New Lysianassoid Amphipods from the North Eastern Atlantic Ocean

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Abstract

Two new lysianassoid amphipod species, *Ambasia anophthalma* n. sp. and *Bathyamaryllis biscayensi* n. sp., are described based on adult females collected in the North Eastern Atlantic Ocean (Bay of Biscay) by an autonomous bait system deployed on the sea bottom at a depth of 1460–1550 m. These two species are characterized by the absence of eyes (blind species). They belong to genera which include very few species.

Key words: Amphipoda, lysianassoid, *Ambasia*, *Bathyamaryllis*, bathyal, France, Atlantic Ocean, taxonomy, new species

Introduction

During cruise VITAL, in 2002, of R/V "L’Atalante" (IFREMER) deep-sea fish communities were studied on the continental slope of the Bay of Biscay (North Eastern Atlantic Ocean) (Trenkel et al. 2002).

Among the amphipods species collected by the trap, three specimens belonging to the genus *Ambasia* Boeck, 1871 and four specimens belonging to the genus *Bathyamaryllis* Pirlot, 1933 were present. Their morphological characters were never observed in these genera, so these specimens are described as new species for the science.

The genus *Ambasia* Boeck, 1871 includes two valid species (with *Ambasia anophthalma* n. sp.), belonging to the superfamily of Lysianassoidea. These species are present in the East Atlantic and Arctic Ocean. They are distributed in shallow waters and bathyal depths (Barnard & Karaman 1991; this work).

The genus *Bathyamaryllis* Pirlot, 1933 includes six valid species belonging to the superfamily of Lysianassoidea: *B. haswelli* (Stebbing, 1888), *B. pulchellus* (Bonnier, 1896), *B. perezii* Pirlot, 1933, *B. ouvea* Lowry & Stoddart, 1994, *B. kapala* Lowry & Stoddart, 2002, and *B. biscayensis* n. sp.. These species are known from the Western and Eastern North Atlantic Ocean, Indonesia, Eastern Australia and Western South Pacific Ocean between 120–1919 m depth.

Material and methods

At the sites studied, "an autonomous lander equipped with a current metre, a temperature probe, a turbidity metre, an autonomous bait system (including a rotating bait dispenser) and a camera was deployed for three days" on the
from *Bathyamaryllis haswelli* (Stebbing, 1888), *Bathyamaryllis pulchellus* (Bonnier, 1896) and *Bathyamaryllis perezii* Pirlot, 1933, which have the lateral cephalic lobe quadrate-shaped and the anterior margin straight.

**Key to species of *Bathyamaryllis***

1. Uropod 3: outer ramus 1-articulate .................................................. 2
   – Uropod 3: outer ramus 2-articulate ........................................... 5
2. Head anterior margin with only a notch or a concavity .................. 3
   – Head anterior margin with a notch extended into a slit .......... 4
3. Lateral cephalic lobe truncated; Antenna 1, first joint with a tooth ............................ *Bathyamaryllis haswelli* (Stebbing, 1888).
   – Lateral cephalic lobe triangular; Antenna 1, first joint without tooth .................. *Bathyamaryllis biscayensis* n. sp.
   – Gnathopod 2 palm transverse. Pereopod 4 coxa with anteroventral corner rounded ... *Bathyamaryllis perezii* Pirlot, 1933.

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