

THE CAPRELLIDEA (CRUSTACEA: AMPHIPODA) COLLECTED BY THE EXPEDITION OF “GRIGORE ANTIPA” NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY FROM TANZANIA, WITH THE DESCRIPTION OF A NEW GENUS AND TWO NEW SPECIES

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Abstract. A new genus *Tanzacaprella* n. gen. and two new species *Tanzacaprella bacescui* n. sp. and *Paradeutella tanzaniensis* n. sp. are described based on the material collected during the expedition of “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History (Bucharest) from the coasts of Tanzania. A key to the species of the Caprellidea reported so far from Tanzanian waters is also given.

Résumé. Dans le matériel collecté en Tanzanie par l'expédition du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle “Grigore Antipa” (Bucarest) on a décrit un nouveau genre, *Tanzacaprella* n. gen. et deux nouvelles espèces, *Tanzacaprella bacescui* n. sp. et *Paradeutella tanzaniensis* n. sp. De même on présente une clé de détermination pour les espèces du sous-ordre Caprellidea des côtes de la Tanzanie.

Keywords: Caprellidea, Tanzania, new taxa, key.

INTRODUCTION

Since Mayer's monograph on the world Caprellidea from the Siboga Expedition (Mayer, 1903) little work has been done on Indian Ocean Caprellidea. In the western Indian Ocean we only stand out the work of Larsen (1997) where a new species of *Metaprotella*, *M. unguja*, is described from Zanzibar Island.

In general, there are few studies dealing with peracarid crustaceans from the equatorial coast of eastern Africa (Petrescu, 1998). That is why “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History from Bucharest organized a scientific expedition on the coast of Tanzania during December 1973 and January 1974. The four members of the expedition were: the late Acad. Mihai Băcescu (oceanographer, carcinologist, director of the museum at that time, the scientific leader of the expedition), the late Geza Julius Müller (marine biologist, researcher at the Romanian Institute of Marine Research from Constanța at that moment), Teodor T. Nalbant (ichthyologist, that time researcher at “Grigore Antipa” Museum) and Dragoș Neculce (mammalogist, that time researcher at the Institute of Biology from Bucharest). In the present paper we include the list of all identified taxa of the Caprellidea collected from Tanzanian waters during the “Grigore Antipa” Museum Expedition. We include also lateral view figures of the majority of the species, the complete description of *Tanzacaprella* n. gen., *Tanzacaprella bacescui* n. sp. and *Paradeutella tanzaniensis* n. sp., and a key of the Tanzanian caprellids.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The material of caprellids consists of 45 specimens preserved in ethanol 70%. Marine samples were collected from the coral reefs by the first three researches by dredging between 0 and 30 m, using also SCUBA diving (Müller and Nalbant) in different biotopes (sand, mud, between corals, sponges and algae). Another material

was obtained by washing the corals, sponges and algae from 0.5-1 m during low tide. A map of the study area is included in Petrescu (1998).

All the material is preserved in the collections of "Grigore Antipa" National Museum of Natural History from Bucharest.

RESULTS

Ten genera and eleven species were identified, a genus and two species are here-by described as new for science. The other taxa are mentioned for the first time from Tanzanian waters. The families have been grouped following Takeuchi (1993).

Family Phthiscidae Vassilenko, 1968

Genus *Pseudocaprellina* Sundara Raj, 1927

Pseudocaprellina pambanensis Sundara Raj, 1927

Family Caprellidea White, 1847

Genus *Fallothriella* McCain, 1968

Fallothriella biscayensis McCain, 1968

Genus *Hemiaegina* Mayer, 1890

Hemiaegina minuta Mayer, 1890

Genus *Metaprotella* (Mayer, 1882)

Metaprotella sandalensis Mayer, 1898

Metaprotella sp.

Genus *Paracaprella* Mayer, 1890

Paracaprella tenuis Mayer, 1903

Genus *Paradeutella* (Haswell, 1880)

Paradeutella tanzaniensis n. sp.

Genus *Pariambus* (Mayer, 1882)

Pariambus sp.

Genus *Protella* Dana, 1853

Protella similis Mayer, 1903

Genus *Tanzacaprella* n. gen.

Tanzacaprella bacescui n. sp.

Genus *Triprotella* Arimoto, 1970

Triprotella amica Arimoto, 1970

Genus *Pseudocaprellina* Sundara Raj, 1927

Pseudocaprellina pambanensis Sundara Raj, 1927

(Fig. 1)

Material: 1 female, 1 juvenile from Bahary Beach, collected at low tide, 25.12.1973.

Remarks

This species were described by Sundara Raj (1927) based on a male from Gulf of Mannar India. The present specimens from Tanzania are in good agreement

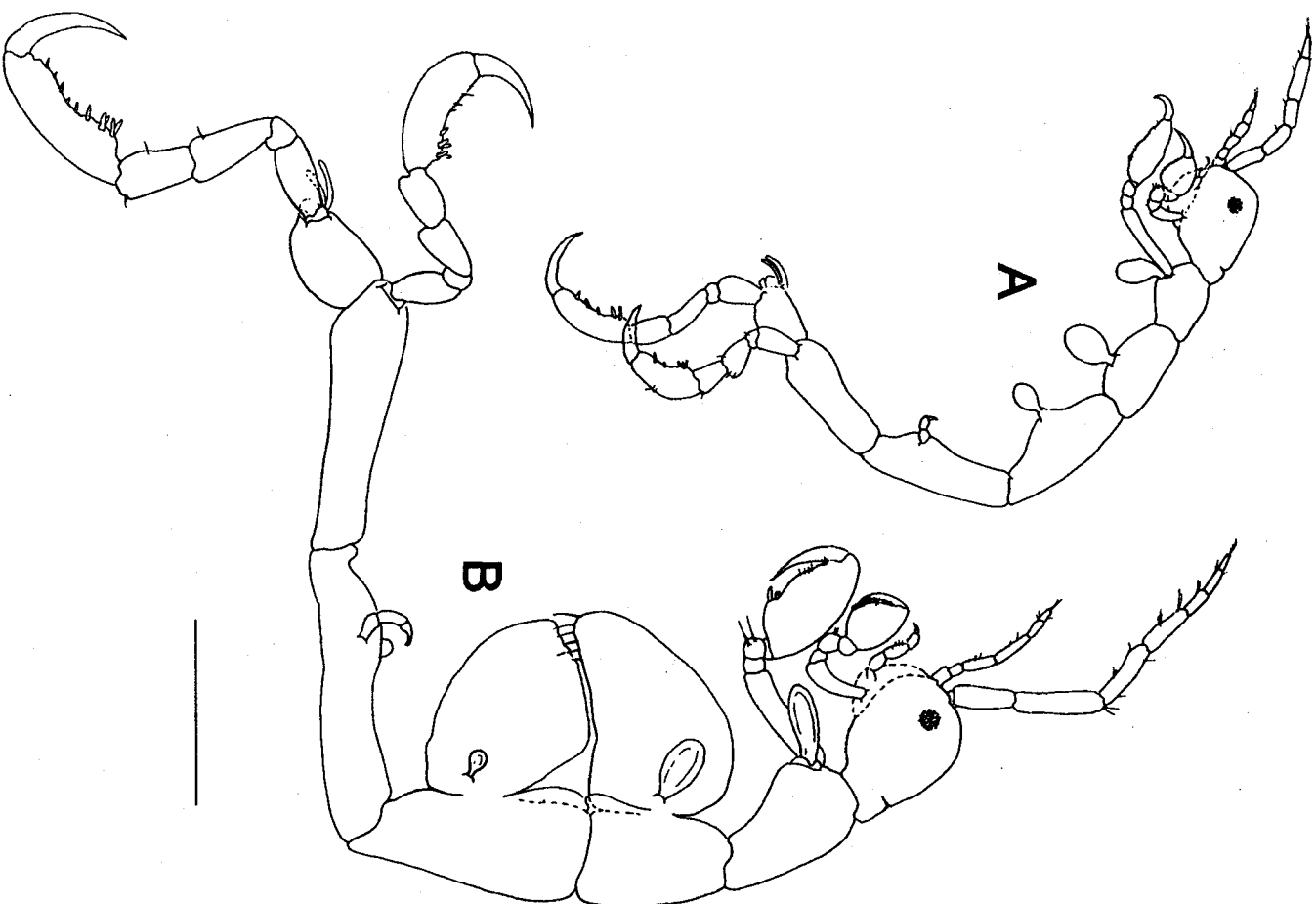


Fig. 1 - *Pseudocaprellina pambanensis* Sundara Raj, 1927. Lateral view. A, juvenile; B, female. Scale bar: 0.5 mm.

with the original description enlarging the distribution of the species to the African coasts of the Indian Ocean.

Genus *Fallotritella* McCain, 1968
Fallotritella biscaymensis McCain, 1968

(Fig. 2)

Material: 1 male, 2 females, 1 juvenile from *Syringodium*, 1.12.1973; 1 female from Mbudya, east of island, collected at low tide, 0.5 m depth, between corals through *Cymodocea*, 12.12.1974; 1 male, 2 females and 1 juvenile from Kunduchi, 12.12.1973; 1 male collected by dredging from Kunduchi, 22 m depth, 8.1.1974; 1 male and 1 female from Mbudya, between corals, 24.1.1974.

Remarks

Specimens described by McCain (1968) were smaller (male 4 mm, female 2.5 mm) than these from Tanzania. Nevertheless all the morphological characteristics are in agreement with the description of McCain (1968) based on specimens collected from Florida and Bermuda coasts. With the present study, *F. biscaymensis*, collected previously only from Atlantic Ocean, extends its distribution to the Indian Ocean.

Genus *Hemiaegina* Mayer, 1890
Hemiaegina minuta Mayer, 1890

(Fig. 3)

Material: 1 female collected by dredging from Kunduchi, 22 m depth, 8.1.1974.

Remarks

Recently, *Hemiaegina costai* de Araújo Quitete, 1972, the another species of the genus so far, fell in synonymy of *H. minuta* (Serejo, 1997). *Hemiaegina costai* is widely distributed along the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Ocean.

Genus *Metaprotella* (Mayer, 1882)

Metaprotella sandalensis Mayer, 1898

Material: 1 male and 3 juveniles from Mbudya Island, sand, 5 m depth 21.12.1973.

Remarks

Metaprotella sandalensis is very common in shallow waters of the tropical Indo-Pacific Ocean. A complete redescription and detailed figures of this species are included in Müller (1990).

Metaprotella sp.

Material: 1 female from Mbudya Island sand, 5 m depth, 21.12.1973; 1 female clinging to *Fungia*, 12.1.1974; 1 juvenile clinging to *Syringodium*, 1.1.1974; 2 males and 1 female from corals; 1 female from Kunduchi; 1 male 2.1.1973; 1 female 24.12.1973.

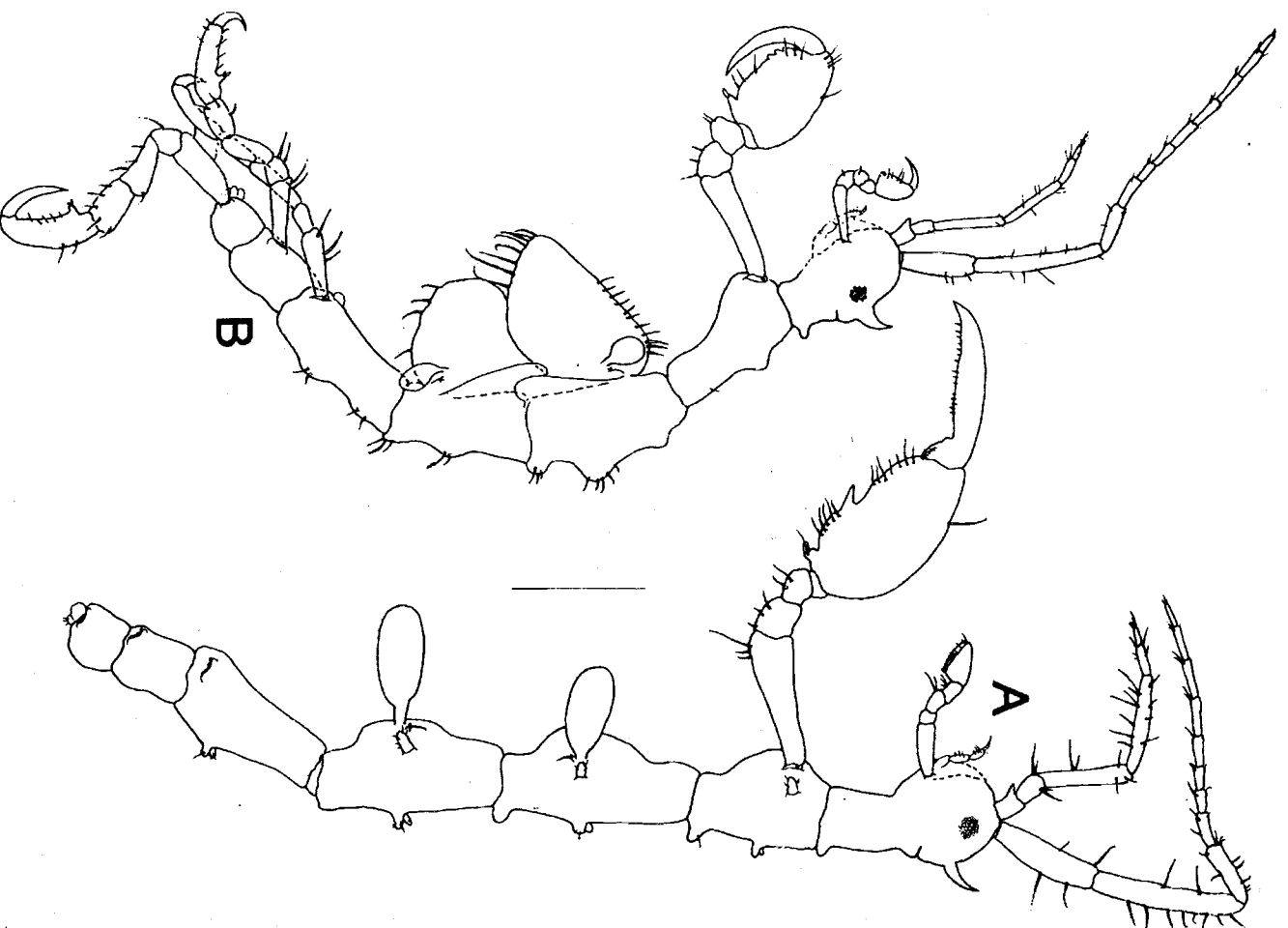


Fig. 2 - *Fallotritella biscaymensis* McCain, 1968. Lateral view. A, male; B, female. Scale bar: 0.5 mm.

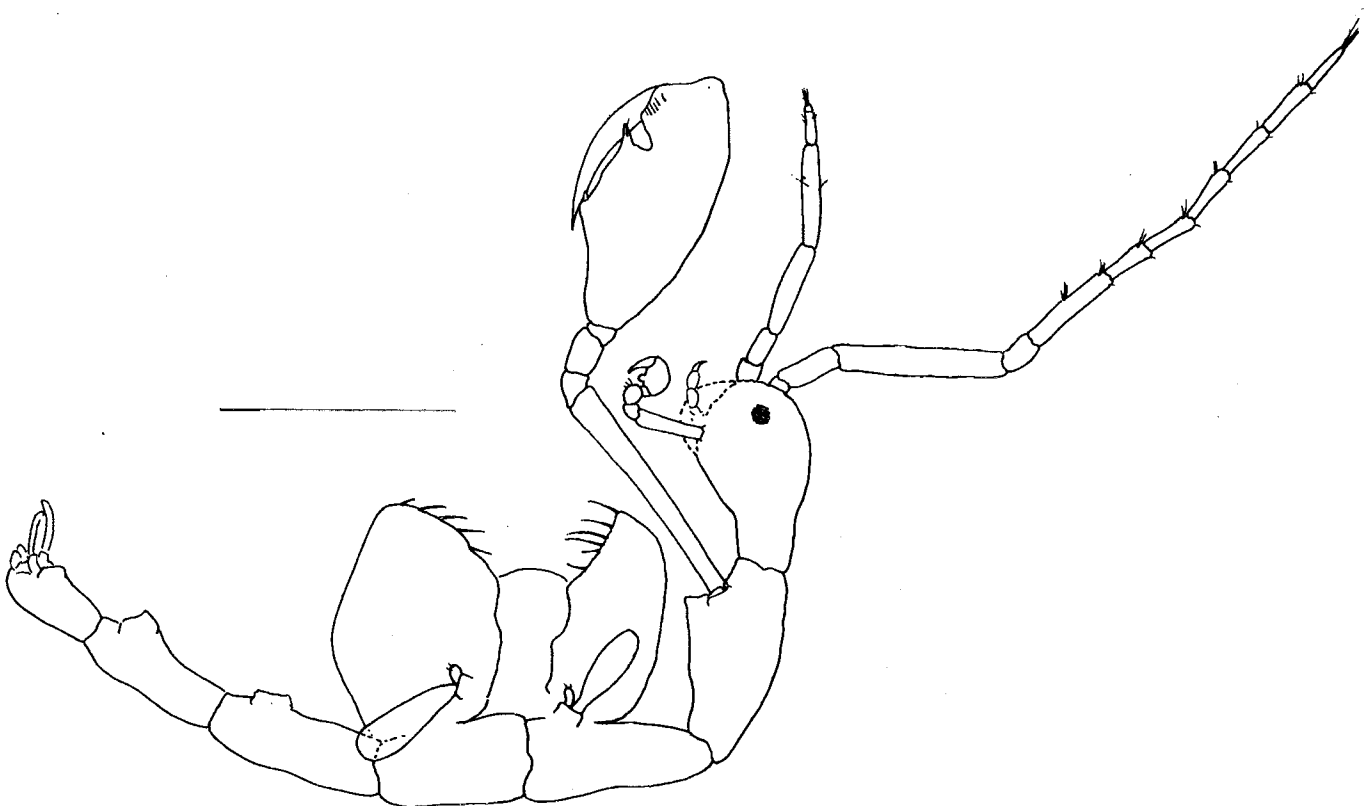


Fig. 3 — *Hemiaegina minima* Mayer, 1890. Female lateral view. Scale bar: 0.5 mm.

Remarks

This species is very close to *M. sandalensis* differing primarily by the 2-articulate pereopods 3 and 4 and the presence of well-marked suture between head and pereonite 1. A revision of the genus *Metaprotella* is necessary to clarify the position of *Metaprotella* sp.

Genus *Paracapprella* Mayer, 1890

Paracapprella tenuis Mayer, 1903

(Fig. 4)

Material: 3 males and 6 females from Bahary Beach, collected at low tide, 25.12.1973; 1 female clinging to *Syringodium*, 1.1.1974; 1 male clinging to *Fungia*, 12.1.1974.

Remarks

The present specimens agree basically with those described by McCain (1968) and Laubitz (1970) for *Paracapprella tenuis* except for the absence of setae in the peduncle of antenna 1 and the complete absence of mandibular palp in all specimens observed. *Paracapprella tenuis* had been previously recorded only from the West Atlantic coast.

Genus *Paradentella* (Haswell, 1880)

Paradentella tanzaniensis n.sp.

(Figs 5, 6, 7)

Material: *Holotype* male no. AMP 328; *type-locality*: Western Indian Ocean, Tanzania, Mbudya Island, sand, 5 m depth, 21.12.1973.

Ethymology. The species bears the name of the type locality — Tanzania.

Description of holotype male

Body (Fig. 5), cephalon (head + pereonite 1) and pereonites 2-6 carrying dorsal rounded projections. Formula of these tubercles on cephalon to pereonite 6: (1-1)-(2-1)-(2-1)-(2-1)-(2-1). Head rounded. Eye reduced to 9 ocellus. Pereonite 3 the longest. Pereonites 4 and 5 subequal. Gills elongated, length about 5 times width. Body length: 5.9 mm.

Abdomen (Fig. 6 E) with a pair of appendages, a pair of lateral lobes and single dorsal lobe. Abdominal appendages 1-articulate, cleaved distally. Length about 1.3 times width. Dorsal lobe with a pair of plumose setae. Penes large, length about 2 times width, situated medially.

Antenna 1 (Fig. 6 A) shorter than the body. Flagellum composed of 8 articles and a little shorter than the peduncle. Articles 1 and 2 of peduncle subequal, article 3 about 1/3 of article 2.

Antenna 2 (Fig. 6 B) as long as peduncle of antenna 1. Swimming setae absent. Peduncular article 1 carrying an acute projection distally.

Gnathopod 1 (Fig. 6 D) slender, merus to propodus setose. Propodus about 2 times longer than carpus, length about 2.1 times of width. Only a proximal grasping spine. Dactylus curved denticulate on inner margin.

Gnathopod 2 (Fig. 6 C) inserted in the anterior half of pereonite 2; basis slender, with the same length than pereonite 2. Ischium as long as merus to carpus combined. Propodus a little longer than basis, length about 2 times width. Palm of

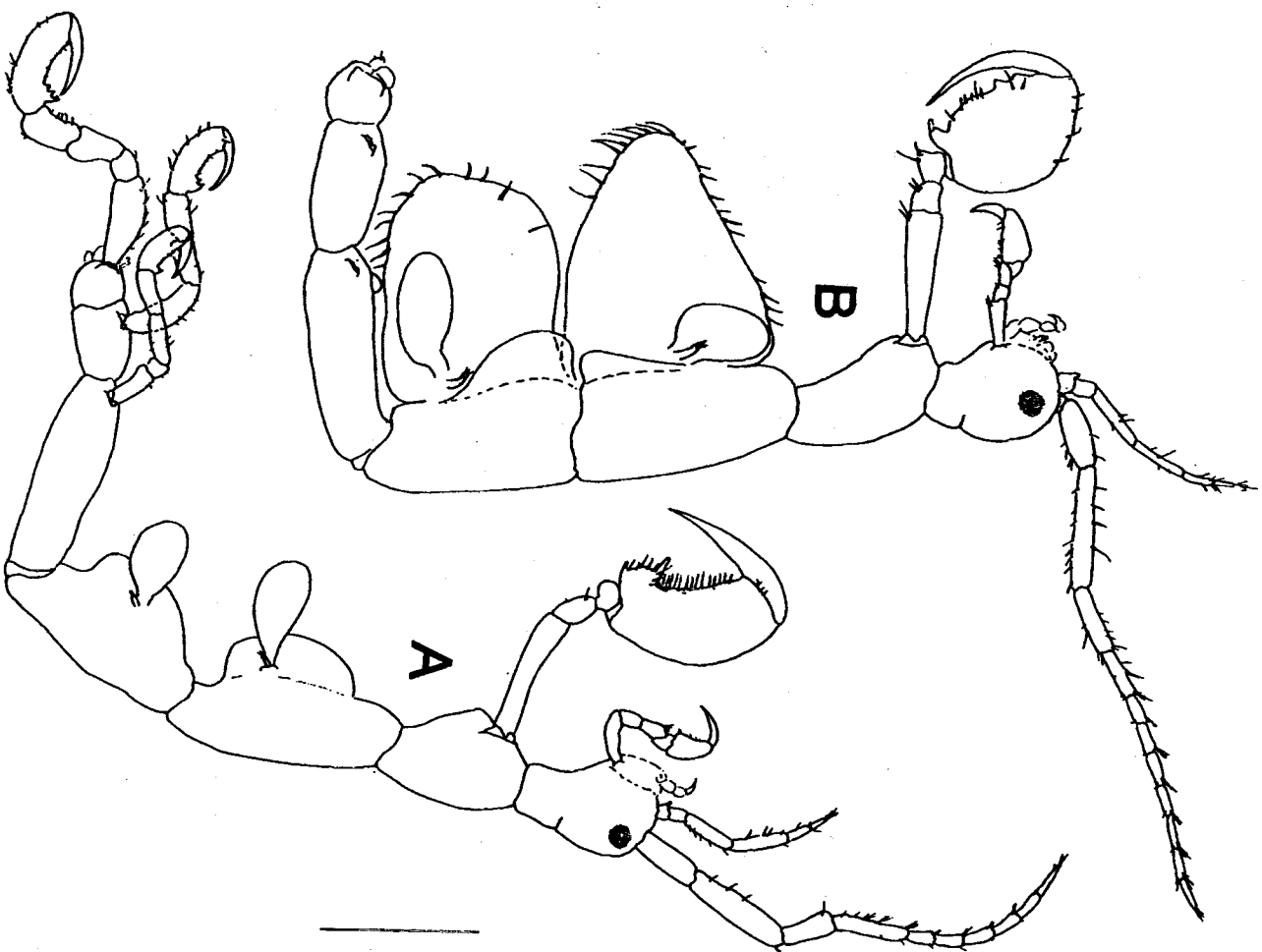


Fig. 4 - *Paracaprella tenuis* Mayer, 1890. A, male; B, female. Scale bar: 0.5 mm.

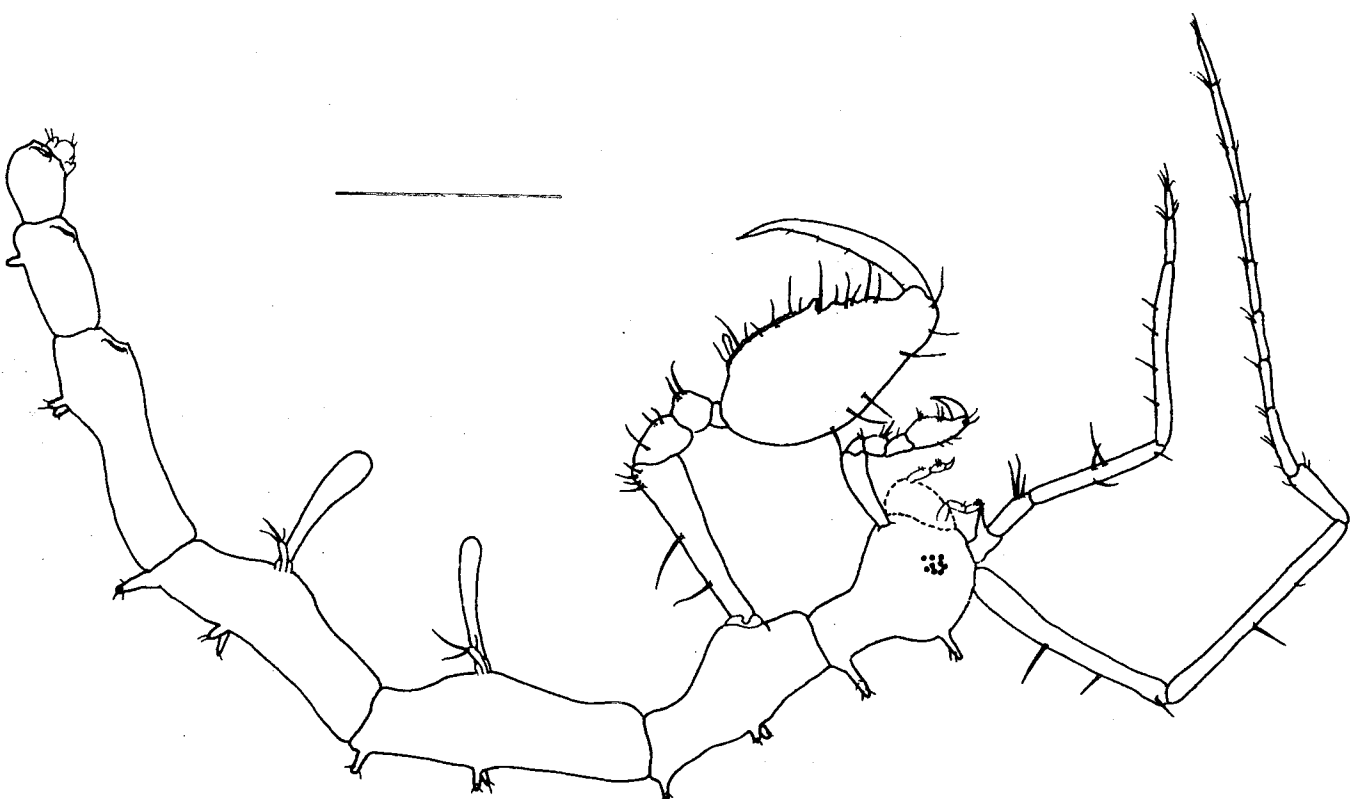


Fig. 5 - *Paradentella tanzaniensis* n. sp. Holotype male. Lateral view. Scale bar: 0.5 mm.

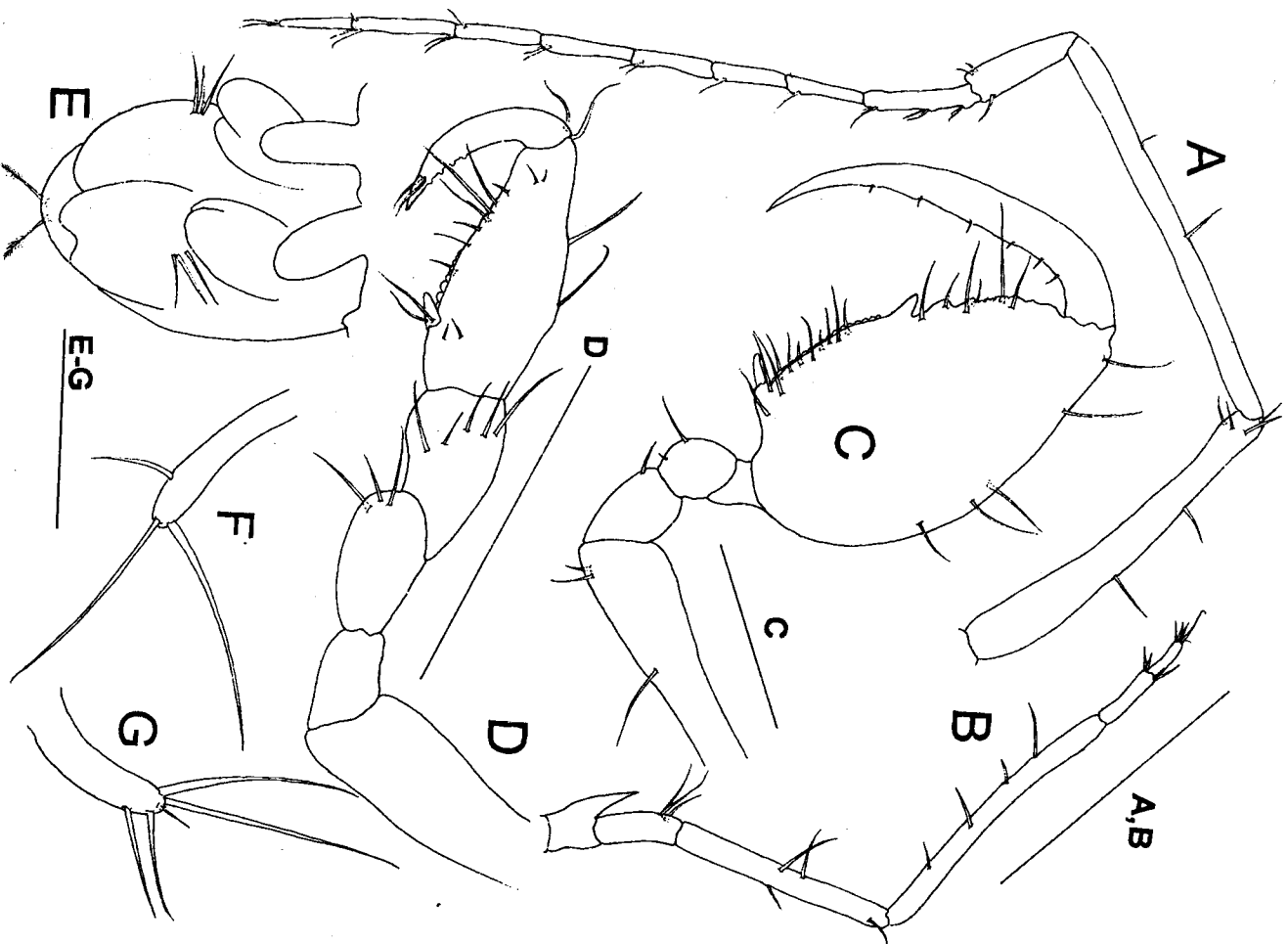


Fig. 6 - *Paradetella tanzaniensis* n. sp. Holotype male. A, antenna 1; B, antenna 2; C, gnathopod 2; D, gnathopod 1; E, abdomen; F, pereopod 3; G, pereopod 4. Scale bars: A,B: 0.5 mm; C: 0.3 mm; D: 0.2 mm; E-G: 0.1 mm.

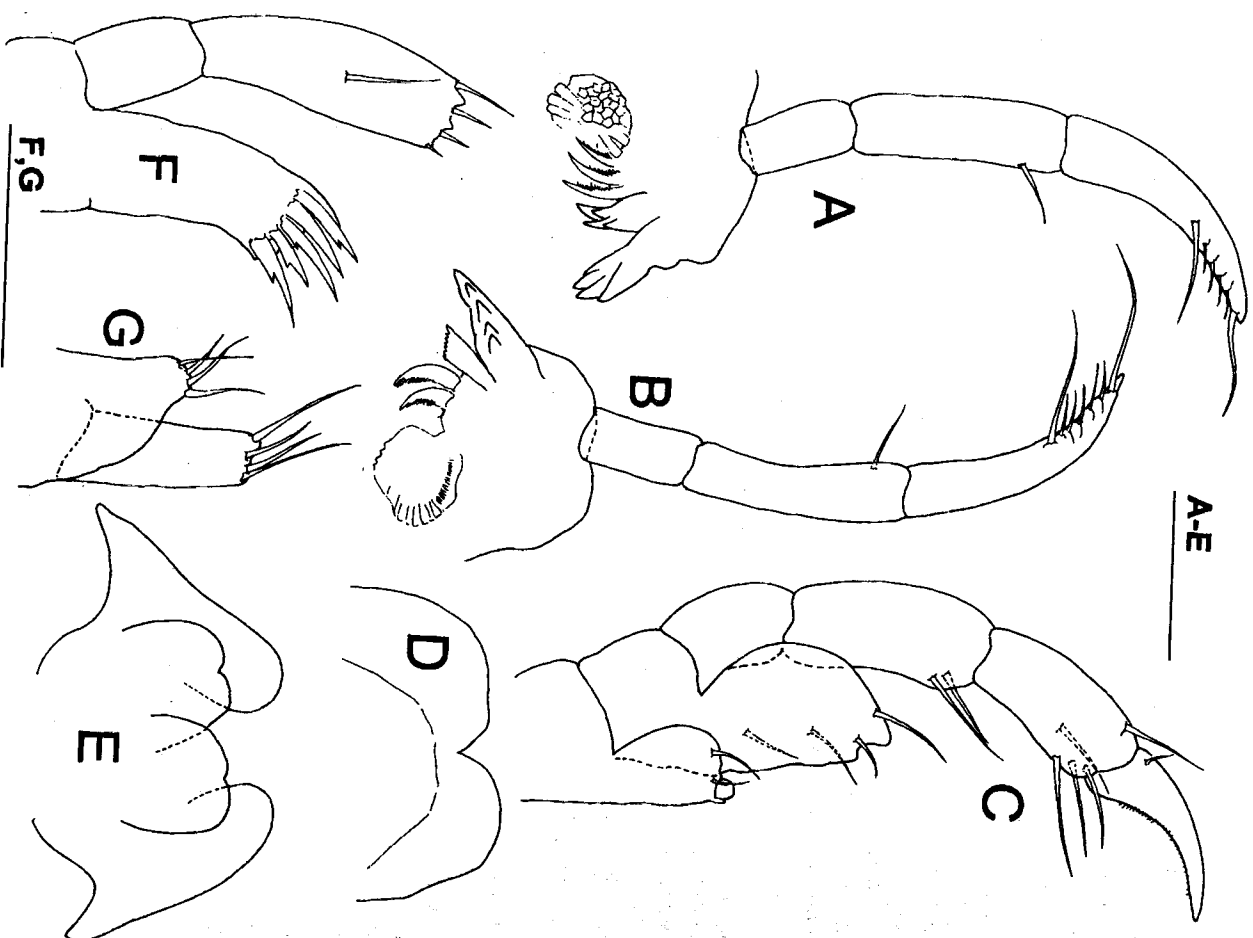


Fig. 7 - *Paradetella tanzaniensis* n. sp. Holotype male. A, left mandible; B, right mandible; C, maxilliped; D, upper lip; E, lower lip; F, maxilla 1; G, maxilla 2. Scale bar: 0.05 mm.

propodus concave with a medial projection rounded followed by little ones on the distal end. A grasping spine situated on proximal end. Palm between grasping spine and medial projection with serriform teeth and short fine setae.

Pereopods 3 and 4 (Fig. 6 F, G respectively) reduced, 1-articulate. Length about 4.5 times width. Pereopod 3 carrying 3 setae, pereopod 4 carrying 5 setae. Pereopods 5-7 missing in holotype. Nevertheless, by the insertion on the pereonites we can assure that they are not reduced.

Mandibles (Fig. 7 A, B) with palp. Mandibular molar process strong. Left mandible with incisor divided into 4 teeth followed by *lacinia mobilis* divided into 5 teeth and 3 pectinate setae. Right mandible with incisor divided into 5 teeth followed by *lacinia mobilis* divided into numerous minute teeth and 2 pectinate setae. Article 2 of the palp carrying 1 seta. Article 3 with 1-5-1 setae.

Maxilliped (Fig. 7 C), inner plate small, carrying 2 simple setae and a round tooth; outer plate rounded about 3 times as big as the inner one, carrying 2 setae medially and 2 setae on apical end.

Upper lip (Fig. 7 D) symmetrically bilobed, not pubescent apically.

Lower lip (Fig. 7 E), inner lobe with a cleft at the middle of the lobe distally. Outer lobe round apically, not pubescent.

Maxilla 1 (Fig. 7 F), outer lobe carrying 5 stout apical teeth. Distal segment of palp with 4 spines on apical end and a seta medially.

Maxilla 2 (Fig. 7 G), outer lobe rectangular; inner lobe, shorter and wider than outer lobe. Both, outer and inner lobe, carrying 4 setae distally.

Remarks

The abdomen of *Paradeutella tanzaniensis* seems to be closer to genus *Protella* Dana than *Paradeutella* Mayer. Nevertheless, we have considered this species belonging to genus *Paradeutella* mainly on the basis of the setal formula 1-x-1 on the article 3 of the mandibular palp. The genus *Protella* is characterised by a setal formula 1-x-y-1 (Laubitz, 1993). Furthermore the feature of antenna 1 in *P. tanzaniensis*, with a short article 3 of the peduncle, is very similar to all the species of the genus *Paradeutella*. Laubitz (1993) considered the genus *Protella* and *Paradeutella* belonging to different families; *Protella* inside family Protellidae McCain 1970, emend. and she removed the genus *Paradeutella* to the new family Pariambidae Laubitz, 1993 mainly on the basis of a different setal formula than 1-x-y-1. Moreover, the genus *Protella* and *Paradeutella* differs clearly in the abdomen structure. Pleopods and uropods are absent in *Paradeutella* while 1 pair of uniramous uropods (appendages) are described in *Protella* (Takeuchi, 1993). The present species, *Paradeutella tanzaniensis*, posses a pair of appendages well-developed in abdomen as in the genus *Protella*, differing from the rest of the species of *Paradeutella*. Until now, eight species have been describe inside the genus *Paradeutella* (McCain and Steinberg, 1970): *Paradeutella echinata* (Haswell, 1880); *P. bidentata* Mayer, 1890; *P. armata* Mayer, 1903; *P. laevis* Mayer, 1903; *P. serrata* Mayer 1903; *P. spinosa* Mayer 1903; *P. multispinosa* Schellenberg, 1928 and *P. bituberculata* Barnard, 1937. *Paradeutella tanzaniensis* differs from all of these species by the following combination of characteristics: eyes reduced, round dorsal projections along the body, abdomen with a pair of appendages and the feature of gnathopod 2.

Genus *Pariambus* (Mayer, 1882)

Pariambus sp.

Material: 1 male from Kunduchi.

Remarks

The single specimen examined is in very poor condition. Nevertheless the absence of mandibular palp, the pereopod 5 with 2 articles and the abdomen with 1 pair of appendages rudimentary and 1 plate indicate that it belongs to the genus *Pariambus*.

Genus *Protella* Dana, 1853

Protella similis Mayer, 1903

(Fig. 8)

Material: 2 females from corals.

Remarks

This is the third report of *Protella similis*. Since its original description (Mayer, 1903) this species was not found until that Laubitz (1991) studied the material collected by the expeditions to the western Pacific. The two studied females from Tanzania are very similar to the material from western Pacific except for the left *lacinia mobilis* 4-toothed and the 5 denticulate teeth in the outer lobe of maxillae 1.

Tanzacapprella n. gen.

Type-species: *Tanzacapprella bacescui* n. sp.

Diagnosis (based on the female holotype). Flagellum of antenna 2 biarticulate, swimming setae absent. Mandibular palp absent. Molar process absent. Outer lobe of maxilliped larger than inner lobe; gills on pereonites 3 and 4, pereopods 3 and 4, 2-articulate. Abdomen with a pair of lateral lobes and a single dorsal one.

Eymology. The compound word is derived from "Tanza" as allusion to the collecting place from Tanzania, and "Capprella".

Gender: feminine.

Remarks

The new genus *Tanzacapprella* is closely related to the genus *Paracapprella* Mayer. Nevertheless, *Tanzacapprella* distinctly differs from *Paracapprella* in the absence of molar process and the pereopods 3 and 4 with 3 articles instead 2. In connection with the mandibular palp, it is absent, so far, in the genus *Tanzacapprella* and extremely variable inside the genus *Paracapprella* showing various degrees of reduction (0 to 3 articles) (McCain, 1968; Laubitz, 1993). So this characteristic is not useful to compare both genus. Anyway, the most striking characteristic of the new genus is the combination of these two characters at the same time: absence of molar process and absence of mandibular palp. So far, seven species of *Paracapprella* have been described, all of them carrying molar process well developed: *P. pusilla* Mayer, 1890; *P. alata* Mayer, 1903; *P. tenuis* Mayer, 1903; *P. barnardi* McCain, 1968; *P. digitimanus* de Araújo Quietele, 1971 and *P. insolita* Arimoto, 1980. If we examine the data matrix of 13 generic characters and their status of the Caprellidea included in Takeuchi (1993) we can observed that the

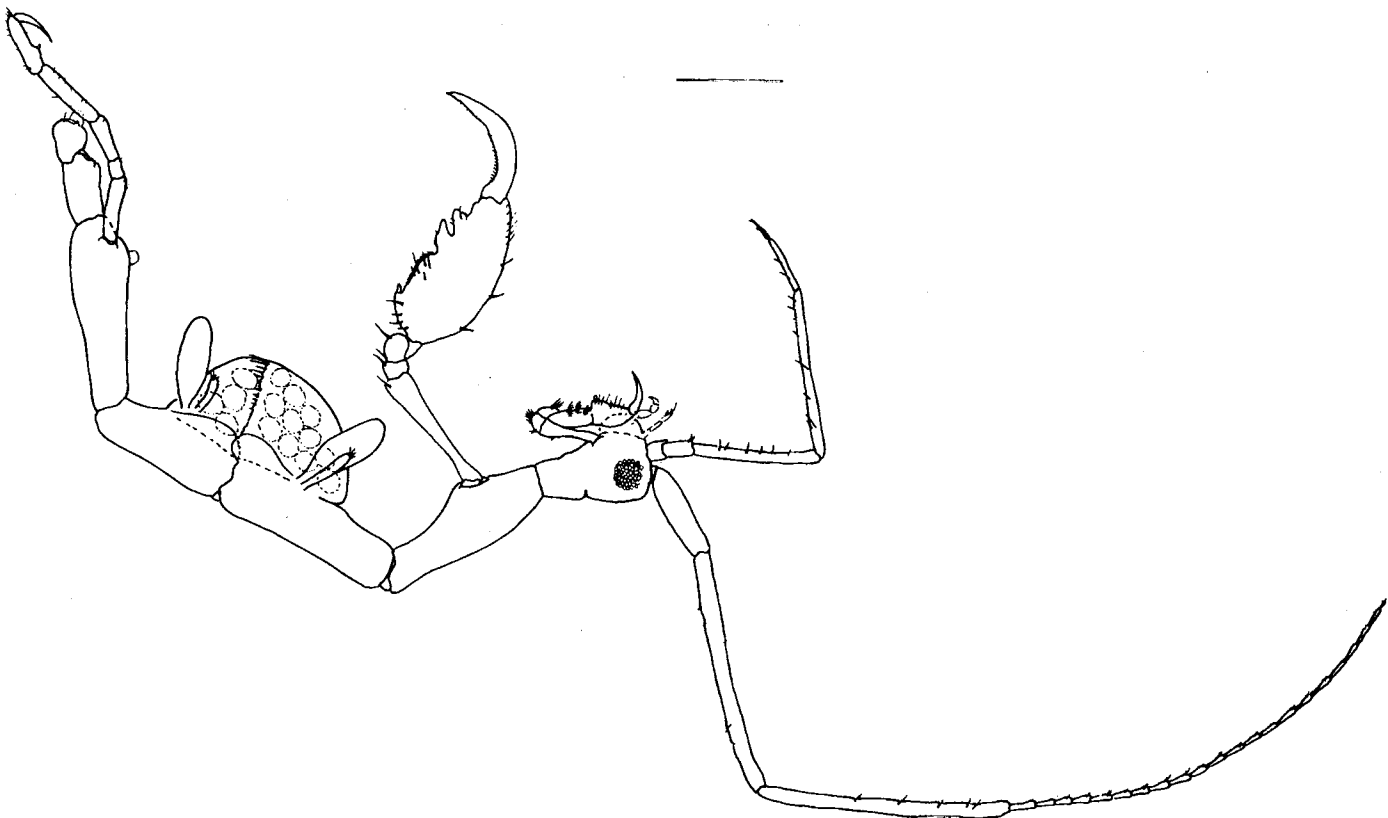


Fig. 8 – *Protella similis* Mayer, 1903. Female lateral view. Scale bar: 1 mm.

absence of molar process is characteristic of a group of 22 genera all belonging to the family Phisicidae (Takeuchi, 1993) in the line of evolution *Pseudoprotomima Perotripus* (*Pseudoprotomima* complex). The other line of evolution revealed by the cladogram obtained from cladistic analysis is the line *Caprogammarus-Caprella* (*Caprogammarus* complex). This group consists of the other 38 genera belonging to the Caprogammaridae, Paracercopidae and Caprellidea. All of these genera (except *Cercops*, *Paracercops* and *Pseudocercops* belonging to the Paracercopidae and *Falotriella* and *Pseudolirrops* belonging to the Caprellidae) present a molar process in the mandible. According to the lack of molar process, *Tanzacapprella* seems to be close to genera *Falotriella* and *Pseudolirrops*. However, these two genera present molar palp while in *Tanzacapprella* palp is lacking. McCain (1968) established the genus *Falotriella* based on *F. biscaynensis* McCain, 1968 from Brazil. After this, de Araújo Quitete (1971a) described *F. montoucheti*. Recently, Müller (1990) described *F. polynesica* from Bora Bora. In disagreement with the generic diagnosis, *F. polynesica* has the molar of the mandible not totally reduced. It is present as a shallow cone with a distal spine. The genus *Pseudolirrops* was established by Laubitz (1970) based on *Pseudolirrops vanus* Laubitz, 1970 described with only one specimen, an immature female.

Tanzacapprella baescui n. sp.

(Figs 9, 10, 11)

Material: *Holotype* female no. AMP 329; *type-locality*: Western Indian Ocean, Tanzania, sta. 91, 24.12.1973.

Etymology: The species is dedicated to Acad. Mihai Băcescu for his contribution to science. He was a famous specialist in Crustacea Peracarida, former director of the "Grigore Antipa" National Museum and scientific leader of the expedition in Tanzania.

Description of holotype female

Body (Fig. 9) smooth on dorsal surface. Head rounded. Cephalon as long as pereonite 2. Pereonites 3 and 4 subequal. Pereonite 5 the longest. Gills oval. Body length: 5.4 mm.

Abdomen (Fig. 10 G) with a pair of lateral lobes and single dorsal lobe with a pair of not plumose setae.

Antenna 1 (Fig. 10 A) a little shorter than half of the body. Flagellum composed of 6 articles.

Antenna 2 (Fig. 10 B) almost as long as peduncle of antenna 1, without swimming setae.

Gnathopod 1 (Fig. 10 C) propodus with a proximal grasping spine; grasping margin with two laminae finely serrated. A row of 4 setae medially. Dactylus provided with two rows of small acute projections.

Gnathopod 2 (Fig. 10 D) inserted in the anterior half of pereonite 2. Basis shorter than pereonite 2 and with the same length than ischium to carpus combined. Propodus about 1.8 times longer than basis. Length about 2 times width. Palm of propodus concave carrying a tooth situated on a big projection proximally. Palm bilaminated carrying serriform teeth and 5 setae distally.

Pereopods 3 and 4 subequal (Fig. 10 E, F respectively) reduced, 3-articulate. Length about 4 times width. Distal article carrying 3 setae. Article 2 with the same length than article 1 (proximal) and 3 (distal) together, carrying a seta.

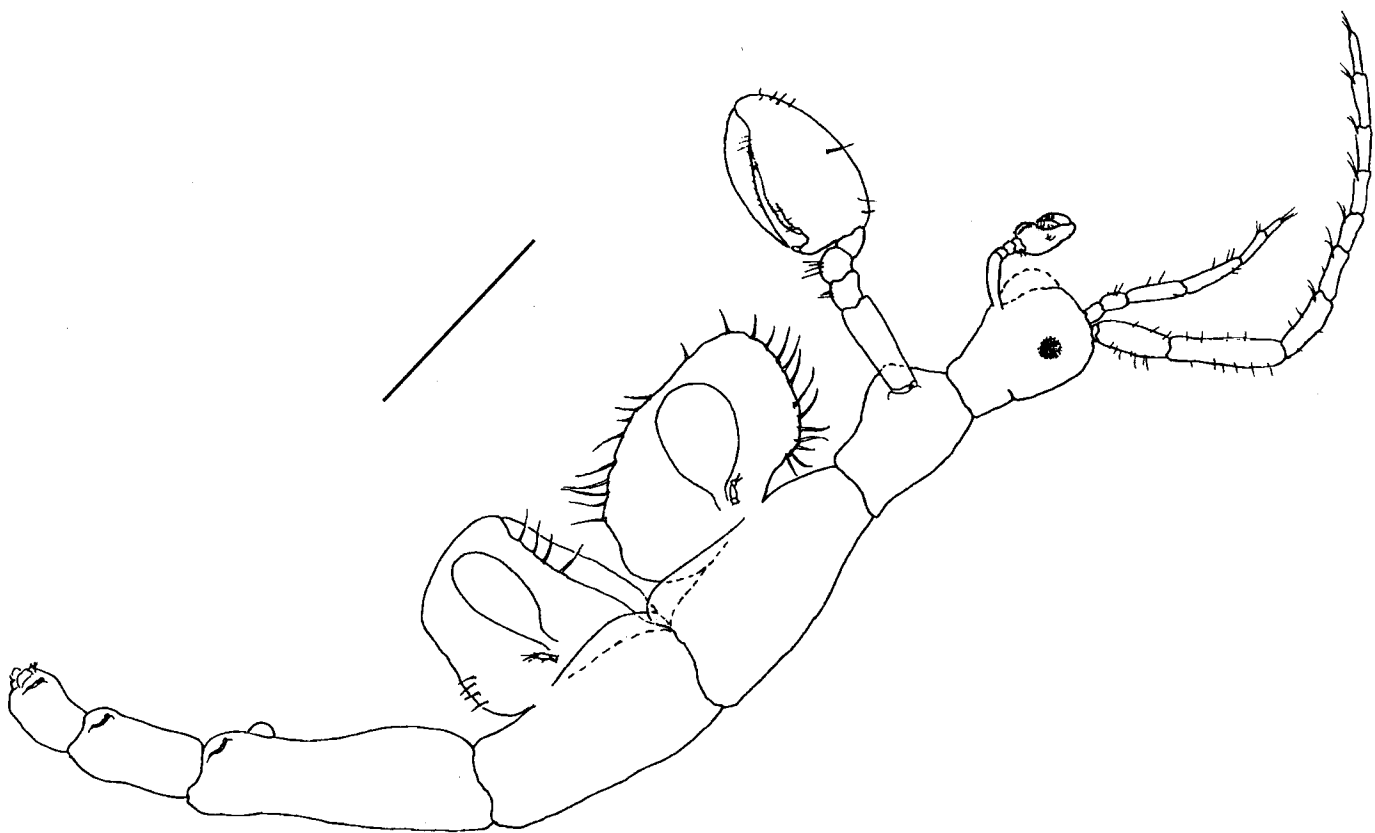


Fig. 9 — *Tazacaprrella baescui*, n. gen., n. sp. Holotype female. Lateral view. Scale bar: 0.5 mm.

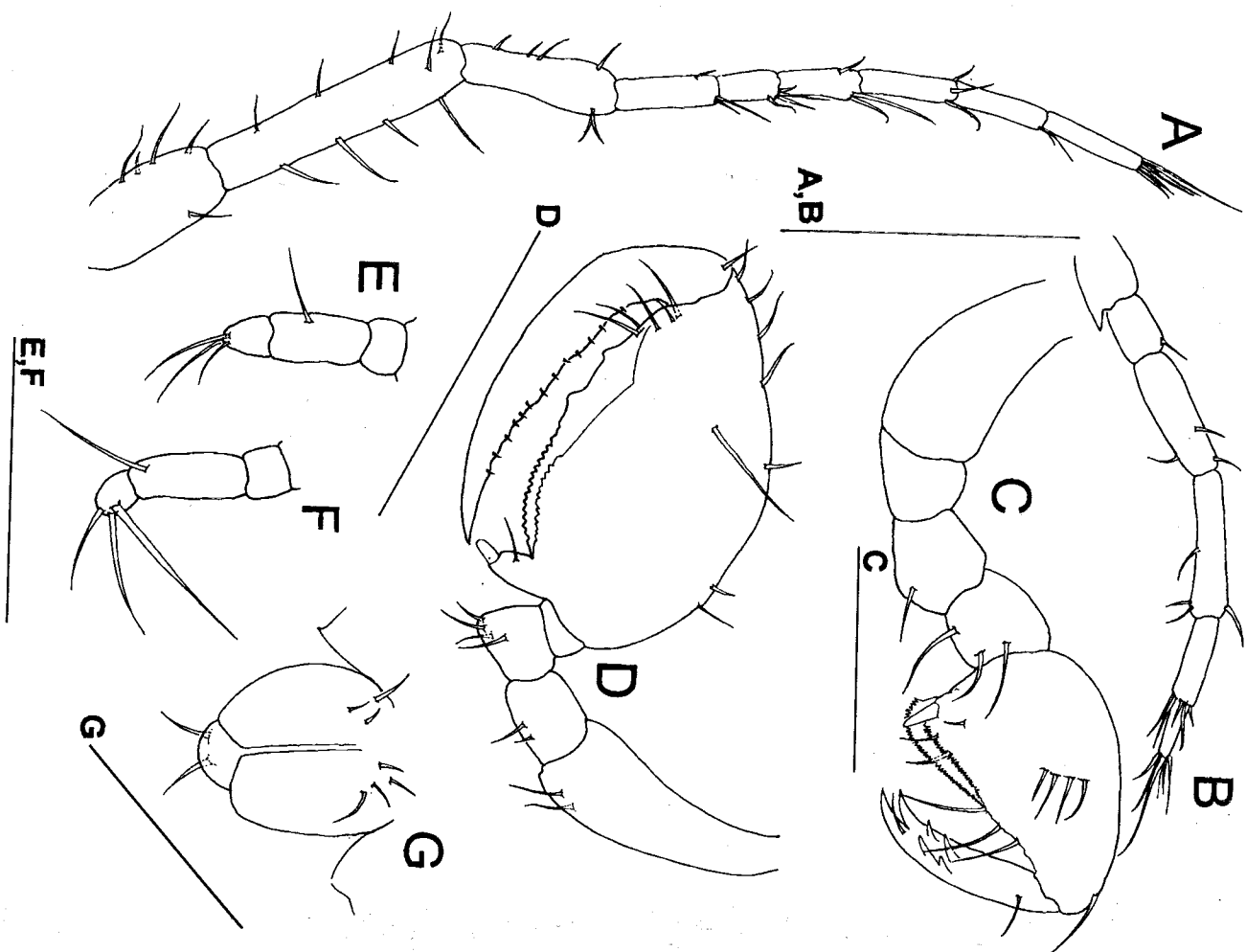


Fig. 10 — *Tazacaprrella baescui*, n. gen., n. sp. Holotype female. A, antenna 1; B, antenna 2; C, gnathopod 1; D, gnathopod 2; E, pereopod 3; F, pereopod 4; G, abdomen. Scale bars: A,B: 0.3 mm; C, E-G: 0.1 mm; D: 0.3 mm.

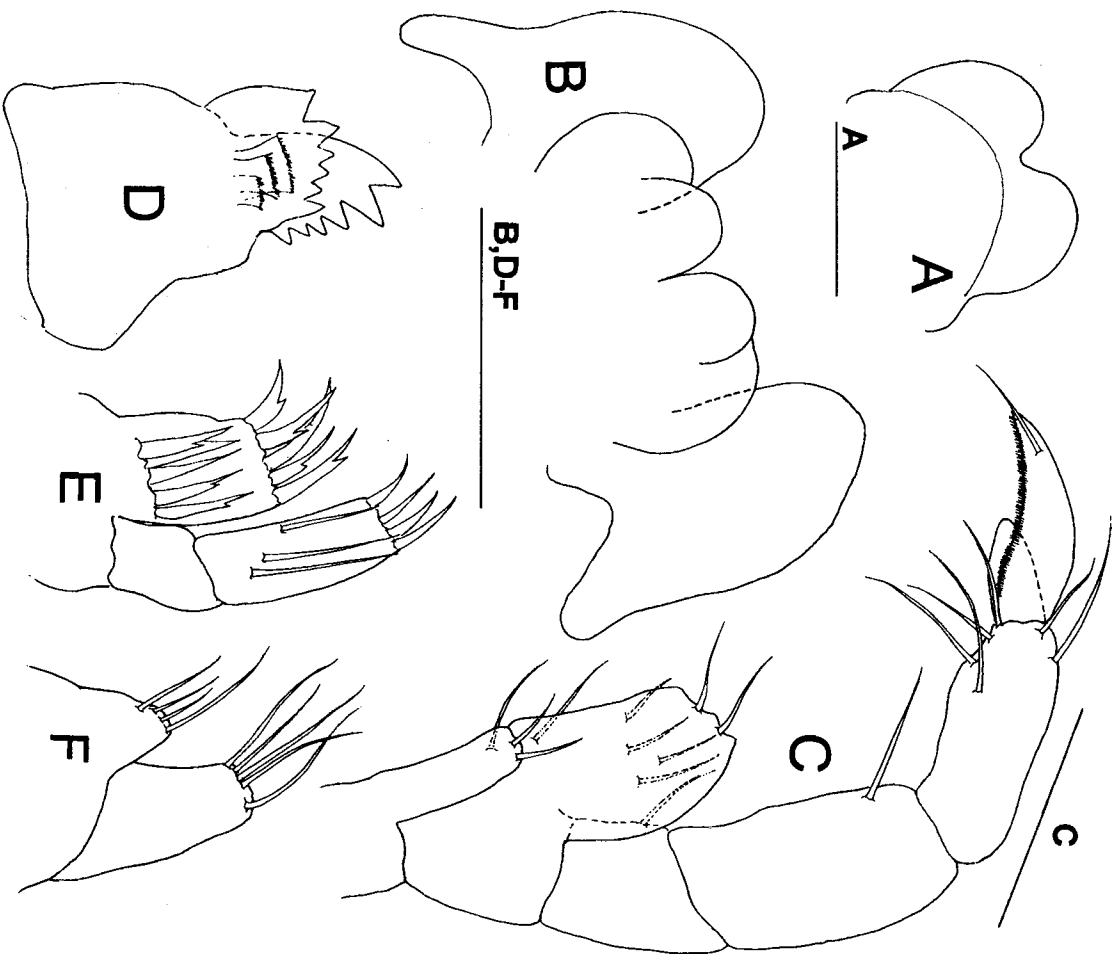


Fig. 11 – *Tanzacaprella bacescui*, n. gen., n. sp. Holotype female. A, upper lip; B, lower lip; C, maxilliped; D, left mandible; E, maxilla 1; F, maxilla 2. Scale bars: 0.05 mm.

Pereopods 5, 6 and 7 missing in holotype, but not reduced (see the insertion in fig. 9).

Upper lip (Fig. 11 B) with inner lobe divided into 2 round lobes. *Maxilliped* (Fig. 11 C), inner plate small and slender. Length about 3 times width carrying 2 setae on apical end. Outer plate bigger than inner one, carrying 4 setae medially and 2 apically. Article 3 of palp ending on inner side with long tongue shaped process; article 4 with a distal setae.

Left mandible (Fig. 11 D) with incisor and *lacinia mobilis* 6-toothed, followed by three plates. *Right mandible* similar with 2 laminae instead 3.

Maxillae 1. Left maxilla (Fig. 11 E), outer lobe carrying 5 stout apical teeth and another 5 proximally. Distal article of palp with 4 spines on apical end and 3 setae medially.

Maxillae 2 (Fig. 11 F), outer lobe trapezoid carrying 5 setae on apical end. Inner lobe short with 4 setae distally.

Remarks

According to the shape of body in holotype female, *Tanzacaprella bacescui* resembles some species of the genus *Paracaprella*, as *P. digitimanus* (see de Araújo Quitec, 1971b). Nevertheless, the feature of gnathopods is very uncommon in *T. bacescui*. Furthermore, the mouthparts are unique inside the Caprellidea. Besides the absence of molar process and palp in the mandible, the species present other striking characteristics. The inner lobes of the lower lip are divided into two lobes. This character is only present, to my knowledge, in other species of the Caprellidae, *Paraprotella saltatrix*, a new species from Thailand (Takeuchi and Guerra-García, in press.). The maxilliped in *T. bacescui* presents a process in article 3 of the palp and a distal seta in the article 4. This apical projection of the palpal article 3 of the maxilliped has been considered to be characteristic of the genus *Metaprotella* (Mayer, 1890; Laubitz, 1991). A consultation of the literature, however, shows that this projection is also found in different genera such as *Paracaprella* and *Tritella* (e.g. McCain, 1968; Laubitz, 1970; Mori, 1996). The maxilliped figured by Cavedini (1982) for *Deutella schreckei* also resembles the maxilliped of *Tanzacaprella bacescui*. The outer lobe of maxillae 2 carries 2 rows of stout teeth. This characteristic is unique inside the Caprellidea. Moreover, McCain (1970) pointed out that the presence or absence of a molar on the mandible is a criterion for separation of the Caprellidea into higher taxa like families. Nevertheless, the present material, only one female, is too limited to suggest a new subfamily or family.

Genus *Tripotrella* Arimoto, 1970

Tripotrella amica Arimoto, 1970

(Fig. 12)

Material: 1 male from Mbudya Island sand, 5 m depth, 21.12.1973.

Remarks

Arimoto (1970) described the genus *Tripotrella* based on a single specimen collected from the Arabian Sea belonging to the type species *Tripotrella amica*. Although the setal formula 1-1-1, the pereopods 3 and 4 with 1 article and the feature of the gnathopod 2 and abdomen indicates that the present specimen belong to the genus *Tripotrella*, some slight differences between the present specimen and that described by Arimoto (1970) were found. Eyes are reduced in *Tripotrella amica*

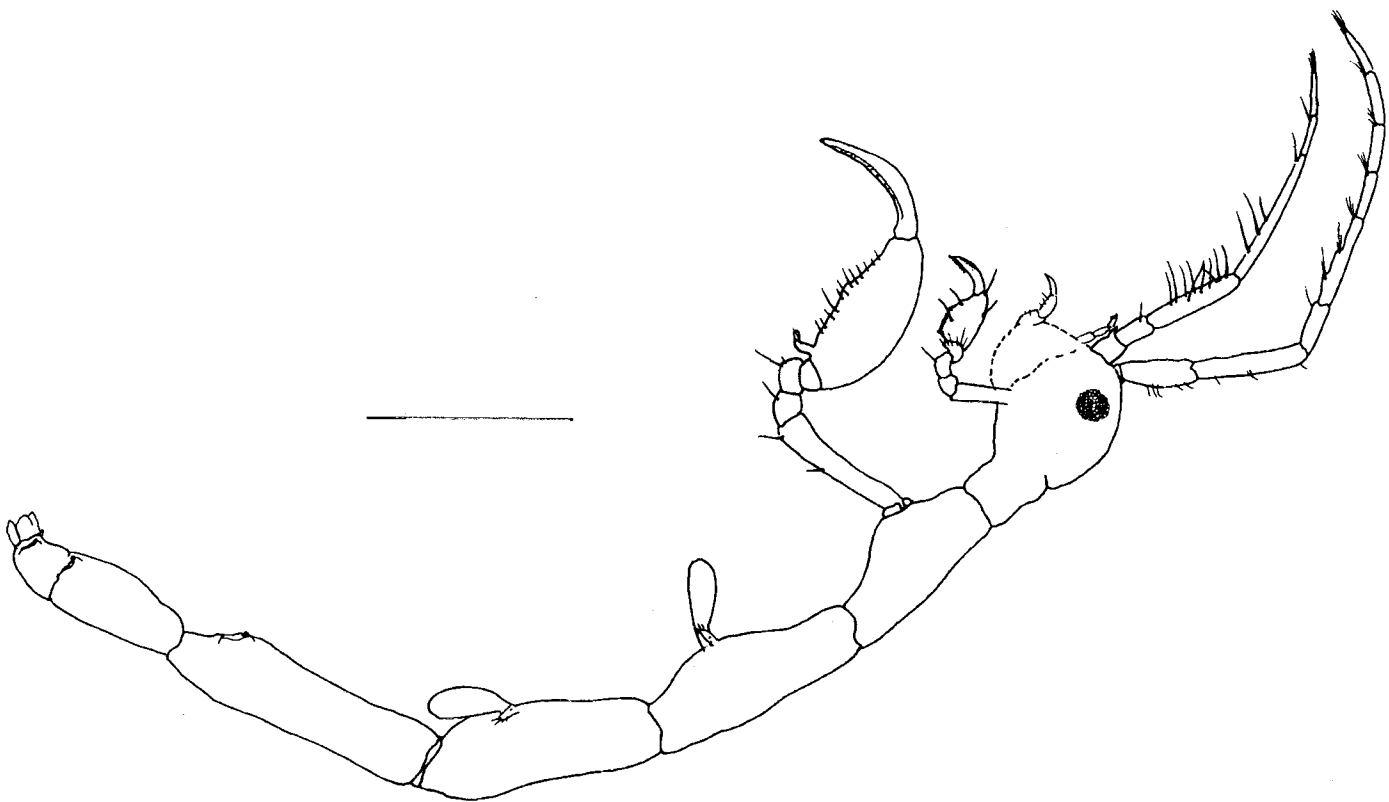


Fig. 12.—*Triprotella amica* Arimoto, 1970. Male lateral view. Scale bar: 0.5 mm.

from Arabian Sea whereas they are well developed in the specimen from Tanzania. In *T. amica* from Arabian Sea the article 3 of the maxilliped palp has no process and the article 4 is blunt and round distally; specimen from Tanzania has a developed process in the article 3 of the maxilliped and the article 4 is acute distally.

Key to the species of the Caprellidea from Tanzania

(Besides the 11 species of 10 genus collected by the Expedition organized by the "Grigore Antipa" Museum from Bucharest, *Paracaprella pusilla*, found in Tanzania (McCain and Steinberg, 1970) and *Metaprotella unguja* found in Zanzibar Island (Larsen, 1997) are also included. To my knowledge, these two species were the only 2 caprellids recorded in the area prior this study. The key provided is meant as a field guide to be used without dissection. Taking into account that pereopods 5, 6 and 7 are easily removed during the sampling the key has been elaborated without consider this character. *Parivambus* sp. has not been included in the key)

1. — Three pairs of gills (in pereonites 2, 3 and 4)..... *Pseudocaprellina panbanensis*
 - Two pairs of gills (in pereonites 3 and 4)..... 2
2. — Pereonites 6 and 7 fused..... 2
 - Pereonites 6 and 7 separated..... 3
3. — Pereopod 3 and 4 with 2 articles..... *Metaprotella* sp.
 - Pereopod 3 and 4 with 1 article..... 4
4. — Suture between head and pereonite 1 present. Inferior margin of male gnathopod 2 propodus with several conspicuous rows of dense setae. Body almost smooth..... *Metaprotella unguja*
 - No suture between head and pereonite 1. Propodus of gnathopod 2 without conspicuous rows of dense setae. Body with abundant dorsal acute projections elongated with 5 parallel rows of setae. Propodus of gnathopod 2 with pegs..... *Metaprotella sandalensis*
 - *Protella similis*
5. — Antenna 1 longer than the body. Eyes extremely large. Carpus of gnathopod 1 elongated with 5 parallel rows of setae. Propodus of gnathopod 2 with pegs
 - Without these characteristics..... 6
6. — Body smooth..... 7
 - Body with dorsal projections..... 7
7. — Pereopods 3 and 4 with 3 articles..... *Tanzacprella bacescui* n. sp.
 - Pereopods 3 and 4 with 1 or 2 articles..... 8
8. — Pereopods 3 and 4 with 2 articles. Pleura well developed in pereonites 3 and 4. Propodus palm of male gnathopod 2 with a large rectangular projection carrying a grasping spine and a tooth..... 9
 - Without these characteristics..... 10
9. — Large sharp-pointed projection on the anteroventral margin of pereonite 2. Proximal knob on the basis of gnathopod 2. Presence of setae on the dactylus of the gnathopod 2..... *Paracaprella pusilla*
 - The above characteristics lacking..... *Paracaprella tenuis*
10. — Propodus of gnathopod 1 with a large rounded projection. Basis of gnathopod 2 longer than pereonite 2; propodus larger than head..... *Hemiaegina minuta*
 - Propodus of gnathopod 1 serrated, without projections. Basis of gnathopod 2 shorter than pereonite 2. Propodus smaller than head..... *Triprotella amica*
11. — Head with a dorsal projection acute apically. Propodus of gnathopod 1 carrying a pair of grasping spines. Pereopods 3 and 4 extremely reduced, about 12 times shorter than gills. Gill oval, length about 2 times width..... *Falotritella biscaynensis*

— Head with a dorsal projection round apically. Propodus of gnathopod 1 carrying a single grasping spine. Pereopods 3 and 4 not so reduced, about 4 times shorter than gills. Gill very elongated, length about 6 times width..... *Paradentella tanzaniensis* n.sp.

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CAPRELLIDEA (CRUSTACEA: AMPHIPODA) COLECTATE DE EXPEDIȚIA MUZEULUI NAȚIONAL DE ISTORIE NATURALĂ, GRIGORE ANTIPA“
DIN TANZANIA, CU DESCRIEREA UNUI GEN ȘI A DOUĂ SPECII NOI

REZUMAT

Din studiul materialului – 47 exemplare, colectat în timpul expediției Muzeului „Grigore Antipa“ de la coastele Tanzaniei (1973-1974), a rezultat identificarea a 10 genuri și 11 specii: *Falotriella biscayensis* McCain, *Hemiaegina minuta* Mayer, *Metaprotella sandalensis* Mayer, *Protella similis* Mayer, *Pseudocaprellina pambanensis* Sundara Raji, și *Tripotella amica* Arimoto, 1970 sunt menționate pentru prima dată din apele Tanzaniei. Sunt descrise un gen nou, *Tanzaccaprella* gen. n. și două noi specii, *Tanzaccaprella bacescui* sp. n., specia tip pentru noul gen și *Paradentella tanzaniense* sp. n.

Noul gen, *Tanzaccaprella*, este îndepărate înrudit cu genul *Paraccaprella* Mayer, dar se deosebește în special prin combinația a trei caractere: absența *pars molaris*, a palpiului mandibular și pereopodele 3 și 4 cu 3 articole.

Tanzaccaprella bacescui posedă piese bucale unice în cadrul subordinelui Caprellidea, cu labium divizat în 2 lobi și lobul extern al maxilei 1 cu 2 rânduri de dinți puternici.

În legătură cu *Paradentella tanzaniense*, abdomenul pare să fie mai apropiat ca formă de genul *Protella* Dana decât de *Paradentella* Mayer. Oricum, această specie a fost considerată ca aparținând genului *Paradentella* în special pe baza formulei setale 1-x-1 de pe articolul 3 al palpiului mandibular. Genul *Protella* este caracterizat prin formula 1-x-y-1. Mai mult, forma antenei 1 de *P. tanzaniense*, cu articoalul 3 al pedunculului scurt, este foarte asemănătoare cu ale tuturor speciilor de *Paradentella*. *Paradentella tanzaniense* se deosebește de restul speciilor genului prin următoarea combinație de caractere: ochi reduși, prelungiri dorsale rotunjite de-a lungul corpului, abdomenul cu o pereche de apendici și forma gnathopodului 2.

Tot materialul este depozitat în colecțiile de crustacee ale Muzeului Național de Istorie Naturală „Grigore Antipa“ din București.

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