

**SYRTICOLA FLANDRICUS N. G., N. SP., A HARPACTICOID  
COPEPOD FROM THE SOUTHERN BIGHT OF THE NORTH SEA**

**BY**

K. A. WILLEMS and D. CLAEYS

Marine Biology Section, Instituut voor Dierkunde, Rijksuniversiteit Gent, Ledeganckstraat 35,  
B-9000 Gent, Belgium

**INTRODUCTION**

During a comprehensive study of the macro- and meiobenthos of the Kwintebank, a sandbank in the Southern Bight of the North Sea, eleven female specimens of a cylindropsyllid, belonging to a new genus, were collected from one of the stations sampled. The station's coordinates are  $51^{\circ}18'00''\text{N } 2^{\circ}40'10''\text{E}$ .

The sediment at this station is a pure, very well sorted, coarse sand (median grain size:  $517 \mu\text{m}$ ; sorting: 0.24; mud  $< 63 \mu\text{m}$ : 0%) with a harpacticoid community similar to the *Leptastacus laticaudatus*-*Paramesochra helgolandica*-community from the "Open Sea" Zone described by Govaere et al. (1980).

All specimens have been deposited at the "Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen", Vautierstraat 31, B-1040 Brussels, under no. I.G.26228.

**DESCRIPTION**

***Syrticola* n. g.**

Cylindropsyllidae. Body cylindrical; urosome four-segmented in the female; anal operculum provided with dentiform processes; caudal rami extended into a strong process; rostrum triangular and well defined at the base; antennule six-segmented; antenna with an allobasis and a small, one-segmented exopodite; mandible with a distinct, two-segmented exopodite; maxilliped normally built, a terminal claw without accessory spinules; first leg with a two-segmented exopodite; endopodite prehensile, first segment much longer than exopodite; second to fourth legs with three-segmented exopodites, endopodites all with one segment; fifth leg with baso-endopodite and exopodite fused.

Type species. — *Syrticola flandricus* n. g., n. sp.

Other species. — *S. trispinosus* (A. Scott, 1896), n. comb.

Etymology. — The generic name is a combination of 'syrtis', sandbank and 'incola', inhabitant; gender: masculine.

**Syrticola flandricus** n. sp. (figs 1-3)

The following description is based on the dissection of one female (holotype) with additional observations from three others (paratypes).

Length: 0.46-0.53 mm (with rostrum and caudal rami included; 0.41-0.47 mm without);  $n = 11$ .

Body cylindrical and elongated, tapering gently towards the posterior end. Rostrum prominent, triangular with a sensory seta on either side at some distance from the tip (fig. 2A). Genital double somite without any trace of subdivision. Dorsal and ventral posterior edges of the abdominal somites 1-3 spinulose, dorsal surface also ornamented with rows of minute spinules. Last abdominal somite with a row of spines on the ventral posterior edge (fig. 1D). Anal operculum provided with four dentiform processes. Furcal rami 2.5 times as long as broad, with one well developed terminal seta. Distal outer corner extended into a strong process. Distal edge with three setae; one short, spiniform at inner corner; one on dorsal surface with articulated base.

Antennule (fig. 2A): composed of six segments, the first being the longest. Fourth segment bears an aesthetasc.

Antenna (fig. 2B): coxa short, bare. Allobasis with a single seta on the proximal part. Exopodite very small, one-segmented, with two setae, one terminal, one subterminal. Endopodite with two lateral spines, a single terminal spine and four terminal setae: three of the latter are geniculate while the fourth is very strong, irregular and furnished with some spinules in the middle.

Mandible (fig. 2C): praecoxa long with bidentate pars incisiva; lacinia mobilis consisting of small teeth; no pars molaris; coxa-basis bearing three setae at distal lateral edge; endopodite with five setae; four terminal and one subterminal.

Maxillule (fig. 2D): arthrite of praecoxa with five setae, laterally provided with spinules; coxa with single terminal seta; basis with five distal setae and one lateral seta.

Maxilla (fig. 2E): syncoxa with one endite bearing a single armed seta; basis with one armed seta and one strong claw. Endopodite represented by a single seta.

Maxilliped (fig. 2F): basis provided with a row of spinules. First segment of endopodite bare, furnished with two triangular chitinous structures on the distal and proximal part, respectively. Second segment short with a long and strong claw.

Leg 1 (fig. 3A): coxa furnished with a row of spinules along the distal edge; basis bare with a single outer spine. Exopodite bi-segmented; first segment shortest with a single outer spine; second segment bearing three terminal setae, two of which are geniculate. Endopodite bi-segmented, prehensile. First segment almost two times as long as exopodite, ornamented with a single long seta. Second segment short, with one terminal claw and one long seta.