



***Lysianopsis adela*, new species of amphipod (Gammaridea: Lysianassidae) from the Veracruz Coral Reef System, SW Gulf of Mexico**

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Abstract

A new species of amphipod of the genus *Lysianopsis* from the Veracruz Coral Reef System, SW Gulf of Mexico is described. *Lysianopsis adela* n. sp., was collected in the sediments at the base of the sponge *Aplysina fistularis* at a depth of 10 m. The differences among *L. alba*, *L. hummelincki*, and *L. ozona*, recorded from Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea are pointed out and they are compared with the new species.

Key words: Taxonomy, Crustacea, Lysianassidae, *Lysianopsis*, shallow water, benthos

Resumen

Una especie nueva de anfípodo del género *Lysianopsis* es descrita para el Sistema Arrecifal Veracruzano, SO del Golfo de México. *Lysianopsis adela* n. sp., fue recolectada del sedimento en la base de la esponja *Aplysina fistularis* a 10 m de profundidad. Esta especie es comparada con *L. alba*, *L. hummelincki* y *L. ozona*, registradas previamente para el Golfo de México y el Mar Caribe.

Palabras clave: Taxonomía, Crustacea, Lysianassidae, *Lysianopsis*, aguas someras, bentos

Introduction

The amphipods belonging to the superfamily Lysianassoidea represent a number of important marine families distributed from shallow to abyssal waters. Of these, the Uristidae, Aristiidae, Cyphocarididae, Endeavouridae, Scopelocheiridae, Eurytheneidae, and Lysianassidae *sensu stricto*, occur in the Gulf of Mexico (Lowry & Stoddart 1997; LeCroy 2007).

Lysianassa group includes some genera, i.e. *Lysianopsis*, *Aruga*, *Lysianassa*, *Shoemakerella*, grouped within the family Lysianassidae (LeCroy, 2007). However, during last decades, taxonomic problems associated with these genera have been documented in the Gulf of Mexico (*cf.* Lowry & Stoddart, 1997). As well as new species of those genera are described, additional material of males and females of *Lysianopsis* species is collected in the region, the potential difficulties with the taxonomy will be solved.

Until this study, only two species of the genus *Lysianopsis* had been documented from the eastern Gulf of Mexico, *L. alba* Holmes, 1903 (Shoemaker 1933; Stoner 1980; LeCroy 2007) and *L. ozona* Lowry & Stoddart, 1997 (Lowry & Stoddart 1997); both associated with shallow soft bottoms.

During a commensal macrocrustacean study carried out in the Veracruz Coral Reef System (2007), some amphipods were collected from sponges. Here we describe a new species of genus *Lysianopsis* collected in the sediment at the base of the sponge *Aplysina fistularis* (Pallas, 1766) at a depth of 10 m.