



Benthic Ostracoda (Myodocopina, Philomedidae) of the East Sea (Sea of Japan), with description of a new species from the Korean Peninsula

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Abstract

The philomedid fauna of the East Sea (Sea of Japan) contains nine species, including four species of *Philomedes*, three of *Euphilomedes* and two of *Scleroconcha*. *Euphilomedes pseudosordidus* new species is described from the southeastern Korean shelf. It is closely related to *E. sordidus* (Müller 1890) but differs in size and ornamentation of the carapace, number and length of bristles, teeth and claws on the limbs, and structure of the mandible. Comparison is made between these two species. The distribution of philomedids is shown for the East Sea.

Key words: Ostracoda, Myodocopina, Philomedidae, taxonomy, distribution, East Sea (Sea of Japan), Korea

Introduction

The first contribution to the knowledge on Philomedidae from the East Sea (Sea of Japan) was made by Hiruta (1976), who gave a detailed description of *Euphilomedes nipponicus* Hiruta, 1976 and redescribed the poorly known *E. sordidus* (Müller 1890) from Oshoro Bay, Hokkaido. *E. nipponicus* was later recorded from the coastal zone of Amursky Bay and Peter the Great Bay (South Primorye) (Chavtur 1978). In 1980 Hiruta (1980) investigated the morphology of all larval stages of this species. Chavtur (1983) identified, described and illustrated seven species of Philomedidae of the East Sea from samples collected by Russian expeditions 1932–1978. Chavtur (1985) recorded three species of this family for the shelf zone of Monneron Island (near South Sakhalin). The recent data on distribution of the philomedids in the East Sea were published at the end of the last century (Chavtur 1992). All species cited above were collected near the Russian and Japanese coasts. At present the species composition of the suborder Myodocopina is unknown in Korean waters, and there is only one account (Lee *et al.* 2000) providing a preliminary list of myodocopines for the region and including 24 species (identified by Chavtur). The species preliminarily identified (by Chavtur in Lee *et al.* 2000) as *E. sordidus* (Müller 1890) in that list is described below as *E. pseudosordidus* new species. This species is closely related to *E. sordidus*. A comparison of characteristics of these two species is presented below. The distribution of philomedids in the East Sea is shown in Fig. 1.

Material

During the summer of 1997 vast numbers of ostracods were collected from shallow waters at depths less than 50 m along the east coast of the Korean Peninsula between Chumunjin and Pusan by E. I. Shornikov & E. H. Lee. The locations of stations and data are available in Lee *et al.* (2000).