



***Bomolochus bramus* n. sp. (Copepoda, Poecilostomatoida, Bomolochidae) from the pomfrets (Bramidae) off Taiwan, with a list of nominal species and key to valid species of *Bomolochus* von Nordmann, 1832**

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Abstract

A new species of copepod, *Bomolochus bramus* n. sp. (Poecilostomatoida: Bomolochidae), is described from the gills of *Brama japonica* Hilgendorf and *Eumegistus illustris* Jordan & Jordan collected off the east coast of Taiwan. This is the first species of bomolochid copepod reported from the pomfrets (Bramidae). The new species is distinguished from its congeners by having a combination of the following characters: (1) a pair of rostral tines; (2) the fourth basal element on the antennule modified as a hook, about as long as its neighboring outer pilose setae; (3) two large patches of spinules on the ventral surface of the anal somite; (4) a large patch of spinules on the ventral surface of the caudal ramus; (5) armature formula of II, I, 5 on the terminal exopodal segment of legs 3 and 4; and (6) leg 4 endopod with a relatively short terminal segment ornamented with long setules along the outer margin and long spinules along the distal margin. In addition to the report of the above new species, a list of the nominal species of *Bomolochus* von Nordmann, 1832, including their current taxonomic status, is provided. A key to the valid species is also included.

Key words: Crustacea, parasitic copepod, marine fish

Introduction

Although the genus *Bomolochus* was established based on the description of a new species, *Bomolochus parvulus*, in the early nineteenth century by von Nordmann (1832), *B. parvulus* has never been accepted as the type-species of the genus. This is simply because von Nordmann's (1832) description of *B. parvulus* was imprecise and illustrations of the species were never published (Damkaer 2002). Indeed, Wilson (1911) designated subsequently *Bomolochus bellones* Burmeister, 1835 as the type-species because it was the second species to be placed in the genus. However, Vervoort (1963) proposed through the plenary powers of The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to designate *Bomolochus soleae* Claus, 1864 as the type-species of the genus and cast aside all previous type indications or selections. In 1962, Vervoort considered, by mistake, *B. bellones* as belonging to a genus different from *Bomolochus* and created a new genus *Parabomolochus* Vervoort, 1962 to accommodate it. This mistake was corrected by Vervoort (1969) seven years later. By then, the number of taxa in the genus *Parabomolochus* had expanded to 17 species.

When Vervoort (1962) revised the genera and species of the Bomolochidae, 55 nominal species were listed under the genus *Bomolochus*. In addition to proposing *Parabomolochus*, he also created *Nothobomolochus* Vervoort, 1962 and *Bomolochoides* Vervoort, 1962 to accommodate species that were to be transferred out of *Bomolochus*. In realizing his previous mistake, Vervoort (1969) re-revised the genus *Bomolochus* by discarding *Parabomolochus* and *Bomolochoides*, both of which are currently synonyms of *Bomolochus* since their respective type-species are currently placed within *Bomolochus*, and creating *Holobomolochus* Vervoort, 1969, *Dicrobomolochus* Vervoort, 1969 and *Acantholochus* Vervoort, 1969 to