

New species of the genus *Collettea* Lang, 1973 (Peracarida: Tanaidacea, Colletteidae) from the Antarctic.

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Abstract

Three new species of *Collettea* Lang, 1973: *C. alicjae*, *C. lilliputa* and *C. longipleona* are described from the Antarctic, based on the collections made on board the R/V *Eltanin* and R/V *Polarstern* from the abyssal depth of range 2281–4304 m. Apart from the three species described in this paper three other *Collettea* species were found in the region of the West Antarctic but lack of the material prohibited formal description of those species. Currently 20 species belong to *Collettea* (including the six enumerated in this paper) are known from deep-sea location in all major oceans. A key for *Collettea* species is proposed. The genus is considered a deep-sea taxon and the few findings at localities with relatively shallow water are all at high latitudes which is considered a case of *polar* or *isothermic emergence*.

Key words: *Collettea*, Colletteidae, Tanaidacea, Peracarida, Antarctic

Introduction

The genus *Collettea* Lang presently encompass 20 species (Bamber 2000; Larsen 2000), including the six species described/recognized in this paper. The genus has a worldwide distribution and is considered a deep-sea taxon. Only in high latitudes the genus has been found on the shelf or at lower depths as a case of *polar* or *isothermal emergence*, also observed for other tanaiids and other crustaceans (Hessler and Wilson 1983; Błazewicz-Paszkowycz in press).

Up to now only four species of *Collettea* have been described from the Antarctic: *C. antarctica* (Vanhöffen), *C. arnaudi* (Shiino), *C. cylindratooides* Larsen, and *C. humboldti* Larsen. The examination of the collections of the American Antarctic Expeditions onboard the R/V *Eltanin* and of the German Antarctic Expeditions onboard the R/V *Polarstern*