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The family Caprellidae (Amphipoda: Caprelloidea: Caprellidae) from Campos Basin, Southwestern Atlantic, with a key of species occurring in Brazil

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Abstract

Caprellid material of the present study was collected between 25–3000 m depth from the Campos Basin area, Southwestern Atlantic. As a result, *Deutella incerta* was found as a new record to the Southwestern Atlantic and two new species are described: *Liropus guerragarciai* sp. nov. and *Mayerella sittropiae* sp. nov. Besides, *Paracaprella pusilla* is herein redescribed as a common component of the Campos Basin amphipod community. Caprellids are a diverse and abundant group that can be found among algae and general biological substrates of the continental shelf area. As more deep sea samples are coming into light, they are turning out to be also a common component in this habitat. Including the present data, there are 25 caprellid species recorded in Brazil, being four of them restricted to the slope areas and 14 endemic to the Brazilian coast. A key to the Caprellidae species from Brazil is provided.

Key words: Amphipoda, Caprellidae, *Liropus*, *Mayerella*, *Paracaprella*, Campos Basin, Brazil

Introduction

The Family Caprellidae is an easy recognized group among amphipods for several modifications in its bauplan, as a body cylindrical and narrowed, gnathopods 1 and 2 subchelate, modified prehensile pereopods 5–7 or 6–7 for substratum clinging, tendency in the reduction of pereopods 3–4 or 3–5 and critical reduction of abdomen, with pleopods and telson absent (McCain, 1968). They can be found from the continental shelf until deep sea waters of tropical to polar seas, although its higher diversity and abundance is around the shallower depths (McCain & Gray, 1971).

The family Caprellidae comprises about 360 species within 90 genera (De Broyer, 2014). In Brazil, which comprehends the largest coast in South America with about 8.500 km, there are 22 Caprellidae species registered in 9 genera since the first XIX century exploring expedition arrived in Brazilian waters (Dana, 1953; Wakabara *et al.* 1991; Wakabara & Serejo, 1998; Lacerda & Massunari, 2011; Guedes-Silva & Souza-Filho, 2013; Lacerda & Massunari, 2014). A list with the 22 caprellid species registered in Brazil, plus the new record, *Deutella incerta* (Mayer, 1903), and the two new species herein described, *Liropus guerragarciai* sp. nov. and *Mayerella sittropiae* sp. nov. is given with distributional data and references (Table 1).

The first records of Caprellidae for Brazil came from Dana (1853), who described *Caprella aculeata* Dana, 1853, *C. globiceps* Dana, 1853 and assigns three new records for Rio de Janeiro state: *C. equilibra* Say, 1818; *C. dilatata* Kroyer, 1843 and *C. penantis* Leach, 1814. Mayer (1890, 1903) contributed immensely to the Caprellidae knowledge and described four species for Rio de Janeiro: *Caprella andreae* Mayer, 1890; *Hemiaegina minuta* Mayer, 1890; *Paracaprella pusilla* Mayer, 1890 and *Paracaprella tenuis* Mayer, 1903. Quitete (1971a, 1971b, 1972, 1975, 1979) described five species: *Pseudaeiginella montoucheti* (Quitete, 1971); *Hemiaegina costai* Quitete, 1971a; *Paracaprella digitimanus* Quitete, 1972; *Orthoprotella melloi* Quitete 1975 and *Phtisica verae* Quitete, 1979. Posteriorly, Serejo (1997) synonymized *H. costai* with *H. minuta* Mayer, 1890 based on type material.