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***Fissarcturus walteri* sp. nov. from the Ross Sea of the Southern Ocean (Isopoda, Antarcturidae)**

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Abstract

During the Victoria-Land Transect project two specimens of a new species, *Fissarcturus walteri* sp. nov., were found in the Ross Sea along the Victoria Land Coast, Antarctica, during the 19th *Italica* expedition in February 2004. This is the second species of *Fissarcturus* from the Ross Sea after *F. rossi* Brandt, 2007. *F. walteri* sp. nov. is most similar to *Fissarcturus granulatus* (Nordenstam, 1933) from South Georgia but can be distinguished by the blunt short, anteriorly directed supraocular spines and elevations and some other characters as described herewith.

Key words: Isopoda, Antarcturidae, taxonomy, Southern Ocean, Ross Sea, *Fissarcturus walteri*, new species

Introduction

The genus *Fissarcturus* was erected by Brandt, 1990 with the type species *Fissarcturus emarginatus* Brandt, 1990. It belongs to the family Antarcturidae Poore, 2001. *Fissarcturus* currently comprises 18 species including the newly described species from the Victoria Land coast (Brandt 2007; Poore & Schotte 2012; Wägele 1991) occurring between 45 and 5225 m depth. Most of these occur in the Southern Ocean, with the exception of *F. paxillaris* (Kussakin & Vasina, 1998) and *F. patagonicus* (Ohlin, 1901) from the Argentine Basin. Until now, only one species of *Fissarcturus* was known from the Ross Sea, *F. rossi* Brandt, 2007 from Pennell Bank.

In this study, all species of *Fissarcturus* were compared with *F. walteri* sp. nov. and characters found to distinguish them are discussed in the remark section.

Methods

The present investigation is based on material collected during the Victoria-Land Transect project in the Ross Sea by means of a Rauschert dredge (Stransky 2008) in February 2004 in the Ross Sea (Hallet Bay; Fig. 1) aboard RV *Italica* during the 19th Italian expedition (Rehm *et al.* 2007). The Rauschert dredge has an opening of 0.5 m and a sampling net with a mesh size of 500 µm (Lörz *et al.* 1999). It was hauled over the sea floor at a mean velocity of 1 knot.

Measurements were made according to Hessler (1970) and Wilson and Hessler (1980), spine-like setae equipped with a sensory seta are named „sensory seta“ (Brandt 1988). The specimens are deposited in the Zoological Museum of Hamburg (ZMH).

The following abbreviations are used in the figures: A1 = antennula, A2 = antenna, lMd = left mandible, Mx1 = maxillula, Mx2 = maxilla, Mxp = maxilliped, P1–7 = pereopod 1–7, Plp 1–5 = pleopod 1–5, rMd = right mandible, Urp = uropod.