

***Paradella tiffany* sp. nov., a distinctive sphaeromatid isopod (Crustacea: Isopoda: Sphaeromatidea) from Baja California, Mexico**

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Abstract

Paradella tiffany sp. nov., from the high intertidal of Baja California, Mexico, is described and figured. It is the first record of a species of *Paradella* with a posteriorly-directed median process on pereonite 7, this character distinguishing males of the species from all other species in the genus and all other sphaeromatids known from the East Pacific. A further unique character, in the male only, is the presence of short, stout and rigid plumose marginal setae on the distal margin of the pleopod 1 endopod.

Key words: East Pacific; Crustacea; Isopoda; Sphaeromatidae; *Paradella*; taxonomy; Baja California; Mexico

Introduction

Harrison & Holdich (1982) reviewed and revised the group of sphaeromatid genera that contained species long placed in *Dynamenella* Hansen, 1905. Species were reassigned among the existing genera *Dynamenella*, *Ischyromene* Racovitza, 1908, and their new genus *Paradella* Harrison & Holdich, 1982. A large number of species, including most of the Pacific North American species, remained as *incertae sedis*. Of the genera discussed by Harrison & Holdich (1982) *Ischyromene*, *Cymodocella* Pfeffer, 1887 and *Dynamenopsis* Baker, 1908, have since been recognized by Bruce (1995) as belonging to a distinct group of primarily Southern Hemisphere genera (the '*Ischyromene* group') characterized by the wholly or partly indurate (thickened) first pleopods (among other characters).