NOTES AND NEWS


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ALLOCATION OF PARALAOPHONTE SPINICAUDA VERVOORT (COPEPODA, HARPACTICOIDA) TO THE GENUS LAOPHONTE

BY
FRANK FIERIS
Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen, Vautierstr. 31, Brussels, Belgium

For the original description of Paralaophonte spinicauda only two female specimens were available to Vervoort (1964). He justified the designation of the species to the genus Paralaophonte by the close resemblance with Paralaophonte taurina Monard. The generic status, however, was questioned by Mielke (1981) after the description by Coull (1971) of the male. The presence of Paralaophonte spinicauda in samples from Guadeloupe allowed reconsideration of the generic status of this species.

The most important diagnostic feature of the genus Paralaophonte is the presence of a more or less modified seta on the endopodite of the second leg of the male. In none of the three male specimens examined this modification could be detected. This conforms with the observations made by Coull (1971). The sexual dimorphism is very aberrant in the genus Paralaophonte. Neither the endopodite of the second leg, nor the exopodites of the legs in the male are modified. Sexual dimorphism could only be observed in the antennule, the endopodite of the third leg, the fifth and sixth leg, and the genital segments.

The only genus to which this species can be referred at present is Laophonte. In the diagnosis of this genus the taxonomic importance of the third leg is emphasized. The males show a three-segmented endopodite in the third leg, with a modified middle segment. The species must therefore be allocated to the genus Laophonte and should be indicated as Laophonte spinicauda (Vervoort, 1964).

In the illustrations (figs. 1-7) some morphological details, which are often rudimentary treated or omitted in previous papers, are shown. The first segment of the antennule has a rounded external process, covered with three rows of small hairs, in contrast to the observations and figures of Vervoort (1964) and Coull (1971). The inner distal edge of the same segment bears two short bare setae. The endopodite of the mandible shows four, almost distally implanted setae and a median one. The corpus mandibularis is well developed.
with pars molaris, a bidentate pars incisiva, a bidentate lacina mobilis, two tridentated accessorial spines and a long and slender seta. The figure given by Coull (1971) of the third leg of the male, represents normally sclerified segments. The first and third segments of the endopodite, however, are normally sclerified in the Guadeloupe specimens. The middle segment has only partially thickened walls. The setation of the fifth leg of the male is somewhat different from that shown in Coull’s drawings. The baseoendopodite bears one very small seta implanted near the articulation with the exopodite. In all specimens examined this seta is difficult to observe, but is certainly a seta and not a “hyaliner Schlauch”. Still other differences can be seen, such as the more elongated shape of the exopodite and the ornamentations on the surface of the fifth leg. The single egg sac (150 μm long) contains 17 eggs with a mean diameter of 32 μm. The spermatophore has the typical shape and measures about 130 μm.

Five ovigerous and six non-ovigerous females, four adult males and three juveniles specimens of *Laophonte spinicauda* occurred in samples taken in the subtidal and tidal zone of Anse de la Gourde, Grande-Terre, Guadeloupe.