



A new species of *Queubus* Barnard, 1946 (Arthropoda: Pycnogonida) from Namibia

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Abstract

A new species of the enigmatic pycnogonid genus *Queubus* is described from an ovigerous male collected at 46 m depth off southern Namibia. *Q. echidna* sp. nov. has a unique disposition of blunt spines over the leg articles; it is also distinct from the only other described species, *Q. jamesanus*, in the presence of a palp and of compound spines on the oviger, in the absence of a propodal heel or dorsal trunk tubercles, and in having a bulbous, rather than tapering, proboscis. The genus remains endemic to Atlantic southern Africa.

Key words: Pycnogonida, Namibia, South Africa, *Queubus*

Introduction

Study of the shallow-water pycnogonid fauna around southern Africa has repeatedly revealed unusual, enigmatic and still endemic taxa. As early as the late 19th century, Hoek (1881) described the novel genus *Hannonia* for his species *H. typica*. There are now four species described for this genus, two from the Atlantic coasts of Europe, and the generotype and *H. spinipes* from South Africa. *H. typica* remains only found from shallow waters (0 to 40 m depth) of the Atlantic coasts of southern Africa (although there is a possible record off Somalia, *vide* Stock, 1982).

Barnard (1946; 1954) noted a number of apparently aberrant South African taxa, such as *Kyphomia setacea* Helfer, 1938 (= *Ammothella setacea*), *Ainigma ornatum* Helfer, 1938 (= *Ascorhynchus ornatum*), *Metapallene dubitans* (Hodgson, 1910) (including *Procidella gibber* Helfer, 1938) (= *Propallene dubitans*), and *Discoarachne brevipes* Hoek, 1881 (= *Tanystylum brevipes*), which have since been subsumed into existing genera.

There remain two endemic southern African genera.

Boehmia Hoek, 1881 includes three species, *B. chelata* (Böhm, 1879), *B. tuberosa* Möbius, 1902 (including *B. spinosa* Möbius, 1902—a *lapsus calami*) and *B. longirostris* Stock, 1957 (note that *B. dubia* Hedgpeth, 1950 is based on a juvenile, with auxiliary claws inappropriate to this genus, and must remain *incertae sedis*).

Queubus Barnard, 1946 was monotypic for *Q. jamesanus* Barnard, 1946, described from an ovigerous male collected in False Bay, South Africa. Stock (1959) reported the first female and (1994) further material, all from South Africa, at depths between the intertidal and 70 m.

During a survey of the benthos in the Chameis Deep off southern Namibia, an ovigerous male of a second and very distinct species of *Queubus* was discovered, and it is described below.