A NEW SPECIES OF ARCTURINOIDES (ISOPODA, VALVIFERA, ARCTURIDAE) FROM THE ATLANTIC COAST OF MOROCCO

BY

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ABSTRACT

A third species of the arcturid isopod genus Arcturinoides Kensley, 1977 is described from the Atlantic coast of Morocco. Arcturinoides dakhla sp. nov. is characterized by a sharp middorsal ridge on pereonite 4 of the female that is divided into longer anterior and shorter posterior sections by a transverse depression, and a male with tergal wings only on pereonite 4.

RÉSUMÉ

Une troisième espèce d’isopode arcturide du genre Arcturinoides Kensley, 1977 est décrite des côtes atlantiques marocaines. Cette nouvelle espèce, Arcturinoides dakhla sp. nov., est caractérisée par une crête médiodorsale sur le péréionite 4 de la femelle, qui est subdivisée en deux sections, une antérieure développée et une postérieure plus courte, par une dépression transversale. Le mâle dispose d’expansions tergales seulement sur le péréionite 4.

INTRODUCTION

The arcturid isopod genus Arcturinoides Kensley, 1977 was erected for the southern African species, Arcturinoides sexpes Kensley, 1977. Only one other species has since been described, A. gibbosus Müller, 1989 from the Gulf of Aden, in the north-western Indian Ocean, although a fourth is known to us from the Persian Gulf. This paper describes another species, also from the African region but distant from the localities of the others. The new species was discovered in samples of sand from the Atlantic coast of Morocco in a few metres depth. The holotype and most paratypes are lodged at Museum Victoria, Melbourne, Australia (NMV) and remaining paratypes at the Institut Scientifique, Université Mohammed V, Agdal, Rabat, Morocco (UMISR).

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Crustaceana 81 (2): 169-176
Also available online: www.brill.nl/cr
DESCRIPTIONS

**Arcturinoides** Kensley, 1977


**Type species.** — *Arcturinoides sexpes* Kensley, 1977, by original designation.

**Remarks.** — *Arcturinoides* differs from other genera of Arcturidae in a combination of characters. Its species are vaulted (with sharply defined, curved lateral margins of the pereonal tergites 1-4, dorsal coxal plates 5-7, and pleonal tergites), lack pereopod 4, and the maxillipodal palp article 3 is mesially swollen. *Arcturinoides* and *Arcturia* Koehler, 1911 share the absence of setae in rows on pereopods 2 and 3; instead, the setae are scattered and sparse and the dactylus is lost completely from pereopods 2 and 3 in both genera.

**KEY TO THE SPECIES OF ARCTURINOIDES**

1. Pereonite 5 of male without laterally projected triangular coxal wings 1-5; female with obscure middorsal ridge ................................................................. *A. sexpes* Kensley, 1977
   – Pereonite 5 of male with laterally projected triangular coxal wings; female with sharp middorsal ridge or boss ................................................................. 2

2. Female with sharp middorsal ridge on pereonite 4 divided into longer anterior and shorter posterior sections by transverse depression; male with tergal wings only on pereonite 4 ........ ................................................................. *A. dakhla* sp. nov.
   – Female with prominent middorsal boss on pereonite 4; male with tergal wings on pereonites 1 and 4 ..................................................................................... *A. gibbosus* H.-G. Müller, 1989

**Arcturinoides dakhla** new species (figs. 1-5)

**Material examined.** — Holotype male, 2.9 mm (NMV J55333), Morocco, Dakhla Bay, Dakhla City (23°47′23″N 15°44′16″W), 14 m, sand, collected by M. Menioui, SCUBA. Illustrated paratype male on 2 microslides (NMV J55334); illustrated paratype female, carcase plus 2 microslides (NMV J55335); paratype female on 3 microslides (NMV J55336); 11 ovigerous female paratypes, 3.3 mm (NMV J55337); 8 juvenile females, 2.7-2.9 mm (NMV J55338); 9 males, 2.3-2.5 mm (NMV J55339); 6 mancas, 1.9 mm (NMV J55340); paratype male, paratype female (UMISR ISAR2) – all from type locality.

**Description.** — Mature female. Total length 4.0 mm. Body twice as long as wide, strongly dorsoventrally vaulted. Suture between head and pereonite 1 visible on ventral surface. Pereonites 1-3 of similar lengths (along midline) and increasing in width posteriorly; pereonite 4 largest, 2.2 times as long as wide; pereonites 5-7 tapering gently and evenly from pereonite 4, subequal in length. Pleon laterally continuous with pereon; pereonites 1 and 2 indicated by grooves laterally; pleon consisting of 2 fused but distinguishable somites and plus triangular pleotelson, three-quarters as wide as long. Pereonite 4 with raised median dorsal ridge