Fissarcturus walteri sp. nov. from the Ross Sea of the Southern Ocean
(Isopoda, Antarcturidae)

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Abstract

During the Victoria-Land Transect project two specimens of a new species, Fissarcturus walteri sp. nov., were found in the Ross Sea along the Victoria Land Coast, Antarctica, during the 19th Italica expedition in February 2004. This is the second species of Fissarcturus from the Ross Sea after F. rossi Brandt, 2007. F. walteri sp. nov. is most similar to Fissarcturus granulosus (Nordenstam, 1933) from South Georgia but can be distinguished by the blunt short, anteriorly directed supraocular spines and elevations and some other characters as described herewith.

Key words: Isopoda, Antarcturidae, taxonomy, Southern Ocean, Ross Sea, Fissarcturus walteri, new species

Introduction

The genus Fissarcturus was erected by Brandt, 1990 with the type species Fissarcturus emarginatus Brandt, 1990. It belongs to the family Antarcturidae Poore, 2001. Fissarcturus currently comprises 18 species including the newly described species from the Victoria Land coast (Brandt 2007; Poore & Schotte 2012; Wägele 1991) occurring between 45 and 5225 m depth. Most of these occur in the Southern Ocean, with the exception of F. paxillaris (Kussakin & Vasina, 1998) and F. patagonicus (Ohlin, 1901) from the Argentine Basin. Until now, only one species of Fissarcturus was known from the Ross Sea, F. rossi Brandt, 2007 from Pennell Bank.

In this study, all species of Fissarcturus were compared with F. walteri sp. nov. and characters found to distinguish them are discussed in the remark section.

Methods

The present investigation is based on material collected during the Victoria-Land Transect project in the Ross Sea by means of a Rauschert dredge (Stransky 2008) in February 2004 in the Ross Sea (Hallet Bay; Fig. 1) aboard RV Italica during the 19th Italian expedition (Rehm et al. 2007). The Rauschert dredge has an opening of 0.5 m and a sampling net with a mesh size of 500 µm (Lörz et al. 1999). It was hauled over the sea floor at a mean velocity of 1 knot.

Measurements were made according to Hessler (1970) and Wilson and Hessler (1980), spine-like setae equipped with a sensory seta are named „sensory seta“ (Brandt 1988). The specimens are deposited in the Zoological Museum of Hamburg (ZMH).

The following abbreviations are used in the figures: A1 = antennula, A2 = antenna, lMd = left mandible, Mx1 = maxillula, Mx2 = maxilla, Mxp = maxilliped, P1–7 = pereopod 1–7, Plp 1–5 = pleopod 1–5, rMd = right mandible, Urp = uropod.