogena crocea* Kramp & Damas, 1925 (alien) was recorded as *Stegopoma plicatile* Sars, 1863 in Lüderitz (Gili et al. 1989). This hydroid is native to the North Atlantic Ocean (Van der Land et al. 2001) and has been reported from east and west Pacific (Schuchert 2001, Schuchert et al. 2017).

Annelida

The only alien polychaete known from Namibia, *Polydora websteri* Hartman in Loosanoff & Engle, 1943 has been recorded on cultured oysters in Swakopmund (Williams 2015; Rodewald et al. 2021). As the oysters are grown directly in the coastal environment the polychaete is accepted as introduced. Namibian individuals of this species share haplotypes with populations from South Africa (Rodewald et al. 2021). *Polydora websteri* is the second most wide-spread polydorid pest of mollusc culture in the world (Rodewald et al. 2021). To date impacts on the Namibian oyster culture industry have not been quantified but elsewhere polydorid pests have had detrimental impacts on aquaculture production (Martinelli et al. 2020) that have led to significant economic losses (Shinn et al. 2015).

Crustacea

Crustaceans known from Namibia include barnacles, tanaids, isopods and amphipods. Of the three species of barnacles that have been reported, only the Pacific barnacle *Balanus glandula* Darwin, 1854 (alien) occurs intertidally. This species is native to the Pacific coast of North America from Baja in California to Alaska (Newman & Abbott 1980) and has invaded other cold temperate regions including Argentina (Schwindt et al. 2020), Japan (Kado 2003), South Africa (Simon-Blecher et al. 2008; Laird & Griffiths 2008) and Atlantic coast of Europe (Kerckhof et al. 2018). The recognition of *B. glandula* in South Africa was delayed as it was confused with the superficially similar native barnacle *Chthamalus dentatus* Krauss, 1848 (Simon-Blecher et al. 2008). There is, however, evidence that it has been in South Africa since at least 1992 (Laird & Griffith 2008). It has recently been recorded in Namibia for the first time (Spencer Bay, Lüderitz (Kreiner et al. 2019b) and the Kunene region (Bezeng & Van der Bank 2019)). Two mechanisms of introduction are possible for this species; ship aided dispersal or natural spread from South Africa (Mead et al. 2011b). The triangle barnacle, *Balanus trigonus* Darwin, 1854 (alien) has a native distribution in the Pacific Ocean and is widely distributed in the Atlantic Ocean (Carlton et al. 2011). It is considered introduced to West Africa (Guinea (Weltner 1897); Congo (Gruvel (1905); Mauritania (Gruvel 1912) and Angola (Gruvel 1912, Pestana et al. 2020)). This barnacle was introduced to South Africa via vessel traffic (Millard 1952). Only one record of *B. trigonus* is known from Great Fish Bay which borders Angola (Stubblings 1967). Follow-up surveys would help to establish if this species has spread from this location.

The cryptogenic tanaidacean *Chondrochelia savignyi* Krøyer, 1842, was reported as *Leptocheilia savignyi* Krøyer, 1842 in Lüderitz, by Penrith & Kensley (1970a). It has been found on the British Columbian coast (Gartner et al. 2016) as well as in the Mediterranean Sea (Koulouri et al. 2020). The most likely mechanism of introduction is hull fouling (Bamber 1977).

The alien amphipod *Ischyrocerus anguipes* Krøyer, 1838 has been recorded at Lüderitz in the south (Penrith & Kensley 1970a) and at Rocky Point, in the north (Kensley & Penrith 1980). It is suggested to be native to the North Atlantic (Mead et al. 2011b) and has been introduced to the north western Atlantic (King & Holmes 2004) as well as South Africa (Griffiths 1974). This amphipod is tube dwelling and attaches to algae, bryozoans, sponges, hydroids (Lippert

et al. 2001), and artificial substrata (Mead et al. 2011b). This species is thought to have been moved around via ballast water and hull fouling (Mead et al. 2011a). The fat feeler amphipod *Monocorophium acherusicum* A. Costa, 1853 (alien) was recorded in Lüderitz as *Corophium acherusicum* A. Costa, 1853 (Penrith & Kensley 1970a). The suggested native range of this species is the North Atlantic (Mead et al. 2011b) while it is considered alien in Argentina (Albano et al. 2013; Schwindt et al. 2014), British Columbia (Gartner et al. 2016) and South Africa (Barnard 1916). In other countries, however, it's regarded as cryptogenic. These include Brazil (Neves & da Rocha 2008), Chile (Pérez-Schultheiss 2009), Hawaii (Carlton & Eldredge 2009), Australia (Hewitt et al. 2004) and New Zealand (Cranfield et al. 1998). Considering its global distribution (Griffiths et al. 2009; Ruiz et al. 2011), this species has most probably been introduced through hull fouling (Albano & Obenat 2019) and ballast water (Gollasch et al. 2000).

The isopods *Synidotea hirtipes* Milne Edwards, 1840 and *Synidotea variegata* Collinge, 1917 are both considered cryptogenic in Namibia and have been reported from the Robert Harbour in Lüderitz (Kensley 1978; Chapman 1999). These isopods are thought to have been dispersed on the hulls of ships (Chapman & Carlton 1994). The isopod *Ligia exotica* Roux, 1828 (alien), commonly known as the sea roach, is a semi-terrestrial isopod that has been reported from Robert Harbour in Lüderitz (Panning 1924). It represents one of the oldest documented introductions of a marine organism (Hurtado et al. 2018). It has a wide tropical and subtropical distribution where it is frequently found in harbours, and ports, and on other man-made structures (Yin et al. 2013). It is considered introduced in South Africa where it is believed to have been introduced by wooden ships and solid ballast (Griffiths et al. 2011). The mangrove boring isopod *Sphaeroma terebrans* Spence Bate, 1866 (alien) was collected from Lüderitz (1911) and was identified much later by Loyola e Silva (1960). Its native region is the Indo-Pacific (Chapman & Carlton 1994) and it was likely introduced to the Atlantic on the hulls of wooden ships before 1850 (Carlton & Ruckelshaus 1997).

Bryozoa

Bryozoans grow on hard surfaces such as rocks, seaweed, oysters, ship hulls, maritime structures, power plant intake pipes, and aquaculture equipment (Xavier et al. 2021). The brown bryozoan, *Bugula neritina* Linnaeus, 1758 (cryptogenic) was collected at Lüderitz (Lim 2004) and is recognized as a species complex (Fehlauer-Ale et al. 2014), but work has not been

completed on the morphological distinction and renaming of taxa in the complex. The *Bugula neritina* complex has been introduced to the southwest Atlantic, the northeast and southwest Pacific (Carlton 1979; Wonham & Carlton 2005), the coast of northern Europe (Ryland 1960) and Hawaii (Carlton & Eldredge 2009). Presently, three species are recognized within the complex. Type S is considered to have a worldwide distribution, while Type D is geographically restricted to California and Type N is restricted to the north-western Atlantic. The identity of the Namibian specimens has not been confirmed. The hairy sea mat *Electra verticillata* Ellis & Solander, 1786 (alien) has a native range in the northeastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean Sea, the Atlantic coast of the Iberian Peninsula and North Africa (Nikulina et al. 2013). In 1969 this bryozoan was recorded at Rocky Point in the Kunene region (Penrith & Kensley 1970b).

Mollusca

The South African abalone *Haliotis midae* Linnaeus, 1758, was introduced to Penguin and Seal Islands in Lüderitz in 2002 for mariculture purposes (Britz et al. 2019). The cultivation of this abalone requires continual stock imports as the species cannot reproduce naturally under Namibian conditions (Faul et al. 2020). As such this abalone is not expected to become established, although how this may be affected by climate change remains unknown. Another gastropod, the periwinkle *Littorina saxatilis* Olivi, 1792 (alien) was recorded. It is an intertidal snail that that was first noted by Reid et al. (1996) in Lüderitz. This record identified the fourth African population of this species. Native to the North Atlantic, introduced populations of this species are known from California (Carlton & Cohen 1998), Italy (Reid et al. 1996), and southern Africa (Mead et al. 2011b).

The South American mussel *Semimytilus patagonicus* (alien) was the first alien bivalve known from Namibia and was recorded in Walvis Bay in the period 1928 – 1931 (Lamy 1931) and later further north at Cape Cross in 1957 (Kensley & Penrith 1970). In 1968 it was reported for the first time in the Kunene region (Kensley & Penrith 1970). It is native to the Pacific coast of South America and has spread to the Atlantic coast of South America (Bigatti et al. 2014) and the western coast of southern Africa (Kensley & Penrith 1980; Mead et al. 2011b; de Greef et al. 2013). This species has thus been in the coastal waters of Namibia for more than 94 years. The Mediterranean mussel *Mytilus galloprovincialis* (alien) was first reported from Lüderitz in 1988, 18 years after it was first noted in South Africa (Hockey & Van Erkom 1992). In 2002,

it was eventually observed much further north at Portuguese Lorry and False Cape Fria, in the Kunene region (Kreiner et al. 2019c). This species is native to the Mediterranean (Gosling 1992) and is widely introduced to all continents, except in Antarctica (Hilbisch et al. 2000). The most rapid invasion by *M. galloprovincialis* took place in southern Africa (Grant & Cherry 1985; Branch and Steffani 2004), where it spread along more than 3,860 km (1,510 km in Namibia and 2,350 km in South Africa) in just 47 years (Ma et al. 2021). It displays an antitropical distribution which is the result of trans-equatorial migration from the northern to the southern hemisphere (Hilbisch et al. 2000). Moreover, it has been reported mostly in ports and harbours so the likely introduction mechanisms are ballast water and hull fouling (Sylvester et al. 2011). *Mytilus galloprovincialis* is known to have negative impacts in its introduced range. It is a dominant space occupier that outcompetes native species (Robinson et al. 2007; Gardner et al. 2012). Other known impacts include hybridisation with congeners, *Mytilus edulis* Linnaeus, 1758 and *Mytilus trossulus* A. Gould, 1850 (Branch & Steffani 2004; Assis et al. 2015) and alteration of community structure of rocky shores (Sadchatheeswaran et al. 2015). Impacts in Namibia have not yet been assessed but likely reflect those documented elsewhere. The Pacific oyster, *Magallana gigas* Thunberg, 1793 is native to Japan and the Pacific coasts of Asia (Herbert et al. 2016) and was first introduced to Namibia for mariculture purposes in the early 1990s (Mann et al. 1991). This species is now farmed in Swakopmund, Walvis Bay and Lüderitz. In 2023 it was documented in the Namibian Islands marine protected area by a citizen scientist (Hooft 2023). While this record was of dead shells, it does highlight the need for field surveys to confirm the extent of the invasion outside of culture facilities. The presence of the naval shipworm *Teredo navalis* Linnaeus, 1758 (alien) in Namibia was noted during the replacement of the wooden jetty in Swakopmund in 1911 (Kalb 2022). Additionally, this mollusc was detected during the excavation of an old shipwreck in Oranjemund in 2008 (Werz 2009; Alves 2011). It is a pest that damages and destroys wooden structures (Treneman et al. 2018). This boring bivalve was one of the earliest introductions in South Africa (Mead et al. 2011b).

Ascidacea

Despite limited natural dispersal ability, they are easily spread at both regional and global scales, through various mechanisms like shipping and as contaminants associated with mariculture (Aldred & Clare 2014). The ascidians reported for Namibia include five alien and one cryptogenic species. The ascidian, *Corella eumyota* Traustedt, 1882 (cryptogenic) also

known as the orange-tipped sea squirt, was recorded in Lüderitz (Michealson 1914). This species is considered cryptogenic due to its circumpolar distribution within the temperate and sub-polar regions (Chile, Antarctic Peninsula, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand (Turon 1988; Lambert 2004)). *Ascidia sydneiensis* Stimpson, 1855, *Asterocarpa humilis* Heller, 1878, the *Diplosoma listerianum* complex Milne Edwards, 1841, and *Ciona robusta* Hoshino & Tokioka, 1967 are alien in Namibia. Except for the sea vase *C. robusta* which is known from the Ikaras, Kunene and Erongo regions, these species have been reported only from Lüderitz. *Ciona robusta*, previously known as *Ciona intestinalis* Linnaeus, 1767 (Brunetti et al. 2015; Pestana et al. 2020), is a solitary ascidian native to the Mediterranean Sea (Ruiz et al. 2011) and is a widespread fouling organism found in harbours and on man-made structures such as docks, pilings, boats, and aquaculture gear (Fitridge et al. 2012). The solitary tunicate, *A. sydneiensis* (alien), was first reported at Agate Beach in Lüderitz (Penrith & Kensley 1970a). It is native to the Indo-Pacific and has been introduced via shipping (Carlton & Eldredge 2009) to the Southwestern Atlantic, Southeast Pacific (Kott 1985) and South Africa (Monniot et al. 2001; Peters et al. 2017). The compass sea squirt *A. humilis* Heller, 1878 (alien), previously known as *Styela asymmetra* Hartmeyer, 1912, was first reported from Lüderitz by Michaelsen (1914). It has a wide distribution in the Southern Hemisphere (southeast Pacific (Chile: Kott 1985; Pinochet et al. 2017), southeast Atlantic (South Africa: (Monniot et al. 2001; Mead et al. 2011b; Peters et al. 2017) and southwest Atlantic (Argentina: (Schwindt et al. 2020)). Introduction of this ascidian is associated with hull fouling and mariculture (Bishop et al. 2013; Leclerc et al. 2020). The jelly crust colonial tunicate, *D. listerianum* Milne Edwards, 1841 is a recognised species complex (Rocha et al. 2021) and is native to the northeast Atlantic (Milne-Edwards 1841), but has a widespread alien distribution in Canada (Ma et al. 2018), the Caribbean (Rocha & Costa 2005), the Mediterranean (Brunetti et al. 1988), Southwestern Atlantic (Schwindt et al. 2014; 2020) and South Africa (Monniot et al. 2001; Mead et al. 2011b). In Namibia it was first reported from Lüderitz by Michaelsen (1914) and was probably introduced via fouling as in its other invaded ranges (Lambert & Lambert 1998; Mead et al. 2011b). The yellow didemnid, *Polysyncraton bilobatum* Lafargue, 1968 (cryptogenic) was reported from Namibia by Turon (1988) and as with most ascidians, its likely mechanism of introduction is hull fouling. It was noted by Turon (1988) that this species might be a group of morphologically similar species, so further research is needed to clarify the status of this record. The absence of this species in South Africa and Angola could be attributed to lack of research effort.

Chlorophyta

The fine green algae, *Cladophora prolifera* (Roth) Kützing, 1843 (alien) is widespread and has been introduced from the Mediterranean to the southern hemisphere (Hewitt et al. 2004). It is reported by Branch et al. (2022) as widely distributed along the entirety of the Namibian coast.

Ochrophyta

The giant kelp *Macrocystis pyrifera* (Linnaeus) C. Agardh, 1820, is the largest of the brown algae and is native to the Pacific coasts of North and South America (Fleischman et al. 2020). This kelp was intentionally introduced to Lüderitz in 2022 for mariculture purposes, with no record of the species in the country before then. It is grown from spores on land, and seedlings are then transplanted into the ocean in Shearwater Bay (Hooft 2023).

Rhodophyta

The red turf algae *Caulacanthus ustulatus* (Turner) Kützing, 1843 (alien) has been reported from Terrace Bay, Möwe Bay, Rocky Point, Torra Bay, Swakopmund and Lüderitz, (Kreiner 2014; 2019) resulting in a range of 280 km. This alga is native to the Pacific Ocean and has been reported from Japan, Indonesia, South Africa, Spain and New Zealand (Zuccoarello et al. 2002).

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