PSEUDOCERCEIS SELENEIDES N. SP., A NEW MARINE ISOPOD (SPHAEROMATIDAE DYNAMENINAE) FROM THE SOMALIAN COAST

BY
GIUSEPPE MESSANA
Centro di Studio per la Faunistica ed Ecologia Tropicali del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche,
Via Romana 17, 50125 Firenze, Italy

RÉSUMÉ
Une nouvelle espèce de Sphaeromatide, Pseudocerceis seleneides de la côte somalienne est décrite. C'est la première découverte de ce genre dans l'océan Indien. L'espèce est comparée aux espèces australiennes.

INTRODUCTION
Little is known about the marine isopods of the "Horn of Africa". In fact the only publications on this subject are those of Stebbing (1910) on some Tanaidacea and Flabellifera collected in Zanzibar and Wasin Islands, Jones (1971, 1976, 1983), Jones & Icely (1981) and Messana (1985) on cirolanids, and that of Holdich & Jones (1973) on a new species of sphaeromatid from Kenya.

During the last decade a study of the ecology and ethology of the fauna of the Somalian coast was conducted by the "Centro di Studio per la Faunistica ed Ecologia Tropicali" (Pardi, 1976, 1976a, 1982); during this study some marine isopods were collected.

Among the various specimens of Sphaeromatidae, one was particularly interesting and proved to be a new species of the genus Pseudocerceis Harrison & Holdich, 1982.

Pseudocerceis seleneides n. sp.


Description. — A milky-white Pseudocerceis; body (fig. 1A, B) covered with dispersed, tiny setae, visible only at higher magnification, strongly convex, oval in shape, about 2.4 times longer than wide. Cephalon (fig. 1C) between 2 and 4 times wider than long, anterior margin covering proximal part of
antennae. Sixth and seventh peraeonites larger than the others. Pleonites partially covered by seventh peraeonite, third pleonal segment with five distal tufts of small setae. Pleotelson triangular, bearing three strong, longitudinal ridges. Pleotelsonic apex with a notch bearing a long, furcate, apically setose, upbent projection. Both rami of uropods flattened and dentate, covered with dispersed, tiny setae, not reaching beyond pleotelsonic projection. Penes short, separate at base.

First antenna (fig. 2A), short, reaching half of first peraeonite, first article of peduncle as long as the second and third together, and with two lateral projections, the outer smooth and the inner acute. Third to last articles of flagellum bearing one distal aesthetasc; the number of flagellar articles ranged between 8 and 10.

Second antenna (fig. 2B) slender, not much longer than first antenna, reaching posterior margin of first peraeonite, articles of flagellum 9-10.

Left mandible (fig. 2C) with incisor process stout and tridentate, lacinia mobilis tridentate, spine row with eight spines, some of which are spinate; pars molaris oval and apparently articulate, bearing two smooth and one spinate setae.

Right mandible (fig. 2E) with incisor process bidentate, spine row with seven spines, pars molaris roundish and dentate, bearing four dentate spines along its proximal margin.

Mandibular palp (fig. 2D) with outer margin of first article covered with thin setae, second article with a proximal notch in its inner margin and seven