

A revaluation of the Eurycopinae (Crustacea, Isopoda, Munnopsidae) with a description of *Dubinectes* gen. nov. from the southern Atlantic deep sea

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Abstract

A new genus of Eurycopinae (Munnopsidae), *Dubinectes* **gen. nov.**, is described for *Eurycope acutitelson* Menzies, 1962, *E. nodosa* Menzies, 1962 and two new species, collected from the Weddell Sea, Southern Ocean. The new genus is distinguished by the distinctive shape of the pleotelson posterior margin and the uropod protopod angled at midlength, along with the robust,

long rostrum of a large head, overhanging frons, reduced distomedial lobe of article 1 of antenna 1, the produced male pleopod 1 distolateral lobes and the distinct shape of the male pleopod 2. Descriptions of the new genus, two new species and redescrptions of two previously described species are presented, as well as a new diagnosis of the subfamily Eurycopinae, the genus *Eurycope* and a key to the genera of Eurycopinae.

Key words: Deep sea, southern Atlantic, Southern Ocean, taxonomy, Munnopsidae, *Dubinectes*

Introduction

The heterogeneity of the genus *Eurycope* Sars, 1864 has been mentioned by many authors (the major works are: Wolff (1962), Wilson & Hessler (1981), Wilson (1989), Kussakin (2003)), but this large genus has still not been fully revised. Wilson and Hessler (1980) surveyed the genus and redescrbed *E. cornuta* Sars, 1864, the type species of the genus. Later they revised *Eurycope* (Wilson & Hessler 1981) by restricting its definition and described 3 new genera (*Disconectes* Wilson & Hessler, 1981, *Tythocope* Wilson & Hessler, 1981, and *Belonectes* Wilson & Hessler, 1981) for the large group of species they removed from the genus. The authors also presented an additional list of 16 species that they excluded from *Eurycope*. However, these species were not placed into the new genera, but the authors indicated the potential assignment or the nearest relative. New genera were erected within Eurycopinae, for several species from this list, including: *Baeonectes* Wilson, 1982 for *Eurycope mutica* Sars, 1864 (Wilson 1982), *Coperonus* Wilson, 1989, *Lionectes* Wilson, 1989 and *Hapsidohedra* Wilson, 1989 within the newly defined subfamily Lipomerinae for *E. frigida* Vanhoeffen, 1914, *E. sp. cf. frigida* and *Ilyarachna aspidophora* Wolff, 1962 (placed in Eurycopinae by Hessler & Thistle 1975) (Wilson 1989). Despite the list of species to be excluded from *Eurycope* (Wilson & Hessler 1981), nearly half the species, including *E. acutitelson* Menzies, 1962 and *E. nodosa* Menzies, 1962, have remained within this genus.

Currently the subfamily Eurycopinae Hansen, 1916 (Wilson 1989; Kussakin 2003) consists of 5 genera: *Eurycope*, *Disconectes*, *Tythocope*, *Belonectes* and *Baeonectes*. Characters like, articulations of pereonites 5–7, their length ratios, shape of the venter of natasome and rostrum, size of clypeus and labrum, and some mandible and maxilliped characters, are used to distinguish these genera. The main characters that differentiate *Eurycope* from other genera are: dorsally articulated pereonites 5 and 6 and presence of a distomedial lobe in the basal article of antenna 1. Even with the restricted definition (Wilson 1983a, the same in Kussakin 2003) *Eurycope* is still the most complex and species rich of the Eurycopinae. Wilson (1983a, 1983b) identified some of the species subgroups of *Eurycope* as complexes but without assigning their taxonomic status: i.e. the *E. complanata* complex and its relatives, the group C or the *E. inermis* cluster, and the “unusual” *E. longiflagrata* complex. An additional cluster for species related to *E. dahli*