



Littoral Maeridae and Melitidae (Amphipoda: Gammaridea) from the Gulf of Tehuantepec, Mexico

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Abstract

In the Tropical Eastern Pacific region, the gammaridean amphipods of the families Maeridae and Melitidae are represented by 28 species and 11 genera; the genus *Elasmopus* is the richest, with 13 species. The examination of approximately 3,250 specimens resulted in 12 new records from the Gulf of Tehuantepec, belonging to four genera, *Elasmopus*, *Maera*, *Quadrimaera* and *Melita*. All species are illustrated and described. Seven new species are described as: *Elasmopus bastidai* n. sp., *Elasmopus karlae* n. sp., *Elasmopus lecroyae* n. sp., *Elasmopus marcelae* n. sp., *Elasmopus oaxaquensis* n. sp., *Maera umarae* n. sp., and *Melita bousfieldi* n. sp. With these new species the genus *Elasmopus* from the Tropical Eastern Pacific is increased to 18 species that corroborates the hypothesis of Barnard (1979) “on the Pacific there are (sic) a mark of speciation of genus *Elasmopus*”. In addition, there are five new records from the Gulf of Tehuantepec: three species of *Elasmopus* and two of *Quadrimaera*. Also, the range distribution of *Elasmopus temori* Barnard and *E. zoanthidea* Barnard, is increased to the north from the Galapagos Islands to the Gulf of Tehuantepec; for *E. tubar* Barnard, *Quadrimaera chinarra* Barnard, and *Q. reishi* Barnard, there are new intermediate records between the Gulf of California and the Galapagos Islands. With the exception of the species of *Quadrimaera*, all known species represent the second record in the region after their first descriptions.

Key words: Crustacea, Amphipoda, faunistic, *Elasmopus*, *Maera*, *Quadrimaera*, *Melita*, Mexican Pacific, new records, new species