

## ***Choniomyzon libinia*, sp. n. (Crustacea, Copepoda, Nicothoidae) from São Sebastião, SP, Brazil**

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### **Abstract**

A new nicothoid (*Choniomyzon libinia* Santos and Björnberg, new species) was found on the eggs of the decapod crustacean *Libinia spinosa* collected at Anchovas Beach (São Sebastião Island, SP, Brazil). The material obtained was fixed in formalin, cleared in lactic acid and glycerin, and the different forms of the parasite were drawn with the aid of a microscope and a camera lucida. The parasite eggs were attached to the host's eggs. Nauplii, three forms of copepodids, and adult females and males were found. The 12-segmented first antennae, the segmented urosome, the long and branched caudal setae, the oval form of the female, the lecithotrophic nauplius, a copepodid similar to the one described for *Choniomyzon* permitted the inclusion in this genus. It differs from the species described (*C. panuliri* Pillai) by the ornaments of the antenna and of the female legs, also by the presence of three types of copepodids.

**Keywords:** Nicothoidae, crab parasites, nauplii, copepodids, South Atlantic

### **Introduction**

The genus *Choniomyzon* Pillai, 1962 was first described as a member of the family Choniostomatidae. Boxshall (1984) incorporated the family Choniostomatidae in the family Nicothoidae.

Nicothoidae are copepods which parasite other crustaceans, such as Isopoda, Cumacea, Amphipoda and Decapoda (Hansen 1897; Connolly 1929; Gnanamuthu 1954; Johnson 1957; Stock 1958; Pillai 1962; Bowman and Kornicker 1967, 1968; Kornicker and Bowman 1969; Ritchie 1975; Bradford 1975, 1980; Boxshall and Defaye 1995).

The effects of the nicothoid copepods on their hosts are variable. When present in the marsupium of Ostracoda, for example, the copepod inhibits egg laying by its host (Bow-