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A new species of the genus *Dulichhiella* Stout, 1912 (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Melitidae) from Pecém Harbor, Ceará state, Brazil

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Abstract

A new species of the genus *Dulichhiella* Stout, 1912 is described from the Northeastern Brazilian coast. The new species is recognized from the others in the genus by presenting (1) the accessory flagellum 5-articulate, (2) distolateral crown of gnathopod 2 of males with 4 spines, (3) Maxilla 1 inner plate, outer plate and palp distally enlarged and rounded, and (4) Pereopods 6 and 7 without bunches of long setae. This is the second species of *Dulichhiella* recorded from South Atlantic and Brazilian waters.

Key words: PROCAD Project, taxonomy, Hadzioidea, *Dulichhiella ankeri* sp. nov., SW Atlantic ocean

Introduction

The genus *Dulichhiella* Stout, 1912 is a group of species popularly known as snapping amphipods. It has a widespread distribution in tropical and temperate waters (Lowry & Springthorpe 2007, Paz-Rios & Ardisson 2014). According to Lowry & Springthorpe (2007), the genus was initially established as belonging to the Dulichiid group based on the misconception of the absence of the uropod 3. Karaman & Barnard (1979) re-established the genus as part of the melitid amphipod group, with one of male gnathopod 2 greatly enlarged as apomorphy.

Lowry & Springthorpe (2007) established new apomorphic characters for the genus and recognized the new genus *Verdeia* within the *Dulichhiella* group. Both genera present one enlarged gnathopod 2 in males, *Dulichhiella* is differentiated by the presence of setae on anteroventral margin of the head, the accessory spines on dactylar ungues of pereopods 3-7 and setose pereopods 6 and 7. The new genus *Verdeia* differs from *Dulichhiella* mainly by the acute palm of gnathopods 2, and the absence of accessory spines on the dactyli of pereopods 3 to 7.

To date, 17 species of the genus *Dulichhiella* are known for the world oceans (Lowry & Springthorpe 2007, Tomikawa & Komatsu 2012, Paz-Rios & Ardisson 2014, Wongkamhaeng *et al.* 2014). Five of these species have been recorded from the Atlantic Ocean, *Dulichhiella anisochir* (Krøyer, 1845), *Dulichhiella appendiculata* (Say, 1818), *Dulichhiella lecroyae* Lowry & Springthorpe, 2007, *Dulichhiella terminos* Lowry & Springthorpe, 2007 and *Dulichhiella celestun* Paz-Rios & Ardisson, 2014.

Until now, there are only seven species of Melitidae from Brazil: *Cuneimelita danielle* Senna & Serejo, 2012a; *D. anisochir*; *Melita lagunae* Oliveira, 1953; *M. mangrovi* Oliveira, 1953; *M. orgasmos* Barnard, 1940; *M. petronioi* Senna *et al.*, 2012; and *Nuuanu peroa* Senna & Serejo, 2012b. *Dulichhiella anisochir* is a very common species in Brazilian waters, occurring from the rocky shores to the deep sea, but was sometimes misidentified as *D. appendiculata* (Say, 1818) (Wakabara *et al.* 1991; Senna 2007). In this paper, we describe a new species of *Dulichhiella*, found at Pecém Harbor, Ceará state, Northeastern Brazil. Furthermore, an updated key to world species of *Dulichhiella* is also presented.

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