New Report of Sea Star, Aquilonastra samyni (Echinodermata, Asteroidea), from the Strait of Hormuz, the Persian Gulf

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Abstract: Recent collections around Hormuz Islands in the Strait of Hormuz reveal the presence of Aquilonastra samyni, which was not reported before.

Key words: Echinodermata · Sea star · Identification · Aquilonastra samyni · Persian Gulf

INTRODUCTION

The first report of echinoderm from the Persian Gulf dates back to 1758 when Echinodiscus auritus was reported [1]. Many researchers have reported Asterina burtoni from the Persian Gulf [2, 3, 4 and 5]. However, this species was recently renamed as Aquilonastra iranica [6, 7].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

One specimens of the sea star was collected during intertidal surveys while walking on intertidal area in west Hormuz Island in the Strait of Hormuz (Fig. 1) and preserved in 70% ethanol. To identify the samples, valid identification keys were used [2, 5, 7 and 8]. Identification was done by using morphological diagnostic characters.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Systematics: Phylum: Echinodermata
Class: Asteroidea
Order: Valvatida
Family: Astinidae (Gray 1840)
Genus: Aquilonastra (O’Loughlin and Waters 2004)
Specie: Aquilonastra samyni (O’Loughlin and Rowe 2006)

Fig. 1: Red mark show the location of Aquilonastra samyni in the Persian Gulf
**Description:** *Aquilonastr a samyni*

Asterina cephea var. *Iranica* [1] fig. 3 pl. 1, fig. 4-6;
Asterina burtoni [2] pl. 9 fig. 4;
*Asterina burtoni* [4] fig. 14;
*Aquilonastr a samyni* [8] figs 1, 3g, h, 6j, 10d;

**Material Examined:** One sample from intertidal area of the west of Hormuz Island, R= 21mm, r=8mm

**Diagnosis:** Ray predominantly 5, slight taper, rounded distally, single conspicuous madreporite, gonopore abactinal, up to 30 spinelets across abactinal plate, spinelets small, short, thick, conical to columnar, supermarginal plate smaller than infromarginal plate, spine per actinal plate up to: oral 8, sub oral 6, furrow 7, subambulacral 8, actinal interradial 14, color: red, brown, brownish red.

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**REFERENCES**


