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New Lysianassoid Amphipods from the North Eastern Atlantic Ocean

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Abstract

Two new lysianassoid amphipod species, *Ambasia anophthalma* n. sp. and *Bathyamaryllis biscayensis* n. sp., are described based on adult females collected in the North Eastern Atlantic Ocean (Bay of Biscay) by an autonomous bait system deployed on the sea bottom at a depth of 1460–1550 m. These two species are characterized by the absence of eyes (blind species). They belong to genera which include very few species.

Key words: Amphipoda, lysianassoid, *Ambasia*, *Bathyamaryllis*, bathyal, France, Atlantic Ocean, taxonomy, new species

Résumé

Deux espèces nouvelles d'amphipodes lysianassoides, *Ambasia anophthalma* n. sp. et *Bathyamaryllis biscayensis* n. sp., sont décrites à partir de femelles adultes récoltées en Atlantique (Golfe de Gascogne) au moyen d'un système autonome de piège appâté posé sur le fond à une profondeur de 1460m -1550m. Ces deux espèces sont aveugles. Elles appartiennent à des genres ne comprenant qu'un nombre réduit d'espèces.

Mots clé: Amphipoda, lysianassoides, *Ambasia*, *Bathyamaryllis*, bathyal, France, Océan Atlantique, systématique, nouvelles espèces

Introduction

During cruise VITAL, in 2002, of R/V "L'Atalante" (IFREMER) deep-sea fish communities were studied on the continental slope of the Bay of Biscay (North Eastern Atlantic Ocean) (Trenkel *et al.* 2002).

Among the amphipods species collected by the trap, three specimens belonging to the genus *Ambasia* Boeck, 1871 and four specimens belonging to the genus *Bathyamaryllis* Pirlot, 1933 were present. Their morphological characters were never observed in these genera, so these specimens are described as new species for the science.

The genus *Ambasia* Boeck, 1871 includes two valid species (with *Ambasia anophthalma* n. sp.), belonging to the superfamily of Lysianassoidea. These species are present in the East Atlantic and Arctic Ocean. They are distributed in shallow waters and bathyal depths (Barnard & Karaman 1991; this work).

The genus *Bathyamaryllis* Pirlot, 1933 includes six valid species belonging to the superfamily of Lysianassoidea: *B. haswelli* (Stebbing, 1888), *B. pulchellus* (Bonnier, 1896), *B. perezii* Pirlot, 1933, *B. ouvea* Lowry & Stoddart, 1994, *B. kapala* Lowry & Stoddart, 2002, and *B. biscayensis* n. sp.. These species are known from the Western and Eastern North Atlantic Ocean, Indonesia, Eastern Australia and Western South Pacific Ocean between 120–1919 m depth.

Material and methods

At the sites studied, "an autonomous lander equipped with a current metre, a temperature probe, a turbidity metre, an autonomous bait system (including a rotating bait dispenser) and a camera was deployed for three days" on the

from *Bathymaryllis haswelli* (Stebbing, 1888), *Bathymaryllis pulchellus* (Bonnier, 1896) and *Bathymaryllis perezii* Pirlot, 1933, which have the lateral cephalic lobe quadrate-shaped and the anterior margin straight.

Key to species of *Bathymaryllis*

- 1 Uropod 3: outer ramus 1-articulate 2
- Uropod 3: outer ramus 2-articulate 5
- 2 Head anterior margin with only a notch or a concavity 3
- Head anterior margin with a notch extended into a slit 4
- 3 Lateral cephalic lobe truncated; Antenna 1, first joint with a tooth *Bathymaryllis haswelli* (Stebbing, 1888).
- Lateral cephalic lobe triangular; Antenna 1, first joint without tooth *Bathymaryllis biscayensis* n. sp.
- 4 Gnathopod 2 palm acute. Pereopod 4 coxa with anteroventral corner subquadrate
..... *Bathymaryllis pulchellus* (Bonnier, 1896).
- Gnathopod 2 palm transverse. Pereopod 4 coxa with anteroventral corner rounded *Bathymaryllis perezii* Pirlot, 1933.
- 5 Pereopod 4 coxa with anterior margin slightly curved *Bathymaryllis kapala* Lowry & Stoddart, 2002.
- Pereopod 4 coxa with anterior margin straight *Bathymaryllis ouvea* Lowry & Stoddart, 1994.

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