

## **A new species of *Bathylepeta* Moskalev, 1977 (Mollusca: Gastropoda) from the Weddell Sea, Antarctica**

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### **Abstract**

Among benthic mollusc samples from the abyssal of the Weddell Sea collected during the ANDEEP III Antarctic survey, a new lepetid species *Bathylepeta linseae* n. sp. was collected and is here described. The new species strongly resembles the only congener *Bathylepeta laevis* Moskalev, 1977 but differs in a more oval shell shape, the rectangular form of the radular basal plate and the smooth edges of the marginal teeth. The presence of a genital papilla is mentioned for the first time for this genus. Another similar Antarctic lepetid species *Propilidium pelseneeri* Thiele, 1912 is much smaller, lacks the genital papilla and the position of the apex is more posteriorly.

**Key words:** Patellogastropoda, Lepetidae, *Bathylepeta*, Weddell Sea, Antarctica, deep-water

### **Introduction**

According to Lindberg (1998: 639) the Patellogastropoda are the most primitive Recent Gastropoda, characterized by a set of features summarized in the same work. In the high Antarctica, the order is represented by two families: Nacellidae and Lepetidae. *Nacella concinna* (Strebel, 1908) and *Nacella polaris* (Hombron & Jacquinot, 1841) belong to the former. *Iothia coppingeri* (Smith, 1881), *Propilidium pelseneeri* Thiele, 1912, *Propilidium* sp. (see Pelseneer 1903), and the species originally described as *Lepeta* (*Pilidium*) *antarctica* Smith, 1907 belong to the latter, which has a world-wide distribution with its highest diversity in cold temperate regions of both hemispheres.

The Antarctic deep water fauna has been little studied (Dell 1990), and thus newly collected material allows further comparisons of the highly endemic Antarctic marine fauna to the off shore fauna of the adjacent oceans. During the joined Antarctic expedition ANDEEP III (Jan. 21 2005 to Apr. 6 2005) on board the German Research Vessel “Polarstern” a new species of the monotypic lepetid genus *Bathylepeta* Moskalev, 1977, so