

Acanthocopinae (Crustacea: Isopoda: Munnopsididae) from the Southern Ocean deep sea with the description of *Acanthocope eleganta* sp. nov.

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Abstract

Acanthocope eleganta sp. nov. is described from the abyssal Southern Ocean near the Southern Ocean Peninsula. The new species differs from others in the following: a slender dorsomedial spine on the pleon anteriorly, a pair of short dorsal spines and long ventral spine on each of pereonites 5 and 6; uropods half as long as the terminal spine of the pleotelson and with a minute exopod. *A. annulatus* Menzies, 1962 is redescribed; *A. galathea* Wolff, 1962, previously known only from the Gulf of Panama and from Angola Basin, is recorded from the northwest Weddell Sea.

Key words: Deep sea, Southern Ocean, taxonomy, Munnopsididae, *Acanthocope*, new species

Introduction

The monogeneric subfamily Acanthocopinae was created for *Acanthocope* Beddard, 1885 by Wolff (1962). A recent review of the genus (Malyutina 1999) included a diagnosis and remarks on the relationships of *Acanthocope*. Fifteen species of *Acanthocope* have been described, most known only from a single female (Malyutina 1998; 1999). The recent Antarctic expedition ANDEEP (ANTarctic benthic DEEP-sea biodiversity: colonisation history and recent community patterns) yielded specimens of three species of *Acanthocope*, one new, *A. eleganta* sp. nov., plus two others recorded for the first time for the Southern Ocean.