



A new species of *Symmius* Richardson (Crustacea: Isopoda: Chaetiliidae) from Japan

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Abstract

Symmius yamaguchiensis sp. nov. described from off Yamaguchi Prefecture, western Japan from a depth of 126 m. The new species differs from its congeners in having nearly straight frontal margin to the head, rudimentary eye pigment, 11 plumose setae on the palm of propodus of pereopod 1, and pereonites 1–7 and pleonite 2 each with mid-dorsal projection. A key to species of the genus is provided.

Key words: new species, *Symmius*, Chaetiliidae, Valvifera, Isopoda

Introduction

Chaetiliidae Dana, 1849 is a valviferan family with 39 species in 12 genera, from an intertidal to 2500 m depth worldwide (Kensley *et al.* 1996). The most important taxonomic characters of the family are the operculiform biramous uropods and subchelate pereopods 1 to 3. *Symmius* Richardson, 1904 is a small genus of three species, all of which are from shallow waters around Japan and Philippines (Richardson, 1904; Nunomura, 1984; Poore, 1991).

A recent investigation yielded an undescribed species of the genus from off Yamaguchi Prefecture, western Japan (Fig. 1). Based on this material, the present paper describes *Symmius yamaguchiensis* sp. nov.

Materials and methods

Collections of isopods were obtained during the Survey of Benthos in Western Japan conducted by Hiroshima University in 1999. The gear used for the collection was an epibenthos sledge (mouth opening 145 cm; mesh size 0.33 mm). The sediment samples containing specimens on board were suspended in sea water in plastic buckets, and the suspensions containing small organisms were decanted through a sieve with a mesh size of 0.5 mm. The processed sediment samples were fixed in 5% borate buffered formalin sea-water. Afterwards the specimens were sorted and preserved in 70% ethanol. From each individual the appendages were dissected, mounted on glass microslides and observed using a compound microscope (Nikon E600). The total length as indicated in “Material examined” was measured from the tip of the head to the end of the pleotelson.

The type specimens are deposited in the Kitakyushu Museum of Natural History and Human History (KMMH).