

A description of *Harpinia karamani* sp. nov. (Amphipoda: Phoxocephalidae) from the Mediterranean, with a redescription of *Harpinia truncata* Sars, 1891

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Abstract

A new species of *Harpinia* was discovered in Mediterranean specimens identified as *Harpinia truncata* Sars, held in collections at Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Verona. Examination of the Verona material proved that this species (*Harpinia karamani* sp. nov.) is morphologically distinct from *Harpinia truncata*, which has an arctic/boreal distribution. Further, in examination of material of *Harpinia truncata* from near its type locality, a rare male specimen was discovered. Herein, *Harpinia karamani* sp. nov. is described, illustrated and differentiated from *H. truncata* and the male of *H. truncata* is described for the first time.

Key words: Amphipoda, Mediterranean, Phoxocephalidae, *Harpinia*

Introduction

Harpinia truncata was first recorded in the Adriatic Sea by Karaman (1973) at Boka Kotorska, Montenegro (Crna Gora). Since then it has been recorded a further two times, in the Western Mediterranean (Bellan-Santini, 1985) and the Tyrrhenian Sea (Karaman, 1987). The species was originally described from Norwegian and Swedish waters (Sars, 1891). A review of *Harpinia* in the North East Atlantic (King et al., 2004) argued that records of *Harpinia truncata* from the Mediterranean were probably mistaken identifications of an undescribed species as there have been no confirmed records of *H. truncata* in intermediate areas such as the British Isles.

An opportunity to examine Mediterranean material identified by Karaman as *Harpinia truncata* as well as another undescribed species labelled '*Harpinia falsa*' held in the collections of the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale (Verona) confirmed that both were a single new species, herein designated *Harpinia karamani*.