



Ampithoe bizseli n. sp. (Crustacea, Amphipoda) from the west coast of Turkey

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Abstract

The new species *Ampithoe bizseli* from the west coast of Turkey is described. It can be distinguished by a circular ischium lobe on gnathopod 2 in the male sex from the similar species *Ampithoe ramondi* where this lobe is slender. *Ampithoe bizseli* n. sp. appears to occur also on the coast of Tansania.

Key words: taxonomy, new species, Mediterranean Sea, *Ampithoe bizseli* n. sp., *Ampithoe ramondi*

Introduction

During an ecological survey on fish cages on the west coast of Turkey an *Ampithoe* species was found on the nets of a cage that at first was identified as *Ampithoe ramondi* Audouin, 1826, originally described from Egypt. This species is considered to have a cosmopolitan distribution in warm and temperate seas (Griffiths 1973). Comparing the species descriptions of *A. ramondi* in the literature there seems to be some variability between the populations especially in gnathopod 2 and it raises the question if these populations rather represent separate species.

There were several strong differences between *A. ramondi* described from the Mediterranean (see Krapp-Schickel 1982) and the material collected at the Turkish coast. This raised the suspicion that this material could belong to a new species. A closer look especially on the morphology of the second gnathopod confirmed this hypothesis.

Material and methods

The material was hand collected by SCUBA diving. It was fixed in 70% ethanol and later transferred into glycerol and mounted on slides for the preparation of the drawings. Pencil drawings were made with a camera lucida on a Leica M 205c dissecting microscope and a Leica DMLB compound microscope. The line drawings were made using the technique described in Coleman (2003, 2009). Length measurements were made along the outline of the animals, beginning at the tip of the rostrum to the end of the telson. The descriptions were generated from a DELTA database (Dallwitz 2005) to the amphithoid genera and species of the world. The type material is deposited in the Museum für Naturkunde (ZMB). We compared the new species with material from *A. ramondi* from Rovinj, Sicily and Haifa from the collections of the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin (ZMB 27026, 27024 and 21204).