

A new amphipod species from the Indian Ocean (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Lysianassoidea: Podoprionidae)

TAMMY HORTON

Southampton Oceanography Centre, Empress Dock, Southampton SO197LA, txh@soc.soton.ac.uk

Abstract

A new species of the genus *Podoprion* is described. The species can be distinguished from the other species in the genus, *Podoprion bolivari* Chevreux, 1891, *P. ruffoi* Lowry & Stoddart, 1996, and *P. mediterraneum* Kaim-Malka, 2004, by the shape of gnathopod 2 propodus, coxa 4, number and size of serrations on pereopod 5 basis, and characters of the mouthparts. Material was collected by baited trap at 1185 m off the coast of Pakistan in the northern Arabian Sea.

Key words Crustacea, Amphipoda, Lysianassoidea, Podoprionidae, *Podoprion*, new species, Indian Ocean, deep sea

Introduction

As part of a recent cruise to the Pakistan margin (northern Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean), baited traps were set to collect and study the scavenging amphipod community at various depths. Three of the traps were successful in collecting specimens and at 1200 m, three species of amphipod were collected; *Hirondellea* sp. nov., *Abyssorchomene abyssorum* Stebbing, 1888, and *Podoprion addyi* sp. nov., which is described here.

The Family Podoprionidae Lowry and Stoddart, 1996, currently contains a single genus *Podoprion* Chevreux, 1891. *Podoprion*, until recently, contained only two species; *Podoprion bolivari* Chevreux, 1891 and *Podoprion ruffoi* Lowry & Stoddart, 1996. *Podoprion bolivari*, a relatively shallow-water species, has been reported on a number of occasions in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea at 12–120 m depth (Chevreux, 1891; Ledoyer, 1977; Karaman, 1973). *Podoprion ruffoi* has so far only been reported once, off the coast of Namibia, in 410–460 m depth, from the stomach contents of a fish (Lowry & Stoddart, 1996). A recent addition to the genus, *Podoprion mediterraneum* Kaim-Malka, 2004, has been taken in baited traps set in the Toulon Canyon in the Mediterranean at 500 m. It is likely that members of this genus are opportunistic deep-sea scaven-