



Two new species of cirolanid isopods (Crustacea: Isopoda: Cirolanidae) from Qeshm and Kish Islands in the Persian Gulf

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Abstract

Two new species of *cirolanid* isopods, *Baharilana kiabii* **sp. nov.** from the western coasts of Qeshm Island and *Cirolana tarahomii* **sp. nov.** from the northern coast of Kish Island and the western coasts of Qeshm Island in the Persian Gulf are described. *Baharilana kiabii* **sp. nov.** is characterized by pleonite 5 with a median projection and a pleotelson with two longitudinal, parallel ridges and small tubercles on the dorsal surface. *Cirolana tarahomii* **sp. nov.** is distinguished by a lateral margins of the frontal lamina converging slightly towards the base, the distal margin is extended with a narrowly rounded apex; appendix masculina distally acute with bifid apex, pleotelson with a broadly rounded apex and 8 marginal robust setae, uropodal rami not deeply bifid.

Key words: *Baharilana*, *Cirolana*, Isopoda, new species, Qeshm Island, Kish Island, Persian Gulf, Iran

Introduction

The isopod fauna of the Iranian side of the Persian Gulf is generally poorly known, with only a few records in recent publications (e.g. Khalaji-Pirbalouty & Wägele 2009, 2010a, 2010b). *Baharilana* is a small genus of four named species, with a distribution in the West Indian Ocean from the shallow sub-tidal waters of Somalia, Tanzania to Mozambique. Bruce & Svavarsson (2003) established this genus with the description of *B. richmondi* from Tanzania. Schotte and Kensley (2005) have subsequently reported two new species of this genus from Mozambique and Somali. Moreover, *Cirolana bisulcata* Hobbins & Jones, 1993, was assigned to *Baharilana* without description or explanation by Schotte and Kensley (2005). The new species described below constitute the fifth record of the genus from the Indian Ocean.

The genus *Cirolana* has long been the dominant genus in the family Cirolanidae. Species assigned to this genus occur world-wide, from cool-water regions to tropical coral reefs, as well as from intertidal areas to depths of approximately 1000 m (Bruce 1986, 2004; Bruce & Brandt 2006). Currently, the genus contains 130 described species worldwide (Bruce & Schotte 2010). Kensley (2001) provided a complete list of the 31 species of *Cirolana* known from the entire Indian Ocean region. Of these, several had earlier been assigned to other genera: *Cirolana porcellana* Barnard, 1936 to *Dolicholana* Bruce, 1986; *C. schioedtei* Miers, 1884 to *Aatolana* Bruce, 1993, and *C. bisulcata* Hobbins and Jones, 1993 to *Baharilana* by Schotte & Kensley (2005). Two new species from Thailand were added to the genus by Bruce & Olesen (2002) and four new species from the western Indian Ocean were added by Schotte & Kensley (2005). The present study adds a new *Cirolana* species to those known from the Indian Ocean. These changes bring the recognized *Cirolana* species in the Indian Ocean to 35.

Material and methods

Samples were collected from the Persian Gulf in 2008. Appendages were dissected and mounted in stained antibacterial glycerine-gelatine (Merck). Pencil drawings were made using a standard *camera lucida* mounted on a com-