



## A new species of *Nymphon* Fabricius, 1794 (Pycnogonida: Nymphonidae) from northern Spain

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### Abstract

A new species of pycnogonid, *Nymphon tricuspidatum*, is described from a slope (574–610 m depth) on the NE Atlantic coast. Four males, two females, five juveniles and nine post-larvae were collected with suprabenthic and epibenthic sledges from Le Danois Bank (Bay of Biscay) and the Galician waters. This uniunguiculate and brevitarsal species is defined by the following exclusive features: a tricuspidated ocular tubercle, T-shaped frontal part of the cephalon, lateral implantation of the cheliphores, particular denticulation of the chela fingers, the 4<sup>th</sup> palp article smaller than the 5<sup>th</sup>, and the presence of 2 or 3 cement gland tubes. These characters distinguish the species from its most similar species *Nymphon tubiferum*, and the new species is compared to other similar species within the same genus, namely *N. caementarum*, *N. prolatum*, *N. puellula* and *N. caldarium*.

**Key words:** *Nymphon*, Pycnogonida, N Spain, NE Atlantic

### Introduction

There have been few reports of the pycnogonid fauna from the North Iberian Peninsula, the main reviews being by Arnaud (1973), Bamber and Thurston (1995), Munilla (1987 with bibliography; 1994; 1997), Stock (1978a; 1978b; 1991) and Bamber (2010). There are at least 38 species in those waters recorded in faunistic papers.

The pycnogonid genus *Nymphon* Fabricius, 1794 (Nymphonidae) comprises about 270 species, of which only two have been found in the North of Spain, *Nymphon gracile* Leach, 1814, the most common species found (Munilla, 1987; 1994; 1997), and *Nymphon laterospinum* (Stock, 1978a).

The present paper reports on a new *Nymphon* species, as part of the Pycnogonids of Iberian Peninsula project (Pycnoib). The description is based on six adult specimens (four males and two females) collected during the DIVA-ARTABRIA-03 survey of the Galician waters (off A Coruña) and the ECOMARG survey at Le Danois Bank (Cantabrian Sea, off Ribadesella village in Asturias) in 2003. Benthic organisms were sampled using suprabenthic and epibenthic sledges and sea spiders were found at 610 m depth (Galician bottoms, upper slope), and 574 m (Asturian bottoms, marginal shelf-upper slope). The specimens were fixed and stored in 70% ethanol in the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) collections.

### Family Nymphonidae

#### Genus *Nymphon* Fabricius, 1794

#### *Nymphon tricuspidatum* n. sp.

**Material examined.** Galician Atlantic waters: 1 male, holotype (registration number Pyc 124DA), 2 males (2 ovigerous and 1 without eggs), 2 gravid females, 4 juveniles, 9 postlarvae, paratypes (Pyc125 to 128DA). EBS 600-03