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Africorchestia a new genus of sand-hoppers (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Talitridae) from western Africa and south-western Europe

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Abstract

Africorchestia, a new genus of coastal sand-hoppers (Amphipoda, Talitridae), is described from western Africa and south-western Europe. *Africorchestia* includes five species: *A. fischeri* (H. Milne Edwards, 1830); *A. quadrispinosa* (K.H. Barnard, 1916); *A. skoogi* (Stebbing, 1922); *A. spinifera* (Mateus, 1962); and A. *tricornuta* (Shoemaker, 1920).

Key words: Crustacea, Amphipoda, Talitridae, Africa, Europe, taxonomy, new genus, *Africorchestia*

Introduction

Along the west coast of Africa and the south-western coast of Europe there is a group of striking sand-hoppers with sculptured pleosomes and setae on the dactyli of pereopods 6 and 7. Although known since H. Milne Edwards (1830) first described *Orchestia fischeri*, they have never been incorporated into a distinct genus. In this paper we describe the genus, *Africorchestia* **gen. nov.** and include five species, *Orchestia fischeri* H. Milne Edwards, 1830, *Talorchestia quadrispinosa* K.H. Barnard, 1916, *Talorchestia skoogi* Stebbing, 1922, *Talorchestia spinifera* (Mateus, 1962) and *Talorchestia tricornuta* Shoemaker, 1920. Although males are known for all species females have only been described for *A. skoogi* and *A. spinifera*. Consequently sexual dimorphism is incompletely known for the genus.

Orchestia fischeri

Amanieu & Salvat (1963) addressed the confusion surrounding *Orchestia fischeri* H. Milne Edwards, 1830, in relation to *Talorchestia quadrispinosa* K.H. Barnard, 1916 and *Talorchestia spinifera* (E. Mateus, 1962). H. Milne Edwards (1830) described *O. fischeri*, indicating a species with a dorsally sculptured pleosome, but he designated no types and did not indicate a type locality. Subsequently Guérin (1832) reported *O. fischeri* from the Bay of Kalamata, Greece, without figures and from the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa, with one figure (Guérin 1836). According to Amanieu & Salvat (1963), if there are any specimens from these collections they are in the Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, Madrid, Spain. H. Milne Edwards (1840) gave a figure of *O. fischeri* that showed a pair of dorsal spines each on pleonites 1 and 2, but again he did not indicate a type locality. Lucas (1846) reported *O. fischeri* from Algeria living under the brown alga *Fucus* on the edge of the sea.

Chevreux (1911) gave the distribution of *O. fischeri* as: Algeria (Lucas 1846); Bay of Kalamata, Gulf of Koron, Greece (Guérin 1832); Cadiz, Spain (Chevreux 1911) and the Cape of Good Hope (Guérin 1836). K.H. Barnard (1916) indicated that the Guérin's (1836) record of *O. fischeri* from the Cape of Good Hope was actually *T. quadrispinosa* and Amanieu & Salvat (1963) indicated that the Chevreux's (1911) report of *O. fischeri* from Cadiz was *T. spinifera*. Only the records of *O. fischeri* from the Bay of Kalamata and the coast of Algeria are left unresolved.

The species reported from the Bay of Kalamata, Greece (Guérin 1832) and from Algeria (Lucas 1846) are apparently misidentifications. Bellan-Santini & Krapp-Schickel (1993) did not report any species which could be attributed to *Africorchestia* in their monograph on the talitrid amphipods of the Mediterranean Sea. According to

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