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## ***Metopa gigas* sp. nov. from southern Greenland, a giant among congeners (Crustacea, Amphipoda, Stenothoidae)**

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### **Abstract**

*Metopa gigas* sp. nov. is described from southern Greenland (east and west). This new species which reaches a length of around 20 mm is, together with *M. mirifica* Gurjanova, 1948 from the North Pacific, by far the largest member of the genus. The species is easily separated from sympatric *Metopa clypeata* (Kroyer, 1842; 15 mm; type species of *Metopa*) with which it has been confused, by small saddle-like ornaments dorsally on pereonites, and much longer antenna 1. It can be distinguished from *Metopa mirifica* by the simple propodus of gnathopod 1, whereas that of *M. mirifica* is strongly subchelate.

**Key words:** Crustacea, Amphipoda, Stenothoidae, *Metopa gigas* sp. nov., South Greenland

### **Introduction**

The phylogeny of the stenothoid amphipod genus *Metopa* is poorly understood, but it is being actively investigated (Krapp-Schickel and Koenemann 2006). As currently understood (see Tandberg 2011, review of history and concepts) the genus comprises about 55 species, 17 of which have been reported from Greenland waters. *Metopa* species are tiny to medium sized amphipods, generally ranging in length from 1.5–2 millimetres to 12–15 millimetres. This paper describes a new species of about 20 millimetres, *Metopa gigas*, from southern Greenland. This is the largest species in the genus together with *Metopa mirifica* Gurjanova, 1951 (21 millimetres) from deep water off the Kurile Islands in the Pacific.

The material is deposited in the Zoological Museum, Copenhagen (ZMUC).

### **Stenothoidae**

#### ***Metopa* Boeck**

#### ***Metopa gigas* sp. nov.**

Figs 1–4

**Type fixation.** Holotype, ♀, here designated.

**Etymology.** The epithet is the Latin noun for Giant.

**Material examined.** *Holotype*, ♀, 19.0 mm, West Greenland, Godthaabsfjord [Kugssukfjord], approximately 64°N 52°W, ca. 300 m, 'Tjalfe' stn 52, 15 June 1908, ZMUC CRU-20522.

*Paratypes.* Same data as holotype, ZMUC CRU-20523 (15 specimens, juveniles and immature).

**Southernmost Greenland:** S of Akuliaruseq, 60°08.6'N 44°10.7'W, 400–250 m, rectangular dredge on steep rock face with hydroids, Kap Farvel Expedition, stn 103, 17 August 1970, ZMUC CRU-20524 (1 ♀, 23 immature). Southernmost island in Toqulineq, 60°04.5'N 43°02.7'W, 240 m, stones, gravel, clay, Bryozoa, rectangular dredge, Kap Farvel Expedition, stn 136, 25 August 1970, ZMUC CRU-20525 (1 ♂, 19.1 mm). Off Sydprøven [Alluitsup