



Hirondellea sindhusagar* (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Lysianassoidea), a new deep-water scavenger species from the Indian Ocean, with a key to the genus *Hirondellea*

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Abstract

The amphipod genus *Hirondellea* Chevreux, 1889 is a cosmopolitan largely bathyal genus. This paper adds a new species from the bathyal Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean, based on material collected by baited traps at 1182, 1184 and 1864 m off the coast of Pakistan. The species can be distinguished from the most closely allied species, *Hirondellea brevicaudata* (Chevreux, 1910) by the subacute lateral head lobes, the very weakly cleft telson, and characters of the mouthparts. A key to the ten species in the genus is provided.

Key words Crustacea, Amphipoda, Lysianassoidea, hirondelleid, new species, deep-sea

Introduction

During a recent cruise to the Pakistan margin (northern Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean), baited traps were set to collect and study the scavenging amphipod community at various depths (see Table 1). Three of the traps were successful in collecting specimens. Two of the traps were set at 1182–4 m, and collected only three species of amphipod; *Podoprion addyi* Horton, 2005, *Abyssorchomene abyssorum* Stebbing, 1888, and *Hirondellea sindhusagar* sp. nov., which is described here.

The third trap was set at 1864 m and collected six amphipod species including the new species of *Hirondellea*, two further undescribed species (*Paracallisoma* sp. nov. and *Cyclocaris* sp. nov., which are being described elsewhere), and three described species of amphipod, *Stephonyx arabiensis* Diffenthal & Horton, 2007, *Eurythenes gryllus* (Lichtenstein in Mandt, 1822) and *Abyssorchomene abyssorum*. The amphipod scavenging fauna from the bathyal Arabian Sea currently comprises several species; including *Hirondellea sindhusagar* sp. nov., *Paracallisoma* sp. nov. and *Cyclocaris* sp. nov., *Podoprion addyi*, *Stephonyx arabiensis*, *Eurythenes gryllus*, and *Abyssorchomene abyssorum* (see Horton 2005; Diffenthal & Horton 2007). Witte (1999) and Janssen *et al.* (2000) also recorded *Eurythenes gryllus*, *Paralicella* sp., *Abyssorchomene abyssorum* and *Paracallisoma* sp.

The genus *Hirondellea* currently belongs in the superfamily Lysianassoidea and the family Lysianassidae. However, the family arrangement within the Lysianassoidea is currently under review. For the purposes of this paper the genus has been placed into the informal group of hirondelleids (De Broyer *et al.* 2007), which is under review by Lowry, Stoddart and De Broyer.