

Redescription of *Caprella dilatata* Krøyer, 1843 (Caprellidae: Amphipoda: Crustacea) from Brazil, with note on its biogeographical distribution in South America

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Abstract

Caprella dilatata Krøyer, 1843 (Caprellidae: Amphipoda: Crustacea) is redescribed based on specimens collected in mussel longlines from the Experimental Mussel Farming of Itajaí Valley University (UNIVALI), Itapocoroí Bay, Santa Catarina State, Brazil. The distribution of *C. dilatata* was confirmed in Mar del Plata, Argentina, about 3,000 km from the previous records suggesting a wide distribution of the species along the Atlantic coast of South America.

Key words: Biogeographical distribution, redescription, *Caprella dilatata*, Caprellidae, Itapocoroí Bay, Santa Catarina State

Introduction

Caprellid amphipods are among the most abundant crustaceans in shallow water ecosystems of the Brazilian coast such as phytal beds (Masunari 1982, 1983; Dubiaski-Silva & Masunari 1995, 2000; Valério-Berardo & Flynn 2002) and sponge colonies (Serejo 1998). Systematic aspects, descriptions of new species and catalogues of Caprellidea from Brazilian waters were carried out by McCain (1968), Quitete (1971a, b), Serejo (1998), Guerra-García (2003) and Rayol & Serejo (2003), in recent years (for complete list, see Wakabara *et al.* 1991).

Although *Caprella dilatata* Krøyer, 1843 was originally described based on Brazilian specimen (Krøyer 1843), most of recent references have been reported at the Mediterranean Sea (Krapp-Schickel 1993; Guerra-García & Takeuchi 2002). Moreover, the location of type specimens is unknown (see McCain & Steinberg 1970). Thus, the