

***Biacanthus pleuronichthydis* (Yamaguti, 1939) gen. n., comb. n.
(Copepoda: Taeniacanthidae), an ectoparasite of flatfishes from
Japanese waters**

DANNY TANG¹ & KUNIHICO IZAWA²

¹*School of Animal Biology, The University of Western Australia, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley, WA, 6009, Australia; email: tangd02@student.uwa.edu.au*

²*Izawa Marine Biological Laboratory, 795-16 Kannonji, Tsu, Mie 514-0062, Japan; email: izawafam@zrv.ne.jp*

Abstract

A new taeniacanthid genus, *Biacanthus* **gen. n.**, is proposed for *Taeniastrotos pleuronichthydis* (Yamaguti, 1939) based on a redescription of adult female and male specimens collected from three flatfish hosts captured along the coast of Japan. *Biacanthus pleuronichthydis* (Yamaguti, 1939) **comb. n.** is distinguished from other taeniacanthid species by a combination of characters that include a horseshoe-shaped sclerotised structure on the ventral surface of the rostrum, an anteromedial projection on the first antennule segment, an uncinat process posterior to each antennule base, a pair of postantennal processes, a sigmoid-shaped maxilliped claw bearing an accessory process, an inner coxal seta on legs 2 and 3, and an inner intermediate spine on the first and second endopodal segments of leg 4. A key to the genera of the Taeniacanthidae females is provided.

Key words: copepod, Taeniacanthidae, flatfishes, parasite, taxonomy

Introduction

Anchistrotos pleuronichthydis was first described by Yamaguti (1939) for a collection of female specimens removed from the body surface of *Pleuronichthys cornutus* (Temminck & Schlegel) and *Verasper variegatus* (Temminck & Schlegel) captured in Tarumi, Japan. Izawa (1986) later provided descriptions of the first two naupliar and all the copepodite stages, except the fifth female copepodite, of *A. pleuronichthydis*. Despite the fact his adult female specimens, including Yamaguti's (1939) material, lacked the characteristic pair of long whip-like setae at the base of the maxilliped claw exhibited by members of