

On the presence of *Distichoptilum gracile* Verrill, 1882 (Octocorallia: Pennatulacea), in the southeastern Pacific

Araya, Juan Francisco

Araya, Marta Esther

Mack, Mauricio

Aliaga, Juan Antonio

© 2016, Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung and Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg. The two-lined sea pen *Distichoptilum gracile* Verrill, 1882, the type and only species that is considered valid in the genus *Distichoptilum* Verrill, 1882, is a rather large deep-water pennatulacean found in soft bottoms. Its deep red colonies are conspicuously long (1 m or more) and thin, with autozooids arranged alternately in simple rows on each side. This species has an almost cosmopolitan but fragmentary distribution, with sparse records from the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. In the Pacific Ocean, its occurrence has been scarcely reported: from off Mexico, the Galapagos Archipelago and off New Zealand. The present record of this rare species is based on a collected colony that was entangled in a longline used in the fisheries of the Patagonian toothfish *Dissostichus eleginoides* Smitt, 1898, off Chañaral (26°S), Región de Atacama, along the continental margin of northern Chile. *Distichop*