



## *Kliopsyllus schminkei* sp. n. (Copepoda, Harpacticoida, Paramesochridae) — a new copepod from the southeast Atlantic deep sea (Angola Basin)\*

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### Abstract

A new species of *Kliopsyllus* (Paramesochridae) has been collected with a multicorer from the abyssal Angola Basin in 2000 (on the DIVA-1 cruise, RV Meteor 48/1). *Kliopsyllus schminkei* sp. n. is the second most abundant *Kliopsyllus*-species in the Angola Basin and raises the number of valid members of the genus to 33. The new species is placed in the genus *Kliopsyllus* because of its typical segmentation and the setation of the swimming legs. *K. schminkei* sp. n. is unique within the genus and can be distinguished from the other species by a large apical pore on the P5 baseoendopodal lobes of the male, a length:width ratio of the furcal rami of 9 to 10:1 in both sexes, and an exceptional ratio of the length of the furcal rami to the whole body size of one fourth in the female and one fifth in the male. The new species is one of the four deep-sea *Kliopsyllus*-species described until now.

**Key words:** *Kliopsyllus*, species description, abyssal plains, diversity, taxonomy, biogeography

### Introduction

There is an increasing number of taxonomic studies on deep-sea copepods (Bröhdick 2005, George 2006, Ivanenko & Defaye 2004, Seifried *et al.* 2007, Seifried & Martínez Arbizu 2008, Vasconcelos *et al.* 2008, Veit-Köhler 2004, 2005, Willen 2005). This is partly due to a program for the study of abyssal plains, the ‘Census of the Diversity of Abyssal Marine Life’ (CeDAMar) within the framework of the international ‘Census of Marine Life’ (CoML). The number of deep-sea expeditions dedicated to taxonomy and biogeography purposes has increased recently. It is therefore important to produce reliable descriptions in order to enable the scientific community to carry out large-scale biogeography studies for deep-sea copepods.

The animals presented here were collected during the RV Meteor cruise M 48/1 DIVA-1 in 2000. The new species contributes to the description of the community of Harpacticoida in the Angola Basin and adds a new member to the few known deep-sea Paramesochridae.

The family Paramesochridae Lang, 1944 comprises benthic harpacticoids that are mostly small-sized and have a typical cylindrical body shape. The genera of the subfamily Paramesochrinae Huys, 1987 are among other things, characterized by swimming legs with gradually reduced endopodal segments and decreasing numbers of setae. *Kliopsyllus* Kunz, 1962 is a small sized genus with one-segmented endopods with one apical seta at the swimming legs 2 and 3.

Only a few members of the genus have been described from deep-sea sediments (Veit-Köhler 2004, 2005). Recent investigations show, that the genus *Kliopsyllus* is not only commonly represented with new