REDESCRIPTION OF *TERATOCYCLOPS CUBENSIS* PLEŞA, 1981 (COPEPODA, CYCLOPOIDA, CYCLOPIDAE) FROM CUBA

BY

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ABSTRACT

*Teratocyclops cubensis* Pleşa, 1981 (Copepoda, Cyclopidae) is redescribed on the basis of specimens deposited in the collection of the Speleological Institute “Emil Racovitza”, Cluj, Romania. The genus *Teratocyclops* Pleşa, 1981 is redefined, mainly characterized by the following characters of the female: the general habitus of the body, the 11-segmented antennule, the presence of the vestigial exopodite on the antenna, the segmentation of the swimming legs, the structure of the distal segment of the endopodite of leg P4 with 1 spine and 3 setae, and the proximal segment of leg 5 fused to the somite. The relationship to the closely related genera *Metacyclops* Kiefer, 1927, *Apocyclops* Lindberg, 1942, and *Goniocyclops* Kiefer, 1955 are discussed.

RÉSUMÉ


INTRODUCTION

The genus *Teratocyclops* Pleşa, 1981 is a monospecific genus belonging to the copepod family Cyclopidae, subfamily Cyclopiniae. *Teratocyclops cubensis* Pleşa,
1981 has been discovered in subterranean lakes from three caves in the provinces Pinar del Rio, Caguanes, and Camaguei, respectively, on Cuba (Botoșâneanu, 1970; Pleșa, 1981, 1989). The author established the new genus according to the following morphological traits: general habitus of the body (wide cephalon, enlarged genital somite), swimming legs P1-4 with biarticulate rami, and structure of P5. Here, we re-examine and redescribe the morphological characters of the female and give some morphological details on the male; also, we provide supplementary characters in order to complete the first description.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Our observations were made using the existing material, completely dissected (Pleșa, 1981) and deposited in the collection of the Speleological Institute “Emil Racovitza”, Cluj, Romania. Ten females and three males were used to redescribe the species, the others being in bad condition. All specimens of *Teratocyclops cubensis* from the collection are considered to constitute the syntype-series. All drawings were made from whole specimens in glycerol, using a compound microscope. We have used the terminology proposed by Dussart & Defaye (1995).

The material observed herein was collected during the first Cuban-Romanian biospeleological expedition in 1969. From the total of 30 samples, one is epigean, 4 are from interstitial marine water, 4 from hyporheic habitats, 4 from wells, and 17 from caves. One new genus, three species, and one subspecies were described from hyporheic waters and caves (Pleșa, 1981).

The specimens described here were collected in association with two other copepod species in only one of the caves (Cueva del Aqua, province Pinar del Rio). These species are *Macrocyclops albidus* (Jurine, 1920) and *Mesocyclops (Thermocyclops) orghidani* Pleșa, 1981, now often considered as a species incertae sedis (Dussart & Defaye, 1985), and in need of a redescription as well.

TAXONOMY

**Cyclopidae** Rafinesque, 1815

**Cyclopinae** sensu Dana, 1853

*Teratocyclops* Pleșa, 1981

*Teratocyclops cubensis* Pleșa, 1981 (figs. 1-5)

Material examined. — Cueva del Aqua (Province Camaguei), site 12 (St. 30a), phreatic lake, temp. 22°C, leg. L. Botoșâneanu, 25.iv.1969; Cueva del Tunel (Province Caguanes), site 16 (St.