



***Haploops antarctica* n. sp. (Crustacea: Gammaridea: Ampeliscidae): the first species of the genus *Haploops* from the Southern Antarctic Ocean**

DENISE BELLAN-SANTINI¹ & JEAN-CLAUDE DAUVIN²

¹Station Marine d'Endoume, Centre d'Océanologie de Marseille, Université de la Méditerranée, UMR 6540 DIMAR, Rue de la Batterie des Lions, 13007 Marseille Cedex. E-mail: denise.bellan@univmed.fr

²Station Marine de Wimereux, Université des Sciences et Technologies de Lille, UMR CNRS 8187 LOG, 28 avenue Foch, B.P. 80, 62930 Wimereux, France. E-mail: jean-claude.dauvin@univ-lille1.fr

Abstract

Haploops antarctica n. sp. is described based on an female adult collected in the Antarctic-peninsula (Bellingshausen Sea). This is the first species in the genus *Haploops*, which is a genus of generally deep boreal amphipods, to be found in the Southern Antarctic Ocean. Morphological characteristics that distinguish this new species from its congeners are the antenna formula A1>pedA2, the A1 and A2 < body length, the lobe of pereopod 7 expanded and densely setose, and the presence of one apical spine and one seta on the telson. In this paper, the new species is fully described and compared with related species; the relationship between *H. antarctica* and the geographical distribution of the genus is discussed; and a complete key of the 18 valid species in the genus *Haploops* is given.

Key words: Amphipoda, *Haploops*, Antarctic Ocean, distribution

Introduction

The gammaridean amphipod genus *Haploops* Liljeborg, 1855 has been typically considered to be a North-Atlantic and North-Pacific genus (Dauvin & Bellan-Santini 1990). Of the 17 valid species that have been described thus far, 13 were found in the North-Atlantic, one in the South-Atlantic *Haploops meloi* Valério-Berardo, 2008 and four in the Pacific (*H. lodo* Barnard, 1961, *H. sibirica* Gurjanova, 1929, *H. descansa* Barnard, 1961 and *H. oonah* Lowry & Poore, 1985) (Dauvin & Bellan-Santini 1990; Bellan-Santini & Dauvin 2008). Among the species absent in the Atlantic, *H. sibirica* was known to exist only in the shallow waters (10–20 m) of the North-Pacific and *H. descansa* Barnard, 1961 and *H. oonah* Lowry & Poore, 1985 were both described as coming from the temperate Tasman Sea in the South-west Pacific, found respectively at 610 m and 1,120–1,200 m (Lowry & Poore 1985). The distribution of the last two species was inconsistent with the distribution of the other species of the genus, and this geographical pattern of distribution is difficult to explain since the two Tasmanian species exhibit no morphological characteristics that distinguish them from the other members of this very homogeneous genus (Dauvin & Bellan-Santini 1990).

The genus *Haploops* occupies shallow waters, but also bathyal and abyssal depths, in zones that are relatively unknown on the scale of the World Wide Ocean. Over the last few decades, oceanographic campaigns have investigated, not only zones that had previously been explored very little, such as the central and south Atlantic, the Southern Antarctic Ocean, but also the more surveyed areas around the Faeroe Islands (BIOFAR) and Iceland (BIOICE) in the North-Atlantic (Dauvin 1996; Bellan-Santini & Dauvin 1997). These investigations have yielded interesting amphipod material, among them information about the Ampeliscids. At least two new species of the genus *Haploops* remain to be described from BIOFAR and BIOICE investigations