



1º Ciclo de Seminarios Doctorales eide·mar

(Escuela Internacional de Doctorado en Estudios del Mar)

"Africa - Giraffes? Rhinos? No, nudibranchs! Astonish diversity of nudibranchs revealed in Mozambique"



**Yara Junqueira de Azevedo
Tibiriça**

**Departamento de Biología
Universidad de Cádiz
"Doctorado en Ciencias"**

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**Salón de Grados. CASEM
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There are indications of a second peak of biodiversity located in the western Indian Ocean particularly between Madagascar and Mozambique. Despite of this, the diversity of *Nudipleuran* gastropods in this region is very poorly understood. In fact, prior to this study, no one has conducted an assessment of *Nudipleura* in Mozambique. The few records from Mozambique were from occasional observations and general marine diversity assessments. The purpose of this study is to assess the diversity of *Nudipleura* in Mozambique in order to create a baseline for future studies. The information provided through this intensive assessment is a prerequisite to solving more complex questions, such as biogeography and phylogenetic issues. Data has been collected from 2010 to 2017 by scuba diving and snorkelling from south to north of Mozambique. A total of 267 species were found including 59 putative new species. Among the 188 confirmed described species, 118 are new records for the Mozambican fauna. The most representative families were *Chromodorididae* (69 species), *Discodorididae* (30 species), *Facelinidae* (23 species) and *Phyllididae* (16 species). This represents the biggest *Nudipleura* assessment in the western Indian Ocean since molecular techniques started to be applied for this group, resulting in an essential collection for further understand about the evolution patterns across the Indo-Pacific.