









New species of Annelida of the Australian Indian Ocean Territory (Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands) seamounts

ELENA K. KUPRIYANOVA^{1,2} , FRANCESCO CRISCIONE¹ , GUILLEMIN DAFÉ³ ,
PAT HUTCHINGS^{1,2} , NICOLAS LAVESQUE⁴ , ANNA MURRAY¹ ,
HANNELORE PAXTON^{1,2} , AND NATALIYA BUDAÉVA⁵ 

¹Australian Museum Research Institute, Sydney Australia

²Macquarie University, School of Natural Sciences, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Wallumattagal Campus, NSW 2109, Australia.

³CNRS, Université de Bordeaux, Observatoire Aquitain des Sciences de l'Univers, UMS 2567 POREA, Pessac, France

⁴Université de Bordeaux, CNRS, Bordeaux INP, EPOC, UMR, Arcachon, France

⁵Department of Natural History, University Museum of Bergen, University of Bergen, Norway

ABSTRACT. Research voyages aboard the Australian RV, *Investigator*, in 2021 (IN2021_V08) and 2022 (IN2022_V04) sampled benthic communities from seamounts off Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, collectively known as the Australian Indian Ocean Territories (IOT). Annelid specimens collected during these voyages were deposited at the Australian Museum, and 13 species from the families Aphroditidae and Serpulidae have previously been described. In this study, we describe seven new species: two in Onuphidae (*Anchinothria pettiboneae* sp. nov. and *Nothria multisetosa* sp. nov.), three in Polynoidae (*Admetella longilamella* sp. nov., *Gorgoniapolynoe unidentata* sp. nov., and *Harmothoe robinwilsoni* sp. nov.), and a new genus, *Terebellosuctoria*, with two new species (*Terebellosuctoria jimii* sp. nov. and *T. keelingensis* sp. nov.) in Terebellidae. A specimen of *Nothria* (AM W.54655), represented by a single individual, likely constitutes a new species but is not formally described here. The geographic ranges of the onuphids *Nothria orensanzi*, *N. simplex*, and *Hyalinoecia robusta*, as well as of the polynoid *Anotochaetonoe michelboudii*, are extended. Additionally, two polynoid specimens are identified as belonging to undescribed species within a potential new genus, which will be addressed in future work. All species descriptions are supported by DNA sequence data, and their phylogenetic positions within their respective families are assessed.

Keywords: Annelida; Polychaeta; biodiversity; species discovery; deep-sea; 18S; 28S; COI; 16S

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ORCID iD: Kupriyanova, 0000-0003-0336-4718; Criscione, 0000-0002-1996-2854; Daffe, 0000-0002-7085-3151; Hutchings, 0000-0001-7521-3930; Lavesque, 0000-0001-5701-2393; Murray, 0000-0002-1765-1286; Paxton, 0000-0001-7086-5219; Budaeva, 0000-0000-0001-9748-2285

Corresponding author: Elena Kupriyanova **Email:** elena.kupriyanova@australian.museum

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