CYCLOPOID COPEPODS ASSOCIATED WITH OPISTHOBRANCH MOLLUSKS IN NEW CALEDONIA

BY

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The very high frequency of associations of copepods with intertidal and shallow water invertebrates in Madagascar (Humes, 1970) suggests that these associations may be common elsewhere in tropical waters. Relatively few such associated copepods are known from New Caledonia, however, and these are mostly from mollusks (Monod & Dollfus, 1932; Humes, 1973).

The purposes of this note are to record the presence on opisthobranch mollusks in New Caledonia of three cyclopoids previously unknown outside Madagascar and to describe certain details of the external anatomy of these copepods.

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Each of the three species has been compared directly with freshly dissected Madagascar specimens. All the figures have been drawn with the aid of a camera lucida. The letter after the explanation of each figure refers to the scale at which it was drawn. The abbreviations used are: MXPD = maxilliped and P1 = leg 1. The measurements of the length and width of the body have been made in each case on ten specimens in lactic acid.

**Anthessius dolabellae** Humes & Ho, 1965 (figs. 1-4)

Until now this species has been known only from Madagascar where it was reported from the tectibranch *Dolabella scapula* (Martijn) by Humes & Ho (1965).

In New Caledonia it was found on *Dolabella auricularia* (Lightfoot) (= *D. scapula*) as follows: 12 ♀♀, 13 ♂♂, and 6 copepodids from 15 hosts, intertidal under dead coral, eastern end of Isle Maître, near Noumea, 22°20'35"S 166°25'10"E, 16 July 1971; 8 ♀♀, 12 ♂♂, and 6 copepodids from 12 hosts, intertidal among marine grass, southwestern side of Port Ngea, north of Ricaudy.