



A new species of *Sandro* Karaman & Barnard (Crustacea: Amphipoda: *Austroniphargus* family group) from South-East Madagascar

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Abstract

A new austroniphargid amphipod *Sandro straussi* sp. n. (Crustacea, Amphipoda, *Austroniphargus* family group) is described on a large collection from forest streams of the Ranomafana National Park, South-East Madagascar. The new species differs from the only known congener, *S. starmuehlneri* (Ruffo, 1960), by the absence of dorsal spine-setae on telson, unlobed propodus of gnathopods, presence of distal bifurcation on posterior lobe of male uropod 3 peduncle and other characters. The unique feature of *S. straussi* sp. n. is the sexual dimorphism of uropods 1 and 3: males of the species possess a distolateral lobe on the uropod 1 peduncle and mentioned bifurcated lobe on uropod 3. Despite the absence of eyes, *S. straussi* sp. n. is widely distributed in epigeal stream of the Ranomafana National Park. The diagnosis of the genus *Sandro* Karaman & Barnard, 1979 is revised and a key to austroniphargid species is composed.

Key words: *Austroniphargus*, Amphipoda, Ranomafana National Park, sexual dimorphism, anophthalmia, endemism

Résumé

Un nouvel amphipode austroniphargien, *Sandro straussi* sp. n. (Crustacea, Amphipoda, groupe familial des *Austroniphargus*) est décrit en se fondant sur l'examen d'une collection importante en provenance des ruisseaux forestiers du parc national de Ranomafana, situé dans le sud-est de Madagascar. La nouvelle espèce se distingue de son unique congénère connu, *S. starmuehlneri* (Ruffo, 1960), par divers caractères, parmi lesquels il convient de mentionner l'absence de épines dorsales sur le telson, le propodus non lobé des gnathopodes, et la bifurcation distale du lobe postérieur du pédoncule de l'uropode 3 du mâle. Le dimorphisme sexuel des uropodes 1 et 3 constitue un trait unique chez *S. straussi* sp. n. Les mâles de l'espèce se caractérisent en effet par la présence d'un lobe distolatéral sur le pédoncule de l'uropode 1 et par le lobe bifurqué déjà mentionné de l'uropode 3. En dépit de son absence d'yeux, *S. straussi* sp. n. est largement répandu dans les ruisseaux de surface du parc national de Ranomafana. La diagnose du genre *Sandro* Karaman & Barnard, 1979 est révisée et une clé des espèces du groupe familial des *Austroniphargus* est proposée.

Introduction

The amphipod crustacean fauna of Madagascar inland waters is yet poorly known. Fragmentary collections mostly from the southern part of the island (including terrestrial and semiterrestrial habitats) consisted of single representatives of melitid, bogidiellid, austroniphargid, photid, aorid and talitrid species (Coutière 1904; Monod 1925; Ruffo 1958, 1960; K.H. Barnard 1958; cf. J.L. Barnard & C.M. Barnard 1983). In total some 12–15 amphipod species have been documented from the fresh and brackish waters of Madagascar.

Austroniphargid amphipods, or *Austroniphargus* family group, are purely endemic to Madagascar, and include two genera, *Austroniphargus* Monod, 1925 and *Sandro* Karaman & Barnard, 1979, with 2 and 1 known species, respectively. Systematic position of austroniphargids and their relation to other amphipods is still not clearly understood. Although most probably related to niphargids (Monod 1925; Bousfield 1977; Barnard & Karaman 1983; Barnard & Barnard 1983), they show similarities with melitids (Barnard & Barnard 1983) and bogidiellids (Bousfield 1977), causing confusion in the systematics of Gammaridea (Barnard & Karaman 1980).