



***Acanthochondria cyclopsetta* Pearse, 1952 and *A. alleni* n. sp. (Copepoda; Cyclopoida; Chondracanthidae) from flatfish hosts of the U.S.A., with comments on the taxonomic position of *A. zebriae* Ho, Kim & Kumar, 2000 and *A. bicornis* Shiino, 1955 and the validity of *Pterochondria* Ho, 1973**

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Abstract

A redescription of *Acanthochondria cyclopsetta* Pearse, 1952 (Copepoda; Chondracanthidae), hitherto reported only from the Mexican flounder, *Cyclopsetta chittendeni* Bean (Pleuronectiformes; Paralichthyidae), from Padre Island in the Gulf of Mexico, is presented based on female specimens from the spotfin flounder, *Cyclopsetta fimbriata* (Goode & Bean), collected off the coast of South Carolina, U.S.A. Furthermore, a description of the male of *A. cyclopsetta* is provided for the first time. *Acanthochondria alleni* n. sp. is also described based on specimens of both sexes collected from the fantail sole, *Xystreurys liolepis* Jordan & Gilbert (Pleuronectiformes: Paralichthyidae), caught in the Southern California Bight, U.S.A. These two species of *Acanthochondria* differ morphologically from their congeners by having a Type B-V antennule and elongate leg 2 rami (Type D), but can be distinguished from each other by differences in head shape, trunk shape, the relative size of the posterolateral processes of the trunk, the relative size of the abdominal somite, the insertion point of the caudal ramus, shape of the antennule tip, ornamentation of the antennal claw, ornamentation of the labrum, number of accessory teeth on the maxilliped claw, and ornamentation of legs 1 and 2 of the adult female. The taxonomic position of *Acanthochondria zebriae* Ho, Kim & Kumar, 2000 and *A. bicornis* Shiino, 1955 as well as the validity of the chondracanthid genus *Pterochondria* Ho, 1973 are also discussed.

Key words: taxonomy, parasite, Pleuronectiformes, Paralichthyidae, North America

Introduction

The chondracanthid copepod *Acanthochondria cyclopsetta* was cursorily described by Pearse (1952) based on only one adult female specimen removed from the Mexican flounder, *Cyclopsetta chittendeni* Bean, collected in the Gulf of Mexico off Padre Island, Texas, U.S.A. Ho (1971) re-examined the holotype of *A. cyclopsetta* but was unable to satisfactorily redescribe this species, as the type specimen was mounted on a slide in balsam. Ho concluded, however, that *A. cyclopsetta* is a valid taxon and could be distinguished from other congeners by the relatively large body size (10.58 mm long), swollen and fleshy antennule, spinules along the posterior margin of the labrum, and two sets of long, attenuated bilobate legs. Kalman (2001, 2006a, b) subsequently attributed her adult female chondracanthid specimens from the fantail sole, *Xystreurys liolepis* Jordan & Gilbert, caught in waters off southern California as *A. cyclopsetta* based on the information provided in Ho (1971). We recently examined in detail adult female chondracanthid specimens removed from the spotfin flounder, *Cyclopsetta fimbriata* (Goode & Bean), captured off the eastern seaboard of the U.S.A., which opportunely revealed that they are conspecific with *A. cyclopsetta* and, more importantly, the