

A NEW STATION OF *OPHELIA RATHKEI* McINTOSH IN NORTHERN FRANCE.

by

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Résumé

La présence d'*Ophelia rathkei* est signalée à Wissant (Pas-de-Calais).

On October 3rd, 1964 Mr. W.J.M. Vader, formerly of this institute, collected a number of samples on the beach of Wissant (Pas-de-Calais, France), in order to study the crustacean fauna. He entrusted the polychaetes from these samples to me, for which I am most indebted to him.

As Chassé et Picard (1968) recorded the polychaete *Ophelia rathkei* McIntosh as a new species for the French coasts, I investigated the samples mentioned above for this species. Indeed, in two of them I was able to find some specimens of this *Ophelia*.

Among these specimens some completely agreed with the characters of *O. rathkei* as indicated by Tebble (1952), while others showed the bifurcated anal papilla as described by Augener (1939) in his species *O. remanei*. As the animals are similar in all other details, we cannot but confirm the conclusion reached by Chassé et Picard (l.c.), that *O. remanei* is a junior synonym of *O. rathkei*.

The material is too scanty to arrive at any ecological conclusions, but it seems interesting to summarize the known distribution of *Ophelia rathkei*. According to my knowledge until now, this species has been found in: Valencia Harbour, S.W. Ireland (type locality of *O. rathkei*; Tebble, 1953); Dublin Bay, the Isle of Man, the Firth of Clyde, the Firth of Forth and Northumberland (Tebble, 1952); Firemore Bay, Loch Ewe (McIntyre and Eleftheriou, 1968); Norfolk (Hamond, 1966); Kieler Bucht, Germany (type locality of *O. remanei*; Augener, l.c.); Sylt, Germany (Westheide, 1966; Friedrich [1938] records *O. cluthensis* McGuire, according to Chassé et Picard [l.c.] synonymous with *O. rathkei*, from the North-Frisian Isles); Delta

area, the Netherlands (Den Hartog, 1961; we ourselves also found it plentifully in this area); Roscoff (Chassé et Picard, l.c.) and Wissant (this paper). These localities are shown in Fig. 1. It may be concluded that *O. rathkei* is a common species in N.W. Europe.

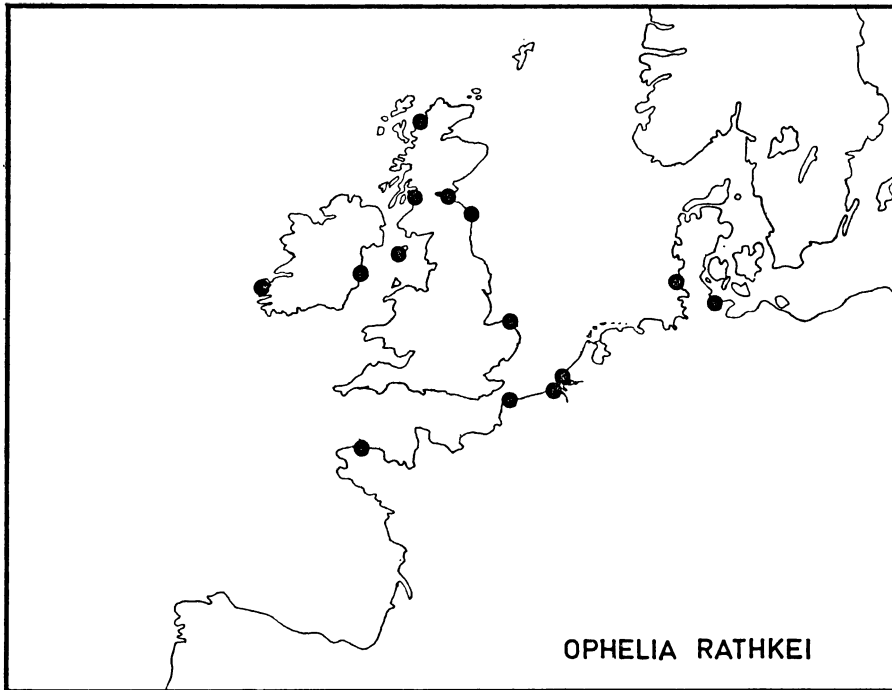


FIG. 1
Known distribution of *Ophelia rathkei* McIntosh.

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