A new species of *Ischyromene* Racovitza, 1908 (Sphaeromatidae: Isopoda: Crustacea) from intertidal marine habitats in New Zealand

NIEL L BRUCE

Marine Biodiversity and Biosecurity, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, Private Bag: 14901, Kilbirnie, Wellington, New Zealand. E-mail: n.bruce@niwa.co.nz

Abstract

Ischyromene kokotahi sp. nov., from the intertidal 'mussel and barnacle zone' of North Island, New Zealand, is described and figured. It is the seventh species of *Ischyromene* recorded from New Zealand. The species is characterized by the presence, in both sexes, of a conspicuous pair of submedian longitudinal nodular carinae, this character distinguishing males of the species from all other New Zealand species. Comparative figures are given for *Ischyromene condita* Hurley & Jansen, 1977. A revised diagnosis to the genus is given.

Key words: New Zealand, Sphaeromatidae, *Ischyromene*, southwest Pacific, inter tidal

Introduction

In 2003 a single specimen of a small sphaeromatid isopod was collected in Auckland harbour during the New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries 'Ports Survey', a program to locate and identify introduced marine organisms. This specimen, a species of *Ischyromene* Racovitza, 1908, showed some distinctive similarities to the Mediterranean species *I. bicarinata* Harrison, 1981. Further specimens were obtained by the author from Evans Bay in Wellington in 2004 and 2005, and from further 'Ports Surveys' in Wellington harbour, this material confirming that the specimens belonged to a new species, and not to an introduced European species.

The genus *Ischyromene* is well represented in New Zealand waters, with five species having been recorded by Hurley & Jansen (1977), at that time all placed in the genus *Dynamenella* Hansen, 1905. None of the New Zealand species have been described in detail, and for the most part their generic characters remain unrecorded, as is the case for all species of *Ischyromene* except *I. lacazei* Racovitza, 1908 (see Schüller & Wägele

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