



***Bathycopea* (Isopoda: Sphaeromatidea: Ancinidae) from Japan, with descriptions of two new species and redescription of *B. parallela* Birstein**

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Abstract

Two new species of *Bathycopea* Tattersall, 1905 are described from Japan. *Bathycopea oculata* sp. nov. differs from its congeners in having laterally rounded pleonite 1, well-developed eye lobes with 43–57 ommatidia, uropod about 4–4.7 times as long as wide, blunt and broadly rounded distal corner of carpus of pereopod 1, and the propodus of male pereopod 2 about 2.9 times as long as carpus. *Bathycopea dicarina* sp. nov. is distinctive in having pleotelson with two dorsal carinae and the merus and carpus of male pereopod 2 slightly longer than ischium. *Bathycopea parallela* Birstein, 1963 is redescribed using newly collected specimens from the region of the type locality. A key to species of the genus is provided.

Key words: new species, *Bathycopea*, Ancinidae, Sphaeromatidea, Isopoda

Introduction

The Ancinidae is a small family in the suborder Sphaeromatidea with nine species in two genera, all from shallow to deep waters (Kensley *et al.* 1996). The family has been studied mainly by Tattersall (1905), Menzies and Barnard (1959), Birstein, (1963), Loyola e Silva (1971) and Bruce (1991, 1993), and, more recently, by Brandt & Poore (2003). The most important taxonomic character is the uropod shape with 1 long tapering ramus lying alongside telson (Brandt & Poore 2003). *Bathycopea* Tattersall, 1905 is a small genus in the family, now containing four species, all of which occur from a depth of 17 m to 4070 m: *B. typhlops* Tattersall, 1905 from Ireland (type locality), South Africa (Kensley 1978) and southeastern Australia (Bruce 1991); *B. daltonae* (Menzies & Barnard, 1959) from California, USA (type locality), *B. ivanovi* Birstein, 1963 from Kamchatka (type locality), and *B. parallela* Birstein, 1963 from off the Pacific coast of northern Honshu (type locality).

A recent investigation yielded three species of *Bathycopea* from shallow to deep waters of Japan, including two new species. Based on these materials, the present paper herein describes *Bathycopea oculata* sp. nov. and *B. dicarina* sp. nov., redescribes *B. parallela* Birstein, 1963 and provides a key to species of the genus.

Materials and methods

The gear used for the collection was a sledge net, dredge or ORE beam trawl of 3 m span. Sediment samples containing specimens on board were suspended in sea water in plastic containers or buckets, and the suspensions containing light particles such as small organisms were decanted through a sieve with a pore size of 0.1–0.5 mm. The processed sediment samples were fixed in 5–10 % borate buffered formalin sea-water or 70%