

***Portaratum*, a new genus of deep-sea Tanaidacea (Crustacea) with description of two new species**

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Abstract

A new genus, *Portaratum* n. gen. and two new species, one from the Atlantic Ocean and one from the Pacific Ocean are described. The new genus is characterized by a downwardly directed pleonal spur, cheliped basis fused to the cephalothorax, biramous uropods, pars molaris blunt with several terminal spinules. At present the genus is assigned to the family Colletteidae. Both species were collected from depths exceeding 4000 m.

Key words: Tanaidacea, new genus, deep sea, *Portaratum* n. gen., *Leptognathia*, abyssal plains, Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Angola Basin, taxonomy

Introduction

The Tanaidacea is a common marine taxon, one that occurs in all world oceans from the shallow shelf down to the deep sea. The systematics of the Tanaidacea, however, are not well understood for many taxa, especially those from the deep-sea as specimens are difficult to obtain. During the DISCOL Experiment (DISturbance and reCOLonization) carried out in 1998, about 3000 tanaids were collected from the abyssal plains of the East Pacific Ocean south of the Galapagos Islands. These samples contained specimens of a new species and a new genus of Tanaidacea. The new genus was also found in samples collected during the DIVA-1 expedition (DIVersity of the deep Atlantic Ocean; July 2000) from the Angola Basin at depths between 5000–5450 m.

Species of Tanaidomorpha have a long and slender body and are not easy to identify (Larsen 2001). Some tanaidomorphans possess ventral spiniform projections on their bodies. The spur located on pleonite 5 is known as pleonal spur. Tanaidomorphans with a pleonal spur are described for the genera *Leptognathia* G.O. Sars, 1882 and *Chauliopleona*