

Two new genera of Laophontidae (Copepoda: Harpacticoida) without sexual dimorphism in the endopods of the swimming legs

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Abstract

Two new monospecific genera of the harpacticoid family Laophontidae T. Scott, 1905 are described here. *Apistophonte wasiniensis* **gen. et sp. n.** was found along the Kenyan coast and *Propephonte duangitensis* **gen. et sp. n.** along the northern coast of Papua New Guinea. They differ from most other laophontid genera in the absence of sexual dimorphism in the endopods of the swimming legs. At first sight, both new species resemble each other very closely in habitus, integumental ornamentation, chaetotaxy of the swimming legs and absence of sexual dimorphism in the endopods. However, the detailed characteristics of A1, maxilla and male P5 show that the species are not congeneric.

The structure of the first antennular segment of *Propephonte* **gen. n.** suggests a close relationship with *Peltdiphonte* Gheerardyn and Fiers, 2006. The exact affinities of *Apistophonte* **gen. n.** however remain difficult to assess.

Key words: Harpacticoida, Laophontidae, *Propephonte* **gen. n.**, *Apistophonte* **gen. n.**

Introduction

Along the eastern coasts of Kenya and Zanzibar (Tanzania), harpacticoid copepod communities associated with dead coral substrates are being studied. As such, different types of substrate, ranging from coral sand, fine coral gravel and coral rubble to large coral fragments, have been sampled. Until now, the qualitative samples from the Kenyan coast yielded 44 species of the family Laophontidae T. Scott, 1905, including 28 which are new to science (four species have been described so far (Gheerardyn *et al.* 2006; Gheerardyn *et al.* in press)).

In this paper we describe one of the new Kenyan species, which is mainly