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Antennuloniscus alfi n. sp. (Crustacea: Isopoda: Haploniscidae) from the Scotia Sea, Antarctica

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Abstract

Antennuloniscus alfi n. sp. is reported from samples obtained with an epibenthic sledge in the deep sea of the Southern Ocean. The species can be recognised by its trapezoidal head, the broad and short articles 5 and 6 of the antenna and the pleotelson, which has rounded margins and two dorsal cuticular tubercles.

Key words: Isopoda, Asellota, Haploniscidae, Antennuloniscus, deep sea, Antarctica

Introduction

Menzies (1962) established the genus Antennuloniscus to contain four species: Haploniscus dimeroceras Barnard, 1920, the type species, Antennuloniscus armatus Menzies, 1962, A. ornatus Menzies, 1962 and A. rostratus Menzies, 1962. Menzies (1962) defined the genus on the basis that the third article of the peduncle of the antenna is much longer than wide and the first five pereonal somites that always have fully flexible articulations. Wolff (1962) invalidated this separation into two genera, but Menzies & Schultz (1968), while describing a further two new species (A. subellipticus Menzies & Schultz, 1968 and A. quadratus Menzies & Schultz, 1968), rediagnosed the genus using new distinctive characters, including the fusion of the fifth and sixth peduncular articles of the antenna and its terminal projection, and the longitudinal groove of the third peduncular article. Further species have been added over time: A. dilatatus Chardy, 1974, A. diversus Lincoln, 1985 and A. simplex Lincoln, 1985; A. menziesi George, 2004, A. lincolni George, 2004 and A. latoperculus Brökeland, 2006 have recently been described. The genus now contains 11 named species including Antennuloniscus alfi n. sp., described herein.