

A new species of the genus *Dactylopleustes* (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Pleustidae) from Japan, with a partial redescription of *D. echinoides* Bousfield and Hendrycks, 1995

KO TOMIKAWA¹, ED A. HENDRYCKS² & SHUNSUKE F. MAWATARI¹

¹Division of Biological Sciences, Graduate School of Science, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, 060–0810 Japan

²Canadian Museum of Nature, Research Division, P. O. Box 3443, Station D, Ottawa, Canada K1P 6P4 ehendrycks@mus-nature.ca

*Corresponding author: Tel. +81-11-706-3524; Fax. +81-11-746-0862; E-mail: tomikawa@sci.hokudai.ac.jp

Abstract

A new pleustid amphipod, *Dactylopleustes yoshimurai* is described from collections taken from northern Japan, off Hokkaido. The species was found in association with the urchin, *Strongylocentrotus intermedius* (Agassiz, 1863). The morphology of the gnathopods, pereopods 5–7, uropods, telson, mandible and maxilla 1–2 are the major characteristics which distinguish the new species from its congeners. The new species is fully illustrated and compared with related species. A brief redescription is provided for *D. echinoides*. An amended key to *Dactylopleustes* species is provided and known sea urchin hosts for *Dactylopleustes* species are given.

Key words: Amphipoda, Pleustidae, *Dactylopleustes*, new species, taxonomy, *Strongylocentrotus*, Japan

Introduction

Members of the pleustid genus *Dactylopleustes* Karaman and Barnard, 1979 are found in association with echinoids of the north Pacific region. Vader (1978) discussed this relationship briefly, but noted that the biology of this association is largely unknown. The genus was erected to accommodate *Parapleustes echinoicus* Tzvetkova, 1975. Bousfield and Hendrycks (1994) in their subfamily analysis of the Pleustidae, erected the subfamily Dactylopleustinae to accommodate this unusual genus. These amphipods are characterized by the modified antennae, mouthparts and subchelate dactyls of the pereopods, which are thought to be specializations for grasping urchin spines.