



The southernmost South American record of the genus *Halicyclops* Norman, 1903 (Cyclopoida: Cyclopidae) with the description of a new species

SILVINA MENU-MARQUE¹ & DORA SORARRAIN²

¹ Depto. de Biodiversidad y Biología Experimental, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Ciudad Universitaria, Pab. II, P°4, C1429EHA Buenos Aires, Argentina. E-mail: silvina@bg.fcen.uba.ar

² Marine Biology and Fisheries, The Rosenstiel School, University of Miami, 4600 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, FL 33149, U.S.A.

Abstract

Species of the cyclopoid genus *Halicyclops* are widespread in coastal, estuarine and even fluvial environments worldwide. On the Atlantic coast of South America several species have been recorded as far south as the state of São Paulo in Brazil, at about 24°25'S. Specimens belonging to this genus have been collected from plankton samples from Laguna de Mar Chiquita, a coastal lagoon on the Argentinean coast at 37°40' S, 57°19' W. These do not fit the diagnosis of any of the known species, and are here described as a new species.

Both sexes of *Halicyclops ramirezi* sp. nov. are described and illustrated. It is distinguished by a combination of characters relating to (1) the last endopodal segment of P4, (2) shape and armature of P5, (3) size and spinulation of the spine on the basipodite of P1, and (4) length/width ratio of the fourth A1 segment. The presence of only one seta and three spines on the male P5 is also characteristic. The presence of *Halicyclops glaber* Rocha, 1983 is reported for the first time for Argentina in sediments of the same locality.

Key words: *Halicyclops*, new species, distribution, Argentina

Introduction

The species of the genus *Halicyclops* Norman, 1903 are widespread in coastal, estuarine and even fluvial environments all over the world and most knowledge of this genus in the Neotropical Region has been generated by the studies of Rocha (1983a, b, 1984, 1995a, b) and collaborators (Lotufo & Rocha 1993; Rocha et al. 1998). On the Atlantic coast of South America several species have been recorded as far south as the state of São Paulo in Brazil, at about 24°25'S (Rocha & Botelho 1998) but until now no species were known from Argentina. During a zooplankton survey in Laguna de Mar Chiquita, a coastal lagoon on the Argentinean coast, specimens of an unidentified species of *Halicyclops* were collected. Since the material was scarce, and they were presumed to be of benthic origin, intensive sampling of bottom epifauna was performed in the hope of obtaining more material. Large numbers of *Halicyclops* were caught, but to our disappointment they were all *Halicyclops glaber* Rocha, 1983. Thus the description of the new species is based upon the few specimens from the original plankton samples.

Material and methods

Samples were obtained by towing a biconic Apstein plankton net with 335 µm mesh size, and additional samples were collected using a Hydrobios 80 µm mesh conical net. Samples were fixed in the field in 5% forma-