



New records of two rare genera, *Monstrotanais* Kudinova-Pasternak, 1981 and *Robustochelia* Kudinova-Pasternak, 1983 (Tanaidacea: Crustacea)

PIOTR JÓŹWIAK & MAGDALENA BŁAŻEWICZ-PASZKOWYCZ

Department of Polar Biology and Oceanobiology, University of Łódź, Łódź 90–237, Poland. E-mail: magdab@biol.uni.lodz.pl

Abstract

Two new species of two rare genera, *Monstrotanais ingens* **n. sp.** and *Robustochelia virilis* **n. sp.**, have been described from the material collected during cruises of r/v *Eltanin*. The type species of *Robustochelia*, *R. robusta* (Kudinova-Pasternak, 1970) has been redescribed based on the well preserved holotype. Diagnoses of the two genera have been amended and key for *Robustochelia* species has been proposed. Currently two species are assigned to *Monstrotanais* and four to *Robustochelia*. *Robustochelia solida* Larsen, 2005 is now excluded from the genus and possibility of establishing a new genus for the species is considered.

Key words: Tanaidacea, Tanaidomorpha, *Monstrotanais*, *Robustognathia*, abyssal, Antarctic

Introduction

In 1980s Kudinova-Pasternak created two tanaidacean genera: *Monstrotanais* Kudinova-Pasternak, 1981 and *Robustochelia* Kudinova-Pasternak, 1983. Up to now *Monstrotanais* was a monotypic genus known from only one specimen at the manca-II stage. The genus was characterized by a set of distinct features among which the most unusual was a strong chela with serrated ventral margin. In the collection made in 1960s on board the r/v *Eltanin* we have found one female with a similar robust chela. This specimen represents a new species (*M. ingens* **n. sp.**) of the genus *Monstrotanais* allowing to amend the definition of the genus.

The other poorly defined genus was *Robustochelia*, primarily represented by three species: *Robustochelia angusticephala* Kudinova-Pasternak, 1986; *R. longa* Kudinova-Pasternak, 1983; *R. robusta* (Kudinova-Pasternak, 1970). Larsen (2005) amended the diagnosis of the genus and added a fourth species - *Robustochelia solida* Larsen, 2005. Access to the holotypes established by Kudinova-Pasternak and the discovery of one more species, *R. virilis* **n. sp.**, allowed us to augment the definition of the genus, removing ambiguous characters such as: ‘mandible molar pointed or tapering into small crushing area’, maxillipedal endites ‘with inner setae distally and/or with or without two denticles distally’ or ‘pleopods present or absent’.

Both new species are described in the present paper: *Monstrotanais ingens* **n. sp.** and *Robustochelia virilis* **n. sp.** are represented by single specimens. Describing a new species based on a holotype only is generally avoided. However, the material that we had for the study served a special opportunity. The individuals were of relatively large size and in good condition, which gave the possibility to dissect only one half of each specimen, leaving the other half untouched. In this way we had a chance not only to describe two new species of rare genera but also to amend the definition of the two genera.