



A new species of Talitridae (Amphipoda: Gammaridea) from Tioman Island, Malaysia

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Abstract

The amphipod crustacean *Talorchestia morinoi* **sp. nov.** collected on the west coast of Tioman Island, Malaysia is described and illustrated. So far no species belonging to the genus is known from Malaysia and this is the first record of the family Talitridae from Malaysia. Differences between the new species and related species within the *Talorchestia* sensu Morino & Miyamoto, 1988 group are discussed and a key is also included.

Key words: *Talorchestia morinoi*, Amphipoda, new species, Crustacea, Talitridae, Malaysia

Introduction

The genus *Talorchestia sensu lato* includes 50 species that are distributed on beaches over various regions of the world. The genus, however, is inadequately defined. The species within the genus possesses polyphyletic characters which apparently are incorporated in a monophyletic character group.

The problem in generic definition of *Talorchestia s. l.*, have been pointed out by several workers (Hurley, 1956, Morino 1972, Bousfield 1982, 1991; Morino & Miyamoto, 1988 and Miyamoto & Morino, 1999). Morino & Miyamoto (1988) redefined the genus and proposed the *spinipalma*-complex to include four species namely *Talorchestia gracilis* (Dana, 1852), *Talorchestia martensii* (Weber, 1892), *Talorchestia spinipalma* (Dana, 1852), *Talorchestia palawanensis* Morino & Miyamoto, 1988. Later, Miyamoto & Morino (1999) added *Talorchestia mindorensis* Oleröd, 1970 to the list. All the five known species of the *spinipalma*-complex are distributed in the Indo-Pacific region. The present species described herein falls in the Indo-Pacific cluster proposed by Morino & Miyamoto (1988).

Material and methods

A major part of the material was collected along the sandy beach of Tioman Island from beneath decaying macroalgae and other debris surrounding the beach area. Whole animals were transferred into glycerol and drawn with a camera lucida on an Olympus SZX9 dissecting microscope. The specimens were dissected and appendages and mouthparts mounted onto slides in glycerol and drawn under a Leica DMLB light microscope using a camera lucida. Types have been deposited at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Muzium Zoologi (UKMMZ); and the Australian Museum, Sydney (AM). The following abbreviations are used in the figures presented. **A**, antenna; **ABD**, abdomen; **BH**, basal height; **G**, gnathopod; **HD**, head; **L**; left; **LL**, lower lip; **LM**, lacinia mobilis; **MD**, mandible; **MX**, maxilla; **MP**, maxilliped; **P**, pereopod; **PL**, pleopod; **R**; right; **T**, telson; **U**, uropod; **UL**, upper lip; ♂, male; ♀, female.