A NEW SPECIES OF *HOLOBOMOLOCHUS* VERVOORT, 1969 (COPEPODA, POECILOSTOMATOIDA) FROM THE WEST COAST OF SOUTH AFRICA

BY

W. H. OLDEWAGE

Department of Zoology, Rand Afrikaans University, P.O. Box 524, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa

ABSTRACT

A new species of the genus *Holobomolochus* is described. It is not only new to science taxonomically, but is the first species to be described from African coastal waters and the southern hemisphere. *Holobomolochus maleus* sp.n. is recorded for the first time from the gills and inner operculum of *Malacocephalus laevis* off the west coast of South Africa. It differs from the thirteen known species by virtue of its unique leg-armature, which serves as a distinguishing feature.

RÉSUMÉ

Une nouvelle espèce du genre *Holobomolochus* est décrite. Elle n’est pas seulement nouvelle taxonomiquement, mais c’est la première espèce à être décrite des eaux côtières africaines et de l’hémisphère sud. *Holobomolochus maleus* sp.n. est signalé pour la première fois des branchies et de l’opercule interne de *Malacocephalus laevis* au large de la côte occidentale d’Afrique du Sud. Il diffère des treize autres espèces connues par le caractère unique de l’armature des pattes, qui sert comme un trait distinctif.

INTRODUCTION

The new species described here is the first record of this genus from the southern hemisphere and was taken from the area approximately 28° S 13°E off the west coast of South Africa. Up to forty specimens were collected from single hosts, *Malacocophalus laevis* Lowe, 1843 and were found attached to the gills and inner opercula in a random pattern. Specimens were brushed clean, mounted in 70% lactic acid and drawn by means of a drawing tube. Samples for SEM were cleaned in 2% sodium hypochlorite, freeze-dried and coated with gold. All electromicrographs were taken at 5 kV.