TWO NEW DESMOSOMATIDS FROM THE GULF OF NAPLES: DESMOSOMA SERRATUM N. SP. AND DESMOSOMA THORACICUM N. SP. (ISOPODA, PARASELLIDAE)

BY

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INTRODUCTION

The genus Desmosoma G. O. Sars (1863) (Parasellidae: Desmosomatini Hansen, 1916) is not well known in the Mediterranean area. Up to the present time there are only three records concerning this group. The first was made by Lo Bianco (1903) who found Eugerda tenuimana G. O. Sars (= Desmosoma filipes Hult, 1937) and Desmosoma sp. in the Bay of Naples. Then Stephensen (1915) found D. chelatum offshore at Capo Corso (Corsica). This species has recently been recorded by one of the authors (Schiecke, in press) and partially redescribed because the initial diagnosis of Stephensen was somewhat deficient.

During the course of our research on the soft-bottom Asellota offshore at Ischia, we have collected many samples containing numerous representatives of the genus Desmosoma including at least 13 species. Among these, two show characteristics which necessitate the erection of two new species, Desmosoma serratum n. sp. and Desmosoma thoracicum n. sp., which are described in the present work.

Desmosoma serratum n. sp. (figs. 1-8)

Material. — A male holotype, a female allotype, and 15 paratypes from northwestern Ischia, 11/2 miles offshore at Porto d’Ischia, soft bottom, depth 100 m. Types deposited in the Museum of the Stazione Zoologica di Napoli.

Diagnosis. — First pair of legs cheliform because of the presence of a very strong spine on the distal inferior angle of the carpal segment, opposed to the propodus and dactylus. Cephalon sub-triangular, anteriorly rounded. First thoracic

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segment longer and broader than the following ones, its epimeral plates provided each with a long spiniform process which is missing in the other segments. Thoracic segments I to IV decrease markedly and progressively in width. Segments V to VII sub-equal in length. Pleotelson oval, indented at the level of the inferior third; lateral borders with 8 strong serrations directed posteriorly. Uropods two-segmented and biramous. Length of the body exceeding 3.2 times the width. Surface of the body with a characteristic reticulate sculpture.

Figs. 1-3. Desmosoma serratum n. sp., ♂. 1, holotype in dorsal view; 2, antenna (a), and antennula (b); 3, left mandible (a), maxillula (b), maxilla (c), and maxilliped (d).