



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3709.5.1>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:43F153E2-B0C0-4F05-A126-CB061877AFB6>

Planktonic ostracods (Myodocopa: Halocyprididae) from abyssopelagic depths in the Atlantic, North Pacific and Gulf of Oman: *Chavturia abyssopelagica* (n. gen., n. sp.), *Halocyprretta profunda* (n. sp.), *Halocyprretta parvirostrata* Chavtur and Stovbun, 2008 and *Halocyprretta striata* (Müller, 1906)

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Abstract

A novel species and genus of halocyprid ostracod, *Chavturia abyssopelagica*, and a new species of *Halocyprretta* are described from depths >3000 m in the Atlantic. The new genus is related to *Halocyprretta*, itself a genus that has only recently been described from deep waters in the North Pacific. Supplementary observations are made on the type species, *Halocyprretta parvirostrata*, based on additional specimens from the North Pacific. *Halocyprretta striata* from the Gulf of Oman is reported for the first time since it was first described and is redescribed in detail. All four species are illustrated and compared using a set of meristic characters.

Key words: Taxonomy, Halocypridinae, Arabian Sea, oceanic, deep-living, Census of Marine Zooplankton, zoogeography

Introduction

When conducting preliminary trials with a net mounted echosounder off the northwest coast of Africa in 1979 specimens of a novel large orange-coloured halocyprid were collected in a sample of micronekton collected in a net towed within 10 m of the sea-bed at a depth of 4000 m. These specimens have remained undescribed in the biological collections of the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences, which were moved to the National Oceanographic Centre, Southampton in 1996, and are described herein as *Chavturia abyssopelagica* (nov. gen., nov. sp.) During the Census of Marine Zooplankton (CMarZ) cruises in the Atlantic in 2006 and 2007 (Wiebe et al. 2010) further specimens were collected, mostly in samples collected from depths of 4000–5000 m. These specimens are similar to *Halocypris striata* Müller, 1906, a species that has not been found since its original description from the southern Indian Ocean, but has recently been re-classified in a new genus, *Halocyprretta*, by Chavtur and Stovbun (2008) when they described *H. parvirostrata* from the North Pacific. Further examination of the CMarZ abyssopelagic samples revealed a further three specimens of yet another species of *Halocyprretta*. Müller's (1906) original description of *H. striata* is very sparse, but the greater lengths of the Atlantic specimens indicate that they are not the same species. These two novel species are described herein, and are compared with further specimens of *H. parvirostrata* from the North Pacific including an adult female, and specimens of *H. striata* collected in the Gulf of Oman. Chavtur and Stovbun (2008) only had male specimens of their new species, so here the female is described. The species are compared both by traditional morphological methods, and by using a meristic approach using data standardised by expressing the measurements as percentages of the carapace length (see Angel 2012).

Material and methods

The material described herein originates from four sources:

1. Samples collected off the North-west coast of Africa during trials of a near bottom echo-sounding device