Haploops longiseta, a new species from the Atlantic Ocean (Crustacea, Gammaridea, Ampeliscidae) [Contribution to the knowledge of the Haploops genus. 6.]

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Abstract

Haploops longiseta a new Haploops species is described based on an adult female collected in the north eastern Atlantic Ocean (Bay of Biscay) in a baited trap: IFREMER-conceived engin PROSPER left on the sea bottom at a depth of 1460m. This species is characterized by a very long seta at the end of the mandibular palp, very long dorsal setae, and a pair of long apical setae on each lobe of the telson. The pereopod 7 basis is very broad and setose on the inner side. A summarized illustrated key, based on the position of the corneal lenses, is given for the Haploops species known.

Key words: Amphipoda, Ampeliscidae, Haploops, lenses, Atlantic Ocean

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), three data sampling methods were used (Trenkel et al. 2002). One technique employed during the cruise was a time-lapse photographic census by means of the IFREMER-conceived engin PROSPER left on the sea bottom at a depth of 1460m–1550m. Fishes were attracted by periodical release of bait (mixture of sardine oil and fish flows) from revolving bottles inside the engin. In addition to fish, various species of amphipods reacted to the "smelling" bait, and because of their small size, penetrated into the bottles where they remained caught until the engin PROSPER was recovered again. This accidentally caught, but not unexpected fauna was then extracted on board and preserved in ethanol. Among the amphipods species, a specimen belonging to the genus Haploops was present. Some of its morphological characters were never observed in this genus, so than this specimen is described as a new species for the science.

The genus Haploops Liljeborg, 1855 includes 19 valid species (with H. longiseta), belonging to the family of Ampeliscidae. The different species are distributed in the Atlantic ocean, Pacific ocean and Antarctic ocean. They are distributed in shallow waters, bathyal and abyssal depths (Bellan-Santini & Dauvin...