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A new genus and species of *Platyischnopidae* (Amphipoda: Gammaridea) from the Argentine Sea, South-West Atlantic Ocean

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Abstract

The family *Platyischnopidae* is herein reported for the first time in the Argentine Sea, South-West Atlantic Ocean. A new genus and species, *Platyisao holodividum* **gen. et. sp. nov.**, collected off the coast of Buenos Aires and Río Negro provinces, is fully described and illustrated. *Platyisao* **gen. nov.** is distinguished from the eight other genera of *Platyischnopidae* by the gnathopods subchelate, and the telson elongate, completely cleft. In addition, the distribution of *Tiburonella viscana* (Barnard J.L., 1964), up to now known in the South-West Atlantic Ocean from Brazilian waters, is extended to the coast off Buenos Aires province, Argentina.

Key words: Amphipods, platyischnopids, Southwest Atlantic, Argentina, *Platyisao holodividum* **gen. et. sp. nov.**, *Tiburonella viscana* distribution

Introduction

Platyischnopidae Barnard & Drummond, 1979 is a gammaridean benthic family with characteristics typical of fossorial amphipods, such as an elongate cephalothorax and antennae, pereopods and uropods with many setae and spines (Thomas & Barnard 1983). *Platyischnopids* are fast swimmers and efficient predators, abundant on soft bottoms of the continental shelves, and are also frequent in reef clasts and on seagrass beds, at depths ranging from intertidal to 175 m; most species inhabit warm and temperate waters (Thomas 1993; Hughes 2009; Souza-Filho & Serejo 2012; and Table 1).

The genus *Platyischnopus* Stebbing, 1888 was originally included in *Pontoporeiidae* by Stebbing (1888) and then alternatively assigned to *Phoxocephalidae* or *Haustoriidae* (Chilton 1922; Oliveira 1955; Bousfield 1970; Rabindranath 1971; Griffiths 1974a,b; Ledoyer 1979, among others). The family *Platyischnopidae* was erected by Barnard & Drummond (1979) with *Platyischnopus* as the type genus. *Platyischnopids* were distinguished from *haustoriids* and *phoxocephalids* principally by the shape of the rostrum, the mandibular molar and the pereopod 7 (Barnard & Drummond 1979), and can be easily distinguished from other amphipod families by the cone-shaped rostrum covered with apical sensory pits (Hughes 2009).

At present, the genus *Platyischnopus* includes two species: *P. mam* Barnard & Drummond, 1979 and *P. mirabilis* Stebbing, 1888, with both species distributed in Australian waters (Barnard & Drummond 1979; Hughes 2009).

Besides *Platyischnopus*, other four genera were also erected in *Platyischnopidae* by Barnard & Drummond (1979): *Indischnopus*, *Tittakunara*, *Tomituka*, and *Yurrokus*.

The genus *Indischnopus* was established to accommodate *I. herdmani* (Walker, 1904) distributed in the Indic Ocean and *I. capensis* (Barnard K.H., 1925) from South Africa, the two species being originally placed in *Platyischnopus* (Barnard & Drummond 1979). Othman & Morino (1996) reported *I. redangi* from Malaysian waters.

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