



Description of four new species from the *Haploniscus unicornis* Menzies, 1956 complex (Isopoda: Asellota: Haploniscidae)

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Abstract

Based on the adult males the four species *Haploniscus bihastatus* n. sp., *H. monoceros* n. sp., *H. machairis* n. sp. and *H. angolensis* n. sp. are described from the deep sea of the Southeast Atlantic. These belong to a species complex, which also includes *H. unicornis* Menzies from the Puerto Rico Trench and *H. aduncus* Lincoln from the Iceland Basin and shares several characters with species from the genus *Mastigoniscus* Lincoln. While males of the species complex can be reasonably well distinguished by their habitus and pleopods 1 and 2, the discrimination of female specimens is hampered by the pronounced sexual dimorphism. The *Haploniscus unicornis* complex has a wide distribution in the Atlantic Ocean, but appears to be absent from basins south of the Walvis Ridge and also from the southwest Atlantic basins.

Key words: species complex, sexual dimorphism, DIVA, Angola Basin, Guinea Basin, Walvis Ridge