HIGH ARCTIC BENTHIC ISOPODS FROM FLETCHER'S ICE ISLAND, T-3, WITH A DESCRIPTION OF ONE NEW SPECIES, MIRABILICHOXA FLETCHERI N. SP.

BY

ALLEN Z. PAUL

and

ROBERT Y. GEORGE

Department of Oceanography, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida 32306, U.S.A.

INTRODUCTION

From October 1969 through February 1970, and during March 1972, extensive benthic sampling was accomplished from Fletcher's Ice Island, T-3, drifting in the Arctic Ocean. An intensive program was underway, attempting to characterize the High Arctic benthos, and complete results of this will be published elsewhere.

In total, 103 samples were taken using either the quantitative Mini-LUBS (Menzies & Rowe, 1968) or the qualitative Small Biological Trawl (Menzies, 1962). Isopoda were caught at 24 stations in a rather narrow depth range (1300-1800 m) averaging 1450 m. The latitude varied between 84°13.5'N and 86°00'N; while the longitude changed from 86°51'W to 121°05'W, and this is a northern extension for all species reported.

Many of the specimens were damaged in washing and were therefore only identifiable to generic level. The following specimens were identified: Eurycope sp., 17; Eurycope complanata Bonnier, 13; Eurycope mutica G. O. Sars, 3; Ilyarachna sp., 8; Mirabilicoxa birsteini (Menzies), 6; Mirabilicoxa fletcheri n. sp., 7; Mirabilicoxa sp., 7; Mannopsis sp., 1; Eugerda intermedia (Hult), 1; Cypriniscus sp., 1; Gnathia sp., 1.

Northern extension of the range for all previously described species are to be noted in Table I (Koltun, 1964). Detailed examination showed that one new species was present.

Mirabilicoxa fletcheri n. sp. (fig. 1)

Type locality. — Arctic Ocean, 84°52.9'N 110°27'W, 1740 m. Holotype (♀), USNM 143607. Other localities. — 84°56.7’N 109°09’W, 1384 m; 85°30.3’N 110°20’W, 1253 m.

Diagnosis. — Mirabilicoxa without a spine at either posterolateral angle of the pleon. Frons gently excavate at apex; cephalon ridged on either side of median depression. Coxal plates over twice as long as wide. First peraeonal somite slightly
longer than second. First peraeopod weak, without strong seta. Uropoda uniramous.

Measurements. — Female holotype: length 3 mm.

Additional descriptive notes. — Cephalon broader than it is long with anterolateral angles strongly produced in acutely rounded lobes. Third peraeonal somite wider and shorter than fourth peraeonal somite. Fifth peraeonal somite broader than any other with posteriorly produced lateral extensions and concave posterior margin. Pleotelson longer than it is wide; apex pointed. Antenna one extending

Fig. 1. *Mirabilicoxa fletcheri* n. sp. A, female holotype; B, uropod; C, first peraeopod; D, maxilliped; E, seventh peraeopod; F, first antenna; G, second antenna; H, second peraeopod.