

First record of *Holothuria* (*Roweothuria*) *arguinensis* (Echinodermata: Holothuroidea: Aspidochirotida: Holothuriidae) from the Algerian coastal waters

KARIM MEZALI¹ AND AHMED S. THANDAR²

¹Department of Marine Sciences and Aquaculture, Faculty of Natural Science and Life, Abdelhamid Ibn Badis University of Mostaganem, 27000, PO Box 300, Algeria, ²School of Life Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, P/Bag X54001, Durban 4000, South Africa

This paper reports for the first time the presence of Holothuria (Roweothuria) arguinensis in the Algerian coastal waters. Individuals of this species were taken from the Tamentefoust area (Bay of Algiers, Algeria, 3°13'E 36°48'N) at 4.5 m depth and examined, using traditional morphological and endoskeletal characters. The general body form and the ossicles are in accordance with the descriptions of the species obtained in the literature.

Keywords: new record, sea cucumbers, *Holothuria (Roweothuria) arguinensis*, alien, invasion, expansion, ossicle, morphology, Tamentefoust, Algerian Basin

Submitted 7 March 2014; accepted 24 March 2014