



***Centromedon zoe* (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Lysianassoidea: Uristidae),  
a new deep-water scavenger species from the North Atlantic,  
with a key to the genus *Centromedon***

TAMMY HORTON<sup>1</sup> & MICHAEL THURSTON

National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, Waterfront Campus, European Way, Southampton SO14 3ZH, UK.

<sup>1</sup>Corresponding author. E-mail: tammy.horton@noc.ac.uk

**Abstract**

A new species of *Centromedon* Sars, 1891 is described based on abundant material collected in baited traps at 2500 m on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The species can be distinguished from the most closely allied species, *Centromedon typhlops* (Sars, 1879), *Centromedon mediator* (Barnard, 1962) comb. nov. and *Centromedon laevis* (Bonnier, 1896) comb. nov., by the form of the gnathopods, and characters of the mouthparts. A key to the eight species in the genus is provided. The differences between the closely allied genera *Uristes* Dana, 1849 and *Centromedon* are discussed.

**Key words:** Crustacea, Amphipoda, Lysianassoidea, Uristidae, *Centromedon*, *Uristes*, new species, deep-sea

**Introduction**

Currently, the genus *Centromedon* (Lysianassoidea: Uristidae) comprises five species: *Centromedon pumilus* (Lilljeborg, 1865), an arctic and boreal shelf species (probably circumpolar); *Centromedon productus* (Goës, 1866), an arctic shelf species (Svalbard east to Kara Sea); *Centromedon typhlops* (Sars, 1879), a deep-water species from the Norwegian Sea; *Centromedon calcaratus* (Sars, 1879) a deep-water and polar emergent species (Norwegian and Kara Seas) and *Centromedon pavor* Barnard, 1966, a relatively shallow-water species from California. Barnard (1962) removed all but the type species *Centromedon pumilus* to the genus *Uristes* based on the state of the mandibular molar and the relative lengths of the carpus and propodus of gnathopod 1. Olerod (1980) transferred the three species removed by Barnard back to the genus *Centromedon*, pointing out that all species have a ‘laminar, unridged molar’ and all except the aberrant *C. calcaratus* have the carpus and propodus of gnathopod 1 subequal. This paper summarised the status of the genus *Centromedon* and gave excellent redescriptions of the type species and the four other species in the genus known at the time.

**Methods**

Material was fixed in 4% formaldehyde and then transferred to 80% Industrial Methylated Spirits (80% IMS) on return to the laboratory. An Olympus™ SZ-XZ-10 stereo microscope was used for initial examination of specimens. One male paratype was dissected in order to provide details of parts which were not clear or which differed from the female holotype. Dissected parts were mounted in Polyvinyl-lactophenol (PVL) stained with lignin pink. Using an Olympus™ BX51 compound microscope, illustrations were prepared and were scanned and inked digitally using Adobe® Illustrator® and a WACOM™ digitiser tablet (Coleman 2004). Setal and mouthpart classifications follow Watling (1989) and Lowry & Stoddart (1992, 1993, 1995). The description was prepared using DELTA (Descriptive Language for Taxonomy: Dallwitz *et al.* 1997). Type material has been deposited at the Natural History Museum, London (NHM) and the Australian Museum, Sydney (AM). Additional material studied is held in the Discovery Collections, National Oceanography Centre, Southampton. Type material of *Uristes typhlops*