

## New records and a checklist of continental free-living Copepoda (Crustacea) from Panama

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### Abstract

We report new national records of *Thermocyclops decipiens* and *Mesocyclops pseudomericus* and two apparently undescribed species of *Diacyclops* and *Halicyclops* from Panama. We provide a complete bibliography of all literature on Panamanian copepods, and a table of historic copepod collection sites is presented.

**Key words:** Copepoda, Panama, Crustacea, checklist

### Introduction

Microcrustaceans thrive in freshwater tropical habitats, where copepods are major components of planktonic assemblages (Covich & Thorp, 1991). The planktonic copepods, unlike the benthic or subterranean copepods, of Central America are reasonably well known. However, few collections have been made in freshwater habitats of Panama. There have been only two general copepod surveys in that country, by Marsh (1913) and Dodds (1926). These surveys were followed by subsequent reports on Panamanian material from the Marsh Collection in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, U.S.A. (Coker, 1943; Weers & Zaret, 1975; Rocha, 1991; Reid, 1993; Reid & Mirabdullayev, 2000); and studies of plankton in the large artificial lakes of Gatún (Zaret, 1971, 1975, 1980, 1984; Zaret & Suffern, 1976; Garcés, 1982) and Bayano (Garcés, 1984). In the most recent regional checklist (Reid, 1990), only 17 of 57 species listed from Central America had been reported from Panama: 4 of 10 species of Calanoida, 12 of 35 Cyclopoida, and 1 of 12 Harpacticoida.