



Article

A new genus and species of Melitidae (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Hadzioidea) from Brazilian waters

ANDRÉ R. SENNA^{1,3} & CRISTIANA S. SEREJO²

¹Centro Universitário de Volta Redonda (UniFOA), Curso de Ciências Biológicas. Av. Paulo Erlei Alves Abrantes, 1.325, Prédio 1, Três Poços, Volta Redonda, RJ, CEP 27240-560, Brasil

²Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Museu Nacional, Departamento de Invertebrados, Setor de Carcinologia. Quinta da Boa Vista, s/n, São Cristóvão, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, CEP 20940-040, Brasil

³Corresponding author. E-mail: senna.crustacea@gmail.com; ar.senna@hotmail.com

Abstract

A new genus and species of the *Eriopisella* group are described from Brazilian waters. The new genus is monotypic and closely related to the melitid genus *Netamelita* Barnard, 1962, but is distinguishable from the latter by the propodus of gnathopods 1 and 2 that is wedge-shaped, subtriangular and has the palm longer than posterior margin. This is the first amphipod of the *Eriopisella* group reported from Brazil.

Key words: taxonomy, *Eriopisella* group, GEDIP Project, habitats project, Brazil

Introduction

According to Lowry & Springthorpe (2005), the family Melitidae is divided into 78 genera which are arranged in five groups, *Ceradocopsis*, *Ceradocus*, *Eriopisa*, Gammarellid group (*Nuuanu*) and *Melita*. Since then, Krapp-Schickel (2008) has established the Maeridae, but she only partially diagnosed the family and did not include all genera. Lowry & Hughes (2009) diagnosed the family and included all the 40 genera. So now there are about 38 genera in the Melitidae. Yerman (2009) furthermore recognizes an *Eriopisella* group as distinct from *Melita* group, and composed of the genera *Eriopisella* Chevreux, 1920, *Netamelita* Barnard, 1962 and *Psammomelita* Vonk, 1988. There is not still, however, a phylogeny to corroborate the monophyly of these groups.

The genus *Netamelita* has many similarities to *Psammomelita*, but their differences have been well discussed by Vonk (1988) and later by Thomas & Barnard (1991) in their revision of the genus *Netamelita*, and Yerman (2009), who described the first species of *Netamelita* from waters beyond the southern United States and the Caribbean Sea. The new species described in this paper was first mentioned by Wakabara (1972) in her Ph.D. thesis as a new species of *Netamelita*, with material from the GEDIP Project, collected in 1968. However this material has never been formally described. Besides the material of GEDIP Project, we had access to material collected in 2008, in the Campos Basin, off the state of Rio de Janeiro, coming from the Habitats Project, where this species was found again.

The new species has many similarities to the ones of the genus *Netamelita*, but is here established as the type species of a new genus because of gnathopods 1 and 2 with the carpus smaller than propodus, the propodus wedge-shaped, palm longer than posterior margin, different from all the species of *Netamelita*. Regarding the relation of length of carpus and propodus on gnathopod 1, the type species of this genus, *N. cortada* Barnard, 1962, shows a long carpus, which seems to be longer than propodus. However, Thomas & Barnard (1991), based on reexamination of the holotype of *N. cortada*, diagnosed *Netamelita* presenting propodus shorter or scarcely shorter than carpus.

The following abbreviations were used in the figures: Md, mandible; Mx1–2, maxillae 1–2; UL, upper lip; LL, lower lip; Gn1–2, gnathopods 1–2; P3–7, pereopods 3–7; Ep1–3, epimeral plates 1–3; U1–3, uropods 1–3; T, telson; r, right; l, left.