



A new species and a new record of *Sphaeroma* Bosc, 1802 (Sphaeromatidae: Isopoda: Crustacea) from intertidal marine habitats of the Persian Gulf

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Abstract

Two species of *Sphaeroma* (Sphaeromatidae: Isopoda) from the Iranian coasts of the Persian Gulf were studied and described. *Sphaeroma khalijfarsi* **sp. nov.** is described from the intertidal zone of the Strait of Hormuz. This species is distinguished by the smooth pereonites; pleon without prominent tubercles and bearing some scattered small tubercles; pleotelson with numerous scattered small tubercles and well upturned posterior margins. *Sphaeroma walkeri* Stebbing, 1905 is reported from Kish and Qeshm Islands and from the southern coasts of Iran. Among the non-Indian Ocean species, *Sphaeroma intermedium* Baker, 1926 is transferred to genus *Lekanesphera* Verhoeff, 1943.

Key words: taxonomy, Isopoda, Sphaeromatidae, *Sphaeroma*, new species, The Persian Gulf

Introduction

The genus *Sphaeroma* has a worldwide distribution, and about 25 present of valid species has been reported from Indian Ocean: (*S. annandalei* Stebbing, 1911: India (Pillai 1955), Persian Gulf (Khalaji-Pirbalouty & Wägele 2010); *S. bigranulata* Budde Lund, 1908: Zanzibar; *S. coglobator* Pallas, 1766: Gulf of Suez; *S. serratum* Fabricius, 1787: Gulf of Suez (Monod 1933), South Africa (Kensley 1978); *S. sieboldii* Dollfus, 1889: Madagascar (Roman 1970); *S. terebrans* Bate, 1866: South Africa, India, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Australia (Harrison & Holdich 1984), Madagascar (Roman 1970); *S. triste* Heller, 1865: India, Nicobar Islands (Pillai 1961), Indonesia, Australia (Harrison & Holdich 1984); *S. tuberculata* Purusotham & Rao, 1971: India; and *S. walkeri* Stebbing, 1905: Sri Lanka (type locality), India, Red Sea, South Africa, Australia (Carlton & Iverson 1981), Pakistan (Ghani & Qadeer 2001).

The first species of *Sphaeroma* to be reported from the Persian Gulf was *S. irakiensis* Ahmad (1971), which was subsequently synonymised with *Sphaeroma annandalei* Stebbing, 1911 by Khalaji-Pirbalouty & Wägele (2010). Following Ahmad's (1971) record, no further *Sphaeroma* were reported from the Persian Gulf except in a table summarizing the distribution of *Sphaeroma walkeri* Stebbing, 1905 from Sudia Arabian coast (Carlton & Iverson 1981).

In the present paper we describe a new species of *Sphaeroma* and provide a new record of *S. walkeri*.

Material and methods

Samples were collected from the Persian Gulf during 2006–2010. Appendages were dissected and mounted in stained antibacterial glycerine–gelatine (Merck). Pencil drawings were made using a standard camera lucida mounted on a compound microscope (Olympus BX 51) and stereomicroscope (Olympus SZX12). Photographs were taken with a Leica Z6 imaging system. For greater depth of view, the software Auto-Montage was used for assembling 10 source images to one final image.

Terminology follows Bruce (2003). The material has been returned to the borrowing national history collections.