



A new species of *Mimonecteola* (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Hyperiiidea: Mimonecteolidae) from the Southern Ocean

WOLFGANG ZEIDLER

South Australian Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia 5000. E-mail: wolfgang.zeidler@samuseum.sa.gov.au

Abstract

A new species of *Mimonecteola*, *M. antarctica* **sp. nov.**, is described from two specimens collected by the R/V *Eltanin* from the Amundsen Sea (Pacific Sector) and north-west of Elephant Island (Atlantic Sector). It is most similar to *M. carlsbergi* Zeidler, 2009 but is readily distinguished by the relatively shorter, and more feeble, fifth pereopoda and the relatively longer second antennae. The genus now consists of seven species and a new key to distinguish them is provided.

Key words: Amphipoda, Hyperiiidea, Mimonecteolidae, *Mimonecteola antarctica* new species, Southern Ocean

Introduction

While conducting a review of the hyperiidean amphipod families Mimonectidae and Proscinidae (in prep.) I was sent, on loan, several specimens for study from the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (USNM), including two incorrectly labelled “*Mimonectes* sp.”. However, they are readily re-determined as a species of *Mimonecteola* by the presence of mandibular palps and the general habitus. They are most similar to *M. carlsbergi* Zeidler, 2009 but a detailed examination revealed several distinguishing characters. In particular pereopod 5 is relatively feeble and much shorter than pereopod 4 and the second antennae are relatively longer. The structure of pereopod 5 is also like that of females of *M. mixta* Vinogradov, 1964 but in that species the dactylus of pereopod 7 is partly retractile. Thus, they are described here as a species new to science, representing a new addition to the fauna of the Southern Ocean.

The genus *Mimonecteola* now consists of seven species and a new key to distinguish them is provided.

Methods and abbreviations used are as in Zeidler (2009).

Systematics

Family Mimonecteolidae Zeidler, 2009

Genus *Mimonecteola* Woltereck, 1909

Mimonecteola antarctica **sp. nov.**

(Figs 1 & 2)

Material examined. *Holotype.* Female 8.0 mm (USNM 1090275); Southern Ocean, Pacific Sector, Amundsen Sea [62°11'–62°20'S 115°02'–114°24'W], R/V *Eltanin*, stn. 901, cruise 11, University of Southern California, 3477–3678 m, 7 January 1964.

Allotype. Male (?) 7.2 mm (USNM 1090274); Southern Ocean, Atlantic Sector, north-west of Elephant Island [60°12'–60°21'S 59°00'–59°14'W], R/V *Eltanin*, stn. 449, cruise 6, University of Southern California, 1610 m, 15 January 1963.