



UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL
AUTONOMA DE
MEXICO

INSTITUTO DE CIENCIAS DEL MAR Y LIMNOLOGIA

ESTACION PUERTO MORELOS
APARTADO POSTAL 1152 PUERTO MORELOS 77500, Q. R. MEXICO

INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY
DIVISION OF ECHINODERMS

Date 24 JUNE 1985

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PLEASE GIVE MUSEUM NUMBER

June 13, 1985

366107

THIS NUMBER MUST APPEAR
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DR. F.M. BAYER
DEPT. OF INVERTEBRATE BIOLOGY
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
P r e s e n t

Dear Dr. Bayer:

As you may recall, I wrote you a year ago asking for your advice in the identification of a deep gorgonian species from Cozumel Island, Mexico. We keep working on different aspects of the biology and ecology of shallow-water gorgonians from the reefs off the Mexican Caribbean coast. The species list for the zone is still incomplete and at present we have identified 42 gorgonian species, without considering the non-symbiotic ones.

Recently we found two different specimens that were completely new for us and I failed to identify them. One belongs to the genus Plexaura and the other to Eunicea, but no one fits the species already described. The one which I believe is a Plexaura resembles very much to the Plexaura "A" found by H. Lasker off Panama's Atlantic coast. We have seen colonies of this species aggregated in one place only, while the Eunicea is a very uncommon specimen which we had seen it only once. I found both specimens very interesting and that is why I am bothering you again and taking your time asking for advice in the identification of both colonies.

I am sending you a branch of each colony and if you are interested in studying these gorgonians, we will gratefully send you more specimens.

I would greatly appreciate your help in the identification of these specimens, and I thank you in advance for your advice.

Sincerely yours,


M.S. EDUARDO MARTIN CHAVEZ,

Rec'd 24 June 1985

2 gorgonian corals ECR
Jft?

EMC*mds