



Six new species of deep water Ampeliscidae (Crustacea: Amphipoda) from Brazilian Coast

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Abstract

Six new species of the family Ampeliscidae Costa, 1857 are described from Campos Basin Deep Sea in Brazilian Coast. The four new species of the genus *Ampelisca* herein described, *Ampelisca wakabarae* **sp. nov.**, *Ampelisca campensis* **sp. nov.**, *Ampelisca anae* **sp. nov.**, *Ampelisca minuta* **sp. nov.** raised the total number of species of this genus recorded along the Brazilian coast to 14. Others species described are: *Byblis bjornbergae* **sp. nov.** and *Haploops meloi* **sp. nov.** These are first records of these genera for Brazilian coast. A key to the species of the family Ampeliscidae recorded from Brazilian coast is provided.

Key words: Taxonomy, Amphipoda, Ampeliscidae, deep sea, Brazilian coast

Introduction

The deep sea gammaridean fauna of the Southwestern of Atlantic is still poorly known, except for scarce and fragmentary data. Until now, nine species were recorded from the area: *Parandania boeckii* (Stebbing, 1888) registered by Stebbing (1888), *Pseudotiron longicaudatus* Pirlot, 1934 and *Liljeborgia quiquedentata* Schellenberg, 1931 registered by Wakarara *et al.* (1991). Wakabara & Serejo (1999) described three new species of the genus *Epimeria*, *E. rotunda*, *E. bathyalis* and *E. ultraspinosa* and recorded for the first time from the region, *Amathillopsis atlantica* Chevreux, 1908. Recently, Serejo & Wakabara (2003) described *Valettiopsis ruffoi* and Senna & Serejo (2007) described *Stephonyx unciantus*.

The present study, report Ampeliscidae on the Campos Basin Deep Sea Environmental Project coordinated by CENPES/PETROBRAS. The Campos Basin is considered the largest oil reserve in the Brazilian continental platform. The company has boosted its exploratory activities in increasingly deep waters, and to do it, environmental studies of exploration areas are necessary. Box core samples were taken from the Campos basin region (22°41'S–40°2'W) from 700 to 1600 meters off the Brazilian coast with the *R/V Astro Garoupa*. Examination of the specimens of Ampeliscidae, revealed six new species, belonging to the genera *Ampelisca* (4 new species), *Byblis* (1 new species) and *Haploops* (one new species). The description of the new species of genus *Ampelisca* raised the total number of species of this genus recorded along the Brazilian coast to 14. The type material is housed at Museu Nacional/Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (MNRJ). Body length measurements of specimens, is given in millimetres (mm). The crustacean setae classification proposed by Watling (1989) is here adopted. The following abbreviations are used on the figures:

EP, epimeron; **HA**, habitus; **HE**, head; **MD**, mandible; **MX**, maxilla; **MP**, maxilliped; **P**, pereopod; **G**, gnathopod; **US**, urosomite; **U**, uropod; **T**, telson.