



A new species of *Parabradya* Lang, 1944 (Copepoda: Harpacticoida: Ectinosomatidae) from the abyssal plain of the Angola Basin*

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*Results of the DIVA-1 expedition of RV “Meteor” (Cruise M48/1)

Abstract

Parabradya samsoni sp. nov. is described from deep-sea samples collected from the Angola Basin during the DIVA-1 campaign in July 2000. *Parabradya samsoni* can be distinguished from its congeners by: its bigger size, the ornamentation of the body, the cuticula (except for that of the cephalic shield and the genital field) is covered with spinules, the multipinnate setae of A1, A2, mouthparts, P1–P5 and caudal rami, and the position of the innermost seta of P5, which is not directly situated at the inner distal corner, but displaced towards the outer edge. Full generic rank is assigned to both *Bradya* Boeck, 1873 and *Parabradya* Lang, 1944. With *P. samsoni* sp. nov. *Parabradya* includes five species.

Key words: *Parabradya*, species description, taxonomy, deep sea, scanning electron microscopy.

Introduction

A group of 28 German and Spanish scientists participated in the DIVA-1 (Latitudinal Gradients of Deep-Sea BioDiversity in the Atlantic Ocean) expedition to the Angola Basin in July and August 2000 on board the German research vessel “Meteor”. Samples were taken with an array of different gears in six areas along a 700-mile-long transect crossing the southern part of the Angola Basin on either side of the Benguela Front. As one of the pioneering projects of the international 10-year project CeDAMar (Census of the Diversity of Abyssal Marine Life), DIVA expeditions are designed to greatly enhance our knowledge of the fauna inhabiting sediments in Atlantic deep-sea basins from pole to pole. In the meiofauna samples, harpacticoids were the second most abundant metazoans after nematodes. The differences in alpha diversity of Harpacticoida of selected cores from repeatedly sampled multicorer stations are presented in Rose *et al.* (2005). More than 600 species have been determined from multicorer samples and more than 99% of them are new to science. Until now five species of Harpacticoida have been described from this cruise (Bröhdick 2005; George 2006a; George 2006b; Veit-Köhler 2005; Willen 2005).

In most marine habitats, the diversity and abundance of Ectinosomatidae Sars, 1903 is high. Ectinosomatidae, for example, dominate the harpacticoid fauna in an intertidal sandflat area in the inner Jade Bay (German Bight, North Sea) making up 63.1% of the adult individuals (Rose and Seifried, 2006). In the Angola Basin, 97 species of Ectinosomatidae have been identified from multicorer samples: six *Parabradya*- and 23 *Bradya*-species, all undescribed. Species of *Bradya* Boeck, 1873 and *Parabradya* Lang, 1944 have been recorded from deep sea and the lower sublittoral of cold regions. Thompson (1889) reported *Bradya typica*