

MOLPADIDA

Key to the Families (after Deichmann, 1940)

1. Tentacles with unpaired terminal digit and a few lateral digits or simple, in one case claw-shaped..... 2.
1. Tentacles with no unpaired terminal digit, usually one or two pairs of digits..... 3.
2. Tentacles simple; tentacle ampullae lacking; spicules comparatively large tables with numerous holes in the disk. Small forms few cm. long. Arctic..... Eupyrgidae Semper, 1868.
2. Tentacles with more than one digit, or claw-shaped; tentacle ampullae present (very small in some species); spicules derived from tables with solid or three-pillared spire; tail with tables with round to oblong disk or fusiform rods. Spicules sometimes reduced with age or possibly totally lacking. Dark red egg-shaped "phosphatic bodies" often present; in some species anchors and racquet-shaped plates, frequently reduced with age. Mostly large forms..... Molpadiidae J. Muller, 1850.
3. Dorsal side with a few whip-like papillae; spicules lacking..... Gephyrothuriidae Deichmann, 1940.
3. Dorsal side without whip-like papillae. spicules large tables or plates, or cross-cups or irregular bodies. No phosphatic bodies but discoloration of the skin may occur in older individuals of some forms..... Caudinidae Heding, 1931.