

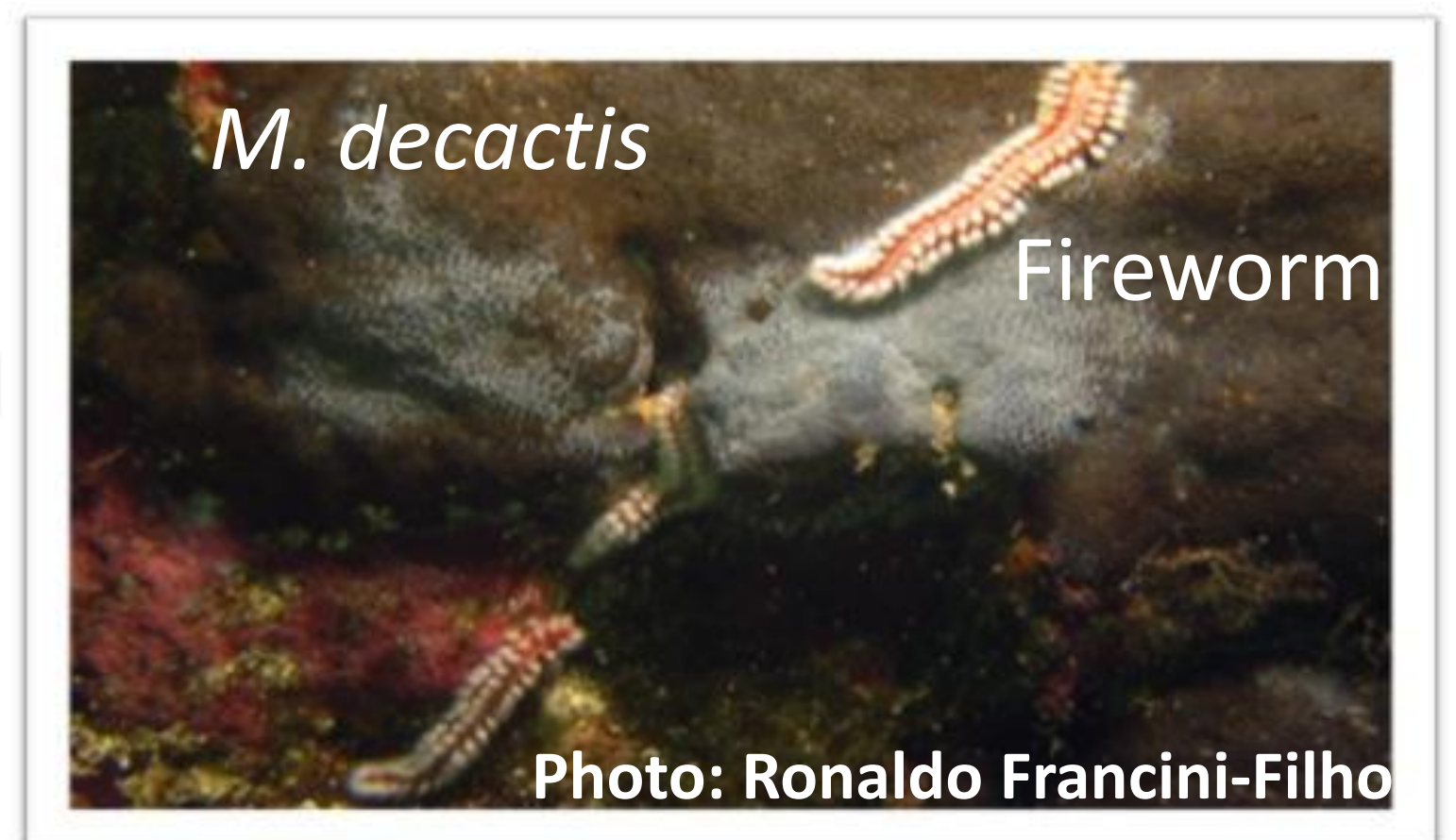
# The coral pathogen *Vibrio shiloi* is present in fireworm and *Madracis decactis* at St. Paul's Archipelago, Brazil



St. Paul's Rocks are a small group of islets near the axis of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and one of the most isolated oceanic systems in the world.

Mesophotic ecosystems may work as refuges for reef organisms threatened by anthropogenic disturbances and climatic change in the shallows waters. However, here, the outbreak of a coral predator - *Hermodice carunculata* - predation of the hermatypic coral *M. decactis* by him, and isolation of *V. shiloi* from both, is reported. Bleaching was observed in all colonies of *M. decactis* infested with fireworms. *V. shiloi* is the aethiological agent of bleaching in *Oculina patagonica*.

Left: Diversity of *Vibrios* isolated from fireworm and two hermatypic corals (*M. decactis* and *Scolymia cf. welsii*) of St Paul's Rocks. *V. shiloi* was isolated only from *M. decactis* and *H. carunculata* (below).



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Ana Paula B. Moreira  
anapaulabm@biologia.ufrj.br

