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Cheilopallene ogasawarensis, a New Species of Shallow-Water Pycnogonid (Arthropoda: Pycnogonida) from the Ogasawara (Bonin) Islands, Japan, Northwest Pacific

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Abstract

A new species of pycnogonid recorded from the shallow waters of Ogasawara (Bonin) Island, Japan, *Cheilopallene ogasawarensis* **n. sp**. is described, illustrated and compared with similar species. *Cheilopallene ogasawarensis* is only the third pycnogonid species recorded from these islands. Morphological characters clearly distinguish the new species from its geographically closest congener C. *nodulosa* Hong and Kim, 1987, also recorded from Japanese waters.

Key words: Pycnogonid, *Cheilopallene*, new species, Ogasawara (Bonin) Islands, Japan

Introduction

The known pycnogonid fauna of the Ogasawara (Bonin) Islands of Japan is currently limited to two species: *Achelia curticauda* Nakamura *et al*., 1996 and *Tanystylum ulreungum* Kim, 1983. Both species are recorded from seaweed on the rocky shores of Chichijima Island (Nakamura *et al*. 1996). This compares to more than 50 species reported from the Izu Peninsula, to the north of the Islands (Nakamura & Child 1983, 1991).

The seven species assigned to the genus *Cheilopallene* Stock, 1955, have been reported from the waters of the Indian Ocean, western Pacific Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and the Southern Ocean (Stock 1955; Clark 1961, 1971; Child 1987, 1988; Hong & Kim 1987; Müller 1992). The only species of *Cheilopallene* recorded from Japanese waters is *C. nodulosa* Hong & Kim, 1987, which has been reported from Sagami Bay on the mid coast of Honshu Island and also from Korea at depths of 5–42 m (Hong & Kim *op. cit*.; Nakamura & Child 1991).

The present study describes a new species of *Cheilopallene* based on a specimen collected during an investigation of the benthic fauna of the Ogasawara Islands by the National Museum of Nature and Science (NSMT) in 2013. This is the third species from the Ogasawara Islands.

Materials and methods.

The specimen examined in the present study was collected by the second author (TA) using SCUBA. The surfaces of the sandy seabed and algae covered rocks were swept by hand, and the suspended sediment particles including tiny organisms were collected in a nylon ring net (30 cm diameter, 130 cm length, and 0.5 mm mesh). The precise habitat of this pycnogonid is uncertain. Material was sorted from the fresh sediment samples under a stereo microscope (Leica MZ6), and preserved in 80% ethanol. Remaining sediment samples were preserved in 70–80% ethanol for further sorting. The male holotype is deposited in the National Museum of Nature and Science (NSMT)

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