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## ***Litarcturus kexueiae* sp. nov., a new deep-sea isopod from the Okinawa Trough (Crustacea, Isopoda, Valvifera, Antarcturidae)**

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### **Abstract**

A new species of the genus *Litarcturus* Brandt, 1990, *L. kexueiae* sp. nov., collected from deep sea of the Okinawa Trough, is described and illustrated. It is readily distinguished from the other seven species of the genus by bearing long supraocular spines about as long as the head and posterolateral pleotelsonic spines overreaching the pleotelson apex.

**Key words:** taxonomy, *Litarcturus*, new species, deep-sea, Okinawa Trough

### **Introduction**

The genus *Litarcturus* Brandt, 1990 belongs to a group of filter-feeding isopods (Antarcturidae) that probably evolved in the colder areas of the southern hemisphere and dispersed from there to other oceans (Wagele 1989, Brandt 1991, 1999).

Here we report on a new deep-sea (2115m) species, *Litarcturus kexueiae* sp. nov., from Okinawa Trough in the East China Sea, discovered during the comprehensive expedition by the Research Vessel “Kexue” organized by the Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences in the April, 2014. Though only a single specimen was captured, it is easily recognized as a new species due to its long supraocular and caudal pleotelsonic spines. It is the deepest record of the genus.

### **Material and methods**

The holotype was collected on 23 April 2014 in the Okinawa Trough, East China Sea, using an Agassiz trawl. The specimen was preserved in 75% ethanol. The material examined is deposited in the Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Qingdao, China (IOCAS). The figs 2–5 were made with the aid of a drawing tube mounted on a Zeiss V8 compound microscope.

### **Systematics**

#### **Suborder Valvifera Sars, 1882**

#### **Family Antarcturidae Poore, 2001**

#### **Genus *Litarcturus* Brandt, 1990**

*Litarcturus* Brandt, 1990: 88–89; Poore, 2001: 224; Poore, 2015: 14.