



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3641.3.8>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:27F2E507-AAEB-4B80-AA54-C062DD430DAC>

***Metopa gigas* sp. nov. from southern Greenland, a giant among congeners (Crustacea, Amphipoda, Stenothoidae)**

JEAN JUST

Natural History Museum of Denmark (Zoological Museum), University of Copenhagen, Universitetsparken 15, DK-2100 Copenhagen, Denmark. E-mail: jean-just@mail.dk

Abstract

Metopa gigas sp. nov. is described from southern Greenland (east and west). This new species which reaches a length of around 20 mm is, together with *M. mirifica* Gurjanova, 1948 from the North Pacific, by far the largest member of the genus. The species is easily separated from sympatric *Metopa clypeata* (Kroyer, 1842; 15 mm; type species of *Metopa*) with which it has been confused, by small saddle-like ornaments dorsally on pereonites, and much longer antenna 1. It can be distinguished from *Metopa mirifica* by the simple propodus of gnathopod 1, whereas that of *M. mirifica* is strongly subchelate.

Key words: Crustacea, Amphipoda, Stenothoidae, *Metopa gigas* sp. nov., South Greenland

Introduction

The phylogeny of the stenothoid amphipod genus *Metopa* is poorly understood, but it is being actively investigated (Krapp-Schickel and Koenemann 2006). As currently understood (see Tandberg 2011, review of history and concepts) the genus comprises about 55 species, 17 of which have been reported from Greenland waters. *Metopa* species are tiny to medium sized amphipods, generally ranging in length from 1.5–2 millimetres to 12–15 millimetres. This paper describes a new species of about 20 millimetres, *Metopa gigas*, from southern Greenland. This is the largest species in the genus together with *Metopa mirifica* Gurjanova, 1951 (21 millimetres) from deep water off the Kurile Islands in the Pacific.

The material is deposited in the Zoological Museum, Copenhagen (ZMUC).

Stenothoidae

***Metopa* Boeck**

***Metopa gigas* sp. nov.**

Figs 1–4

Type fixation. Holotype, ♀, here designated.

Etymology. The epithet is the Latin noun for Giant.

Material examined. Holotype, ♀, 19.0 mm, West Greenland, Godthaabsfjord [Kugssukfjord], approximately 64°N 52°W, ca. 300 m, 'Tjalfe' stn 52, 15 June 1908, ZMUC CRU-20522.

Paratypes. Same data as holotype, ZMUC CRU-20523 (15 specimens, juveniles and immature).

Southernmost Greenland: S of Akuliaruseq, 60°08.6'N 44°10.7'W, 400–250 m, rectangular dredge on steep rock face with hydroids, Kap Farvel Expedition, stn 103, 17 August 1970, ZMUC CRU-20524 (1 ♀, 23 immature). Southernmost island in Toqulineq, 60°04.5'N 43°02.7'W, 240 m, stones, gravel, clay, Bryozoa, rectangular dredge, Kap Farvel Expedition, stn 136, 25 August 1970, ZMUC CRU-20525 (1 ♂, 19.1 mm). Off Sydprøven [Alluitsup