A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS CHEIRIPHOTIS WALKER, FROM THE NORTH WEST ARABIAN GULF, WITH A REDEscription OF C. MEGACHELES (GILES) (AMPHIPODA, ISAEIDAE)

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RÉSUMÉ

Une nouvelle espèce du genre Cheiriphotis Walker est décrite des eaux iraquienne du golfe Arabique. Elle est comparée à C. megacheles, qui est redécrite ici. C'est la première fois que le genre est signalé dans le golfe Arabique.

INTRODUCTION

Giles, in 1885, described a new species, Melita megacheles, from the Bay of Bengal. Later, in 1904, Walker established the genus Cheiriphotis, based on material from Ceylon, to include Giles’s M. megacheles. Although he noted the differences between his specimens and Giles’s, he considered them to belong to the same species. The differences are quite pronounced as for instance, in Giles’s material the palm of male gnathopod 2 is oblique and with 3 pointed processes plus one on the defining corner, while in Walker’s specimen the palm is transverse and with about 5 irregular processes in addition to the one on the defining corner. The 3rd uropod possesses a rudimentary endopod in Giles’s specimens, which is lacking in Walker’s material. Walker (1904) found that the young male has a somewhat obliquely transverse palm with a double pointed tooth and a single wide one near the base of the dactylus. These features have led Walker to conclude that, with age, the palm changes from an oblique to a transverse form and its processes from pointed to irregular ones. Based on these assumptions, Barnard (1962) suggested that the species may have developed local races or ecophenotypes.

Examination of material collected from two localities in Iraqi waters of the north-west Arabian Gulf, namely Khor Abdullah and Khor Al-Zubair, revealed that those from Khor Abdullah were close to Walker’s descriptions assigned to C. megacheles, while materials from Khor Al-Zubair were resembling Giles’s descriptions of C. megacheles. In the present article evidence is presented showing that these two populations are in fact two distinct species, therefore contradicting Walker’s suggestion of features changing with age.
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**Cheiriphotis williamsoni** sp. nov.

*Cheiriphotis megacheles*, Walker, 1904: 284, pl. 6 figs. 42; Nayar, 1959: 33, pl. 11 figs. 23-25; 1966, pl. 159 fig. 17a. (Not *Melita megacheles* Giles, 1885).

Material examined. — Holotype: male 4 mm; paratypes: 31 females (including 9 ovigerous), 49 males, 4 juveniles. Khor Abdullah, Buoy 25, 20 April 1983, in plankton sample from near the bottom, depth 15 m.

Male. — Total length 4.0 mm, lateral cephalic lobe truncate, eye large, head length more than length of 1st peraeomere, coxa 1 reaching well beyond 1/2 length of head.

Antenna 1 reaching tip of antenna 2; peduncle longer than flagellum, article 1 of peduncle as long as or slightly longer than article 3; accessory flagellum 4-articulate; flagellum 11-articulate.

Antenna 2. Peduncular article 1 produced ventrodistally, article 3 as long as article 4; flagellum 10-articulate, nearly equal in length to article 4 of peduncle.

Upper lip broad, apex slightly concave.

Lower lip. Inner lobe small, with minute marginal setae; outer lobe with few subapical inner marginal spines.

Mandible. Left incisor with 4 ridges, right incisor with 5; lacinia mobilis of each side with 4 ridges; a gap with 7 (6 in small specimens) strong setae; right mandible with molar seta; article 1 of palp with few inner marginal setae, ultimate article truncate apically, about 5/6 length of penultimate article.

Maxilla 1. Inner lobe small and with few inner marginal setae; outer lobe reaching about 2/3 length of palp, with about 10 strong toothed spines; palps symmetrical, article 2 with 6 strong spines and about 6 setae.

Maxilla 2. Inner and outer lobes subequal.

Maxilliped. Inner lobe reaching well beyond apex of article 1 of palp, with 3 strong spines and about 10 setae, outer lobe reaching about 2/3 length of article 2, with about 6 strong processes on inner margin; palp 4-articulate, article 4 bearing a claw.

Coxal plates. First subtriangular (anteroventral corner narrowed in older specimens); 2nd to 4th with posterior protuberance, 2nd longer than wide, 3rd slightly longer than wide, with elevated ventral margin (straight in others), 4th subquadrate; 5th and 6th bilobed, anterior lobe larger than posterior lobe; 7th longer than wide. Epimeral plates, 1st smallest, 3rd largest.

Gnathopod 1. Basis broader distally, anterior margin naked, posterior margin with few long setae; ischium and merus small; carpus slightly shorter than propodus, latter nearly 2 times longer than wide; palm oblique, nearly as long as posterior margin of propodus, with a slight elevation at defining corner, a strong spine at proximal half, surface of palm toothed, sometimes straight; dactylus falcate, longer than palm, inner margin with minute spines and spinules.