



A new species of *Medicorophium* Bousfield, *M. longisetosum* n. sp. from the western Mediterranean, coast of Spain

ALAN A. MYERS¹, JOSE ANTONIO DE-LA-OSSA-CARRETERO², JEAN-CLAUDE DAUVIN^{3,4}

¹Department of Biological, Environmental and Earth Sciences, University College, Cork, Ireland

²Department of Marine Sciences and Applied Biology, University of Alicante, Ap 99 E-03080 Alicante, Spain

³Université de Lille Nord de France, 59000 Lille, France

⁴Université de Lille1, Station Marine de Wimereux, UMR LOG, 28 avenue Foch, BP 80, F-62930 Wimereux, France

Abstract

A new species of *Medicorophium*, *M. longisetosum* sp. nov., is described from the western Mediterranean in Comunidad Valenciana coast, Spain. The species is compared with the other known species of *Medicorophium*.

Key words: Amphipoda, taxonomy, *Medicorophium*, new species, Mediterranean

Introduction

The Mediterranean Amphipoda fauna has been widely studied and can be considered one of the best known in the world (Conradi & López-González 1999); however knowledge of the fauna is not uniform throughout the entire Mediterranean, being still fragmentary on the coasts of the Iberian Peninsula (Jimeno & Turón 1995; Bellan-Santini & Ruffo 1998). Studying benthos communities along Comunidad Valenciana coast (East Spanish coast), a new species of the genus *Medicorophium* was found in areas characterised by medium-to-fine sand community of *Spisula subtruncata*. Despite the fact that this community is commonly found in the shallow soft-bottom non-vegetated areas of the western Mediterranean Sea (Cardell *et al.* 1999), this species was not previously reported. A key to the species of *Corophium*, *Apocorophium*, *Monocorophium* and *Medicorophium* (tribe Corophiini) found on the Mediterranean coast of Spain is provided.

Material and methods

All 438 specimens were collected by Van Veen grab (400 cm²) at a depth from 12.4 m to 22 m, during sampling surveys carried out in July 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 (Figure 1 and Table 1). Samples were sieved through a 0.5 mm screen, and preserved in 10 % formalin for the study of the benthic community. Other samples were used to characterize the sediment (see De-la-Ossa *et al.* 2009).

Abbreviations used in figures. A1/A2, antennae 1 and 2; G1/G2 gnathopods 1 and 2; Hd, head; Md, mandible, P3/P5/P7, pereopods 3, 5 and 7; U1/U2/U3, uropods 1-3; Us, urosome.

Systematic section

Infraorder Corophiida Leach, 1814

Superfamily Corophioidea Leach, 1814