



A new record of *Sphaeroma annandalei* Stebbing, 1911 (Crustacea: Isopoda: Sphaeromatidae) from the Persian Gulf, and description of a new related species (*Sphaeroma silvai* nov. sp.) from the South Atlantic Ocean

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Abstract

Two similar species of *Sphaeroma* (Sphaeromatidae: Isopoda) are studied and described from two different Oceans. *Sphaeroma annandalei* Stebbing, 1911 is redescribed from different localities of the Indian Ocean, and *Sphaeroma silvai* sp. nov. is described from the South Atlantic Ocean. *Sphaeroma silvai* sp. nov. is easily distinguished from *S. annandalei* by its pereopod 5, where the basis carries a well extended inferior lobe; the shape of the pleotelson and the tuberculation of pereonites and pleon. Both species are distinguished from other species of the genus by transverse ridges on their pereonites. The known distribution of *S. annandalei* is limited to the northern areas of the Indian Ocean, from the Persian Gulf to Malaysia.

Key words: Taxonomy, Isopoda, Sphaeromatidae, *Sphaeroma*, new species, Iran, Brazil

Introduction

The holotype of *Sphaeroma annandalei* Stebbing, 1911 was originally briefly described and illustrated (Stebbing 1911) from the West Bengal, India, and the depository is not known (even in Stebbing collection in BM). Later descriptions (e.g. Barnard 1940; Pillai 1955; Joshi & Bal 1959) are brief or without illustrations. In addition, *S. irakiensis* with two new subspecies, *S. irakiensis irakiensis* and *S. i. bidentata* have been reported from the northwestern area of the Persian Gulf by Ahmed (1971). During an ongoing study on Persian Gulf isopods and comparing material from BM, USNM, RMNH, and Dr. Loyola e Silva collections we found that *S. irakiensis* is a synonym of *S. annandalei* and Brazilian specimens are different. We assigned them to a new species, which is described here.

Terminology follows Bruce (2008). The material has been returned to the borrowing national history collections.

Abbreviations:

BM	Natural History Museum, London.
USNM	Smithsonian Institution Natural Museum of Natural History, USA.
RMNH	National Museum of Natural History, Leiden, the Netherlands.
ZFMK	Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig, Bonn, Germany.
ZMH	Zoologisches Museum Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany.

Systematics

Family Sphaeromatidae Latreille, 1825