A new species of *Fissarcturus* Brandt, 1990 (Isopoda, Valvifera, Antarcturidae) from the Southern Ocean, off the South Sandwich Islands

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Abstract

A new antarcturid species, *Fissarcturus dorotheae* sp. nov., from the Southern Ocean is described. During the ANDEEP II expedition in March 2002, specimens of the new species were collected aboard the RV *Polarstern* off the South Sandwich Islands. The new species is most similar to *Fissarcturus sandwichi* Brandt, 2007, but can be easily distinguished from it by the absence of the cauliflower-like spination, the number of articles of the antennal flagellum as well as the coxal spination. It also can be differentiated from *F. sandwichi* by the spinulation of the supraocular spines, the tubercular-like spination of the cephalothorax and the absence of tubercles and denticulate spines on the pereopods. The new species differs from all other species of the genus by the strongly spinulated frontally bent supraocular spines and the weakly pronounced dorsal spination. A distribution map of all known *Fissarcturus* species is provided.

**Key words:** taxonomy, Crustacea, *Fissarcturus dorotheae* sp. nov., Southern Ocean, biogeography

Introduction

During the ANDEEP (ANtarctic benthic DEEP-sea biodiversity: colonisation history and recent community patterns) expedition II in March 2002, specimens of the new species were collected aboard the RV *Polarstern* off the South Sandwich Islands. The new species is most similar to *Fissarcturus sandwichi* Brandt, 2007, but can be easily distinguished from it by the absence of the cauliflower-like spination, the number of articles of the antennal flagellum as well as the coxal spination. It also can be differentiated from *F. sandwichi* by the spinulation of the supraocular spines, the tubercular-like spination of the cephalothorax and the absence of tubercles and denticulate spines on the pereopods. The new species differs from all other species of the genus by the strongly spinulated frontally bent supraocular spines and the weakly pronounced dorsal spination. A distribution map of all known *Fissarcturus* species is provided.

**Key words:** taxonomy, Crustacea, *Fissarcturus dorotheae* sp. nov., Southern Ocean, biogeography

Material and methods

Specimens of the new *Fissarcturus* species were sampled during the ANDEEP II expedition from aboard the RV *Polarstern* (ANT XIX3/4) in the SO deep sea off the South Sandwich Islands at station 143, 58°44.69 S, 25°10.28 W–58°44.45 S, 25°10.66 W in March 2002 by means of an epibenthic sledge (EBS) at 774 m depth (Brandt & Barthel, 1995, Brenke, 2005, Brandt 2007). To allow future molecular analyses the material was immediately fixed