

## Original Article

# First record of *Thuridilla indopacifica* Gosliner, 1995 (Sacoglossa: Plakobranchidae) from the Gulf of Oman, Iran

Yaser Fatemi, Mohammad Reza Taherizadeh\*, Adnan Shahdadi

<sup>1</sup>Department of Marine Biology, Faculty of Marine Sciences and Technology, University of Hormozgan, Bandar Abbas, Iran.

**Abstract:** *Thuridilla indopacifica* Gosliner, 1995 (Sacoglossa, Plakobranchidae) is a rare species in the Sacoglossan nudibranch that only reported from the South Africa and Western Australia. This study records *T. indopacifica* from the Gulf of Oman for the first time showing its expansion to the northwest of Indian Ocean.

*Article history:*

Received 30 September 2020

Accepted 2 November 2020

Available online 25 December 2020

*Keywords:* New record, Nudibranch, Chabahar Bay, Indian Ocean.

## Introduction

*Thuridilla* Bergh, 1872, with 25 valid species, is among the divers' genera of *sacoglossans* nudibranch (Jensen, 2007). Species of the genus *Thuridilla* can be easily distinguished from the closest group, Elysiidae, by having highly colored patterned (Gosliner, 1995). Up to now, 17 species of *Thuridilla* have been reported from the Indo-Pacific region (Jensen 2007; Gosliner et al., 2018). *Thuridilla indopacifica* was described by Gosliner (1995) from the Aldabra Islands (holotype), South Africa and Seychelles (paratypes) in the western Indian Ocean. It has also been recorded from the South Africa (Gosliner, 1987) and Western Australia (Wells and Bryce, 1993). Here, we record this species from the Gulf of Oman, Iran, showing its range extension to the north western of the Indian Ocean.

## Materials and Methods

A single specimen (15 mm) was collected from Chabahar Bay (Fig. 1), Gulf of Oman, Iran (25°16'N, 60°39'E) on December, 2019. The specimen is deposited in the Zoological Museum of the University of Hormozgan.

## Results and Discussions

*Thuridilla indopacifica* can be easily distinguished

from its congeners by having greenish-blue color and presence of white blue patches on upper part of the parapodia, orange band on marginal region and black band with light blue patches on submarginal region, and head opaque white rhinophores and dark blue at tip (Gosliner, 1995). The collected specimen was greenish-blue in color, with some fine opaque white spots on body, an orange band on margin of parapodia followed by a black band in submarginal part, black band with some extension's patches of reflective bright blue, rhinophores with dark blue at tips followed by a brighter blue band. Half basal part of rhinophores white, confusing with white color of head (Fig. 2).

The specimen was observed crawling on the algae filaments on the surface of an exposed intertidal rock during low tide. Gosliner et al. (2018) have been recorded a species of *Thuridilla* from the Gulf of Oman as *Thuridilla* sp.3 (p. 430). Our specimen however differs from *Thuridilla* sp.3 in Gosliner et al. (2018) in coloration (i.e. *Thuridilla* sp. 3 green in color with numerous white spots, having undulating submarginal black, and white rhinophores with thin black bands on the either side similar to that of *T. indopacifica*). Therefore, here we report the first record of *T. indopacifica* from the Gulf of Oman, Iran.

\*Correspondence: Mohammad Reza Taherizadeh  
E-mail: taheri.1965@gmail.com



Figure 1. Typical habitat of *Thuridilla indopacifica* at Chabahar Bay, Gulf of Oman, Iran.

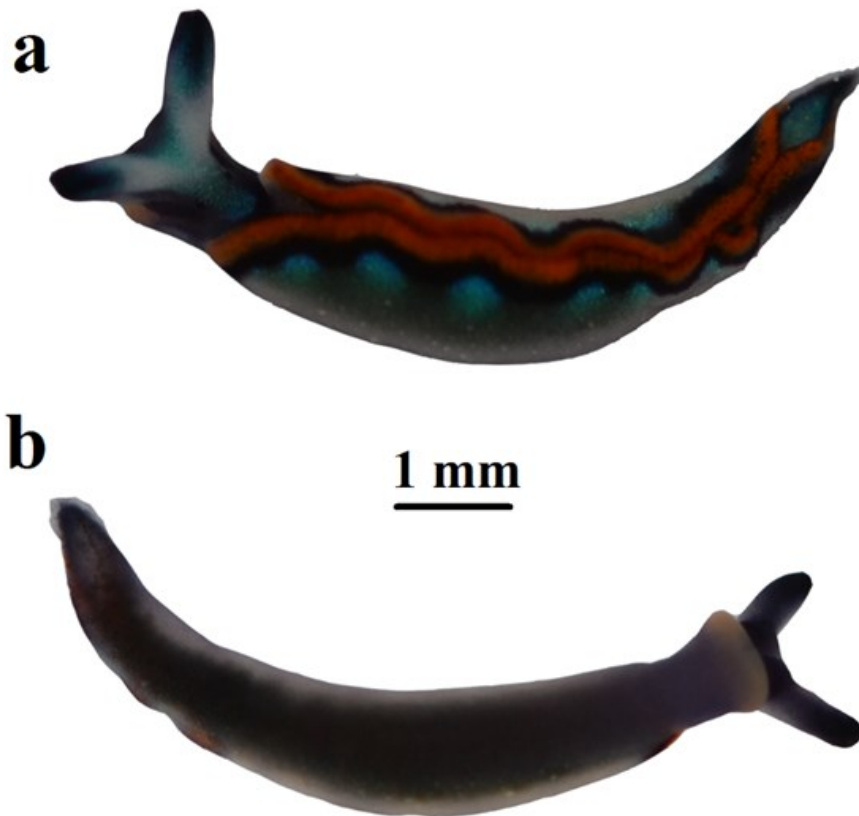


Figure 2. Live specimen of *Thuridilla indopacifica*; A, dorsal view and B, ventral view.

### Acknowledgements

Authors are very grateful to M.A. Siadat and M. Fatemi for their assistance and hospitality during the field studies.

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