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## ***Talorchestia qeshm* sp. nov., a new talitrid amphipod from the Persian Gulf (Amphipoda, Talitridae)**

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### **Abstract**

A new talitrid amphipod species, *Talorchestia qeshm* sp. nov., is described from Qeshm Island in the south-eastern Persian Gulf. This is the westernmost confirmed record for *Talorchestia* and places the genus firmly in the western Indian Ocean.

**Key words:** Crustacea, Amphipoda, Talitridae, *Talorchestia*, Persian Gulf, taxonomy, new species

### **Introduction**

The genus *Talorchestia* Dana, 1852 currently contains eight described species with several undescribed species in the literature. *Talorchestia* has a broad horizontal range through the tropical/subtropical western Pacific Ocean and across the northern Indian Ocean to the Persian Gulf. It has confirmed reports from Taiwan (Miyamoto & Morino 1999), the Philippines (Oleröd 1970, Morino & Miyamoto 1988), Malaysia (Dana 1852, Othman & Azman 2007), Micronesia (J.L. Barnard 1960), Papua New Guinea (Morino & Miyamoto 1988), the Solomon Islands (Morino & Miyamoto 1988), the Society Islands (Dana 1852, Lowry & Bopiah 2013), tropical Australia (Lowry & Springthorpe 2009, Serejo 2009); India (Chilton 1921, Lyla *et al.* 1998) and Madagascar (Ledoyer 1968, 1986).

*Talorchestia martensii* (Weber, 1892) and *Platorchestia platensis* (Krøyer, 1845) have been reported from the Persian Gulf (Jones 1986), indicating the presence of at least two talitrid species in the Gulf. However, the figure of *T. martensii* (Jones 1986: pl. 41) clearly shows robust setae on the outer ramus of uropod 1, not a characteristic of *Talorchestia*.

Recent collections of a new species of *Talorchestia* from Qeshm Island, located 1.8 kilometers off the southern coast of Iran, in the Strait of Hormuz, Persian Gulf, is described here as *Talorchestia qeshm* sp. nov. This is the westernmost confirmed record for the genus. There are unconfirmed reports of *T. martensii* from the Red Sea (Ruffo 1938, 1969) and from Somalia and Kenya (Ercolini (1964a, b), Pardi (1967), Pardi & Ercolini (1966, 1986), Pardi *et al.* (1984), Pardi *et al.* (1988), Ugolini (2001)).

### **Material and methods**

The descriptions were generated from a DELTA database (Dallwitz 2005) to the talitrid genera and species of the world. Material is lodged in: the Australian Museum, Sydney (AM) and the Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science, Tehran, Iran (INIOAS). Measurement of the length of the palm as a percentage of the length of the propodus of male gnathopod 2 follows Lowry & Springthorpe (2015). Abbreviations are: C, coxa; EP, epimeron; G, gnathopod; H, Head; UL, labrum; MD, mandible; MX, maxilla; MP, maxilliped; oost, oostegite; P, pereopod; T, telson; U, uropod; L, left; R, right.