



## The genus *Cymodoce* Leach, 1814 (Crustacea: Isopoda: Sphaeromatidae) in the Persian Gulf with description of a new species

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### Abstract

*Cymodoce truncata* (Leach, 1814), the type species of the genus, *C. zanzibarensis* (Stebbing, 1910) and *C. richardsoniae* (Nobili, 1906) are redescribed based on type specimens or topotypic material, and a neotype is designated for *Cymodoce richardsoniae*. A revised generic diagnosis and description is provided for the genus *Cymodoce*. *Cymodoce delvarii* **sp. nov.** is described from the subtidal zone of the Iranian coasts of the Persian Gulf.

**Key words:** Isopoda, Sphaeromatidea, Persian Gulf, *Cymodoce truncata*, *C. zanzibarensis*, *C. richardsonia*, *C. delvarii*

### Introduction

The genus *Cymodoce* Leach, 1814, with about 70 nominal species (Schotte 2012), is the largest genus in the family Sphaeromatidae. It occurs worldwide with the exception of polar waters, predominantly on the continental shelf with four species known from depths greater than about 200 metres. Harrison and Holdich (1984) reviewed *Cymodoce*, with a discussion of the species that they considered to be inappropriately placed in *Cymodoce* or otherwise regarded as *incertae sedis*. Harrison and Holdich (1984) remarked: ‘that the genus *Cymodoce* overall is in a very confused state’. *Cymodoce* was one of the first sphaeromatid genera to be described, and initially all species with tridentate pleotelsonic apex were placed in this genus. The genus exhibits strong sexual dimorphism