Introduction

*Molpadia rorretzi* (von Marenzeller, 1877) and *M. orientalis* (Saveljeva, 1933) are known to be present in the far eastern seas of Russia (Stepanov and Morozov 2014). *M. musculus* (Risso, 1826), was first recorded by Ohshima (1915) from the east coast of southern Sakhalin in Japan. The following information about *M. musculus* was recorded in 2015 during the Russian-German deep-sea expedition SokhoBio, 71st Cruise, aboard the R/V *Akademik M.A. Lavrentyev* and includes data about geographical and depth distributions, a short description of a specimen, and photos of the external appearance and of the body wall and tail ossicles.

Date and location of collection of *Molpadia musculus* samples

11 July 2015, Russian-German deep-sea expedition SokhoBio, 71st Cruise, R/V *Akademik M.A. Lavrentyev*, 46°09.044′ N – 46°08.738′ N and 146°00.789′ E – 145°59.512′ E, depth 3305 m;

14 July 2015, Russian-German deep-sea expedition SokhoBio, 71st Cruise, R/V *Akademik M.A. Lavrentyev*, 46°37.982′ N – 46°37.740′ N and 148°59.934′ E – 149°00.920′ E, depth 3363 m;


23 July 2015, Russian-German deep-sea expedition SokhoBio, 71st Cruise, R/V *Akademik M.A. Lavrentyev*, 45°36.854′ N – 45°37.485′ N and 151°04.923′ E – 151°05.210′ E, depth 3301–3300 m;


Description

The body of *Molpadia musculus* is barrel-shaped with a well-defined tail (see Figure 1). The specimens collected varied considerably in colour and size. Their body length was 43–70 mm, with a maximum diameter of 19–24 mm. The colour when placed in alcohol is light-grey to dark-brown. The skin is thick or thin, smooth or wrinkled. There are 10 simple tentacles.

The ossicles of the body wall include tables with three or more perforations in the disk and a solid spire (see Figures 2 A and 2 B), fusiform rods (see Figure 2 C) and racquet-shaped plates (see Figure 2 D). Anchors were not found. Phosphatic deposits were present.

Figure 1. External view of *Molpadia musculus*.

Figure 2. Ossicles of the body wall of *Molpadia musculus*. A: table, side view; B: table, top view; C: fusiform rod; D: racquet-shaped plates.

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The ossicles of the tail are fusiform rods with three or four perforations in the centre (see Figure 3).

**Figure 3.** Ossicles of the tail of *Molpadia musculus*.

**Distribution**

*Molpadia musculus* distribution is widespread but has not been recorded in the Arctic. It has been recorded at depths of 35–5205 m. In the far eastern seas of Russia, *M. musculus* had only been found by Oshima in the east coast of southern Sakhalin in Japan (46°29.30’ N and 145°46’ E) at a depth of 1800 fathom (i.e., 3291.84 m; Ohshima 1915). In 2015, *Molpadia musculus* specimens were collected near the station indicated by Ohshima and near Urup and Simushir Islands (Kurile Islands) at depths of 3300–3366 m (see Figure 4).

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**References**


**Figure 4.** Distribution of *Molpadia musculus* in the Far Eastern seas of Russia.