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New or amended data on Mediterranean Amphipoda: genera *Dexamine*, *Ericthonius* and *Stenothoe*

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Abstract

The Mediterranean amphipod species *Dexamine filiola* **n. sp.** and *Ericthonius didymus* **n. sp.** were discovered by their ovigerous females which differ in length from morphologically similar species. An error in the description of *Stenothoe dollfusi* Chevreux could finally be cleared up, and the Mediterranean material called *Stenothoe gallensis* Walker in reality belongs to *Stenothoe cattai* Stebbing.

Key words: Mediterranean, Amphipoda, Crustacea, *Dexamine filiola* **n. sp.**, *Ericthonius didymus* **n. sp.**, *Stenothoe cattai* Stebbing, *Stenothoe dollfusi* Chevreux corrected

Introduction

In the beginning of this century Angelo Libertini, Franz Krapp and I sampled in the Venice lagoon, hoping for ovigerous amphipod-females and ovigerous pycnogonid-males for use in cytogenetical research. And as already shown by Krapp, Rampin & Libertini (2008) for the genus *Jassa*, we found specimens with small but constant differences within one nominal species. The same phenomenon was observed in the genera *Ericthonius* and *Dexamine*, but due to the untimely death of Angelo Libertini and the departure to other work of Max Rampin the planned cytogenetic work was never finished. Here at least the morphological data should be published, showing once more that even well-known Mediterranean amphipod taxa still may hide surprises.

Methods

Material was collected from small boats with nets as well as by snorkeling or diving at depth of only a few meters. The animals were brought back to the laboratory in baskets with oxygen and a cooling system, and then sorted out by adding a little fresh water, which scared out the animals from the substrate. When separating the amphipods into different genera it turned out that both in *Dexamine* and *Ericthonius* there were several size-classes of ovigerous females. The animals were dissected in glycerine and mounted in Faure's liquid for the study under a light microscope Wild 20. The resulting slides are stored at the Museo civico di Storia naturale, Verona. Pencil drawings were inked partly by hand, partly with the help of the program Adobe Illustrator, using a Wacom tablet A4.

Taxonomy

Dexaminidae Leach, 1814

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