

Haplomunnidae (Crustacea: Isopoda) reviewed, with a description of an intact specimen of *Thylakogaster* Wilson & Hessler, 1974

MARINA R. CUNHA¹ & GEORGE D.F. WILSON²

¹ Centro de Estudos do Ambiente e do Mar, Departamento de Biologia, Universidade de Aveiro, 3810-193 Aveiro Portugal; mcunha@bio.ua.pt

² Australian Museum, 6 College Street, Sydney, NSW 2010 Australia; buzw@austmus.gov.au

Abstract

The distribution and ecology of the isopod family Haplomunnidae Wilson, 1976 are reviewed with new records given for *Thylakogaster* Wilson & Hessler, 1974, Mid-Atlantic Ridge and east Pacific Ocean, and for *Munella* Bonnier, 1896, Mid-Atlantic Ridge and the eastern Atlantic near the African coast. The specimens of these two genera, collected from Lucky Strike (Mid-Atlantic Ridge), are the first record of the family from hydrothermal vent habitats. The systematics of the Haplomunnidae is updated and the synonymy of *Aryballurops* Gamô, 1983 with *Haplomunna* Richardson, 1908 is proposed. *Thylakogaster lobotourus* Wilson & Hessler, 1974 is redrawn from the first known intact specimen and additional description of the appendages is provided.

Key words: Crustacea, Isopoda, Asellota, Haplomunnidae, *Haplomunna*, *Thylakogaster*, *Munella*, Mid-Atlantic Ridge, hydrothermal vents

Introduction

The isopod family Haplomunnidae Wilson, 1976 is a rare but widespread component of deep-sea communities. Unfortunately, long-limbed Haplomunnidae are rarely recovered undamaged, frequently appearing in deep-sea grab or dredge samples as badly damaged, appendage-free carcasses. Recent collections from the Lucky Strike vent field (Mid-Atlantic Ridge) yielded two nearly intact specimens of *Thylakogaster lobotourus* Wilson & Hessler, 1974, an incompletely described species. These specimens verify the original concept of the genus, as well as providing new records of these morphologically unusual deep-sea species. In this paper, we illustrate one intact specimen, provide new records for undescribed species, and review the taxonomy, distributions and ecological settings of the Haplomunnidae.