

Description of the first marine interstitial ingolfiellid from Philippines, *Ingolfiella alba* sp. nov., with some remarks on the systematic of the genus (Amphipoda: Ingolfiellidae)

VALENTINA IANNILLI¹, RAFFAELLA BERERA² & VEZIO COTTARELLI²

¹Dipartimento di Biologia Animale e dell’Uomo, Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza” Viale dell’Università 32, Roma, I-00100. Italy. E-mail: valentina.iannilli@uniroma1.it

²Dipartimento di Scienze Ambientali, Università degli Studi della Tuscia, Largo dell’Università snc, Viterbo, I-01100. Italy. E-mail: raffaella.berera@unitus.it; cottarel@unitus.it

Abstract

The description of a new *Ingolfiella* of littoral interstitial water, the first finding among Ingolfiellidea for Philippines is presented. Male and female specimens are investigated and the new species seems close to the species group before included into the marine interstitial *Tethydiella* group. The new taxon shares a high number of features with *I. xarifae* Ruffo, 1966, described from Maldives Islands. The new species is characterized for the peculiar oostegites morphology and for the presence in both sexes of spines and setae variously modified. Finally some data on species ecology and sampling sites are given.

Key words: *Ingolfiella*, Philippines, littoral interstitial habitat, Amphipoda

Riassunto

Descrizione e discussione di una nuova *Ingolfiella* di acque interstiziali litorali, prima rappresentante degli Ingolfiellidea per le Filippine. Sono stati studiati esemplari dei due sessi della nuova specie che appare affine alle specie del gruppo *Tethydiella*, che comprende specie marine interstiziali. La nuova specie ha numerose caratteristiche in comune con *I.xarifae* Ruffo, 1966, descritta per le Isole Maldive. La nuova specie si caratterizza, fra l’altro, per la particolare morfologia degli oostegiti e per la presenza nei due sessi di setole e spine variamente modificate. Brevi informazioni sulle stazioni di raccolta e l’ecologia della specie concludono il lavoro.

Parole chiave: *Ingolfiella*, Filippine, habitat litorale interstiziale, Amphipoda

Introduction

The Philippines have a great faunistic and biogeographic significance, being located among the South China Sea, the Celebes Sea, and the Philippine Sea, and thus represent an extended hinge between the Indian and the Pacific Oceans. The country includes more than 7,000 islands (more than 2,000 are inhabited) of various sizes and morphologies, which provide a wide range of good sampling sites for interstitial crustaceans. The beaches differ in sand granulometry and mineralogy, exposure to tides and currents, nutrient and pollutants input, and anthropic impact. As a result, the wide variety of habitats hosts very diverse microcrustaceans taxocoenoses, which our research group has been investigating for several years. This work is dedicated to the description