

***Haplomesus longiramus* sp. nov. (Crustacea: Isopoda: Asellota), a new ischnomesid species from the Bay of Biscay, North East Atlantic Ocean**

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Abstract

A new species of Ischnomesidae (Crustacea: Isopoda: Asellota), *Haplomesus longiramus* **sp. nov.** is described from the Bay of Biscay. This species is unusual due to the presence of long, thin anterolateral projections supporting the antennae and an elongate pereonite 4. These features are also seen in *Haplomesus biscayensis* Chardy, 1975, and the two species closely resemble each other. The presence of a laterally directed spine on pereonite 5 of the male of *Haplomesus longiramus* **sp. nov.** along with the elongate uropods of both male and female easily differentiates this species from *H. biscayensis*. Within its known distributional area, this new *Haplomesus* species inhabits bathyal muddy bottoms from 500–1009 m, with a maximum abundance of 29 individuals per 100 m² recorded at approximately 700 m.

Keywords: Isopoda, Asellota, Ischnomesidae, *Haplomesus*

Introduction

The genus *Haplomesus* is one of five genera within the family Ischnomesidae (Crustacea: Isopoda: Asellota) that comprises marine benthic isopods primarily from bathyal and abyssal depths. The genus, established by Richardson in 1908, is the second largest in the family, and contains 27 species to date. The genus is cosmopolitan: species are recorded from the Atlantic, North Pacific, Arctic and Antarctic oceans. This paper describes a new species in the genus, *Haplomesus longiramus* **sp. nov.**, from the Bay of Biscay, closely allied to *Haplomesus biscayensis* Chardy, 1975, previously mentioned from the Le Danois bank (Cantabrian margin). Comments on the distribution and autoecology of *H.*