

# A New Record of Genus *Halichondria* (Demospongiae: Halichondrida: Halichondriidae) from Korea

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## ABSTRACT

Marine sponges were collected from Tongyeong yachtschool harbor, Korea in 2008. Among them *Halichondria* (*Halichondria*) *bowerbanki* Burton, 1930 is newly recorded in the Korean fauna.

**Key words:** Halichondriidae, *Halichondria*, Korea

## INTRODUCTION

The genus *Halichondria* is characterized by ectosomal skeleton which consists of thin, tangential, clearly detachable membrane, containing single oxeas or vague bundles of oxeote spicules and it supported by choanosomal columns of oxeas traversing subdermal spaces (Hooper, 1994). Megascleres exclusively oxeas or derivates are in a wide size range. About 110 species are distributed worldwide (Hooper and van Soest, 2002). Seven species of *Halichondria* have been reported from Korean waters (Kim et al., 1968; Rho and Lee, 1976; Kang and Sim, 2008a, b). The specimens were collected by hand from Tongyoung, Korea in 2008. All procedures were followed the methods of Kang and Sim (2008b) and Rützler (1978). The materials examined in this study were deposited in the Natural History Museum and Department of Biological Sciences, Hannam University, Daejeon, Korea.

## SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNTS

Phylum Porifera Grant, 1836

Class Demospongiae Sollas, 1885

Order Halichondrida Gray, 1867

Family Halichondriidae Gray, 1867

<sup>1</sup>\**Halichondria* (*Halichondria*) *bowerbanki* Burton, 1930 (Fig. 1)

*Halichondria bowerbanki* Burton 1930, p. 489; Lee et al.,

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**Table 1.** Comparison in spicule dimension of *H. (H.) bowerbanki*

| Species<br>Spicule (μm) | <i>H. (H.) bowerbanki</i> | Tongyeong specimen |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Oxeas                   | 200-330 × 3-12            | 170-380 × 2-10     |

2002, p. 79.

*Material examined.* Yachtschool harbor, Tongyeong-si, Gyeongsangnam-do, 14 Nov. 2008.

*Description.* Encrusting, attached to substrate with irregular branches which shaped like tassel reaching 2-6 cm high, solid and gets thinner to the end. Oscules opened at the ends of each branch with 2-5 mm in diameter. Surface smooth. Texture torn. Colour yellow in life gradually changed to ivory in alcohol. Ectosomal skeleton reticularly confused. Choanosomal skeleton irregularly reticulated. Spicules, megascleres, oxea. No microscleres.

### *Spicules*

Megascleres

Oxeas ..... 170-380 × 2-10 μm

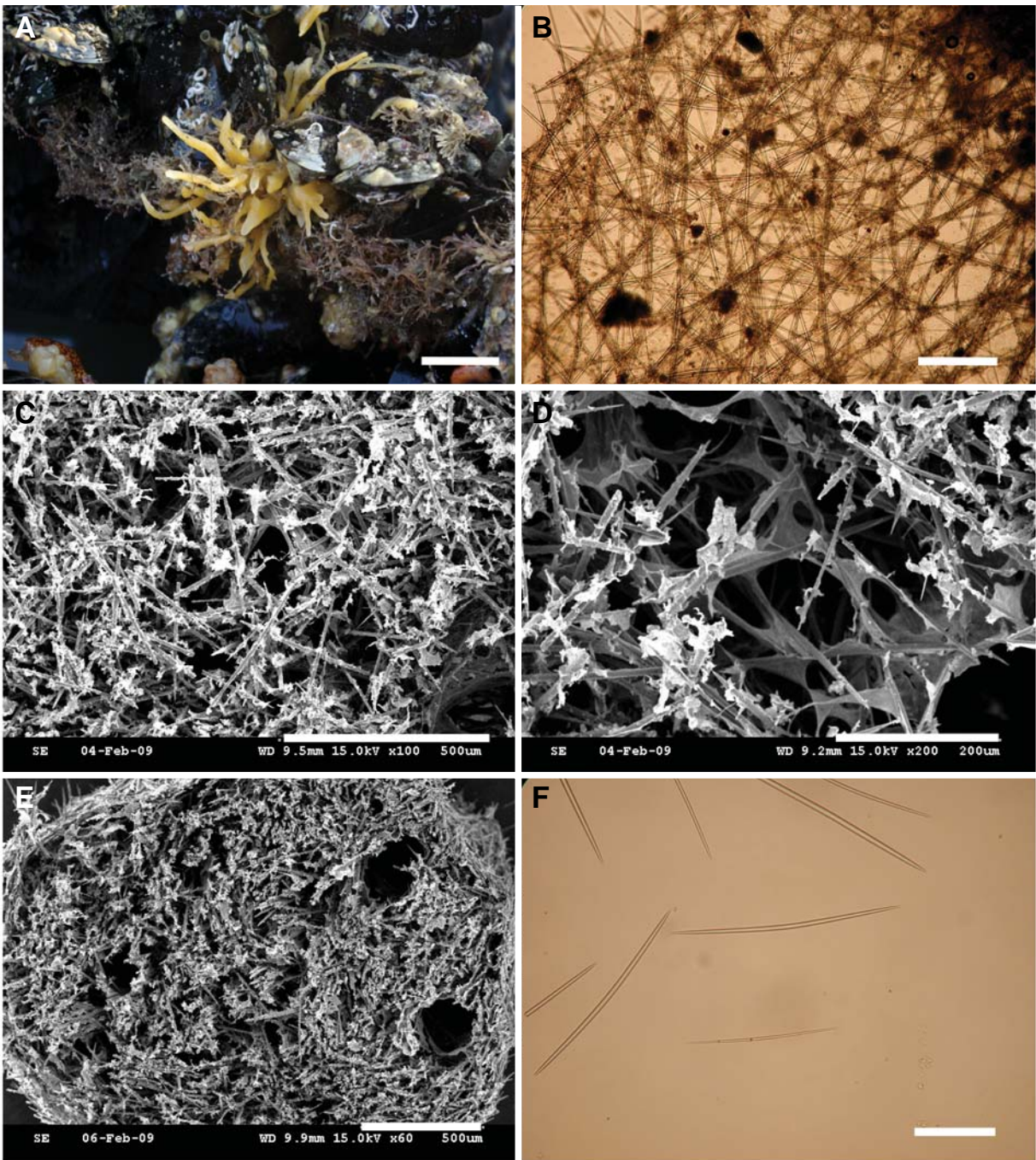
*Remarks.* Oxeas of our specimen are slightly larger than *H. (H.) bowerbanki*'s (Table 1).

*Distribution.* Korea, Central California, Europe (Monaco, North Coast of France, North Coast of Norway, Svalbard, United Kingdom).

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**Fig. 1.** *Halichondria (Halichondria) bowerbanki*. A, entire animal; B, ectosomal skeleton; C-D, choanosomal skeleton; E, across section of branch; F, oxeas. Scale bars=3 cm (A); 500  $\mu$ m (C-E); 300  $\mu$ m (B); 200  $\mu$ m (D); 150  $\mu$ m (F).

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