

A new deep-water species of *Natanolana* (Crustacea: Isopoda: Cirolanidae) from the Chatham Rise, eastern New Zealand

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Abstract

Natanolana rekohu sp. nov. from the Chatham Rise, off southeastern New Zealand is described and figured. *Natanolana rekohu* was collected at a depth of 2799 metres, close to the greatest recorded depth for this genus. The species is a scavenger, and was feeding on dead fish in a sediment trap. *Natanolana rekohu* is characterised by: reduced eyes; strongly indented anterior margin of the head; pentagonal frontal lamina, with weakly convex lateral margins; pleonites 1 and 2 not produced, 3 weakly and pleonite 4 rounded; pereopods 1 and 2 usually with 5 or 6 setae on the propodal palm. In males the large flat and widely separated penes and the strongly curved, wide and terminally toothed appendix masculina are additional diagnostic characters. As in most *Natanolana* the numbers of robust setae on the margins of the uropodal rami and pleotelson are also important in making a correct identification.

Key words: Isopoda, Cirolanidae, *Natanolana*, New Zealand, Pacific, scavenger, deep sea, taxonomy

Introduction

The cirolanid isopod genus *Natanolana* Bruce 1981 is the second largest in the family with 70 species (Keable unpublished), exceeded in number only by *Cirolana* Leach 1818. Nearly all species are carnivorous scavengers, and some have been known to harm commercial fishing operations (Bird 1981; Bruce 1986; Hale 1925, 1929; Brusca *et al.* 1995). In New Zealand the genus is represented by three named species, *Natanolana narica* (Bowman, 1971), *Natanolana pellucida* (Tattersall, 1921) and *Natanolana rossi* (Miers, 1876). Hayward *et al.* (2001), in a survey report, listed three shallow-water species of *Natanolana* (as *Notanolana* [sic]) from northern New Zealand, two not named, the third, *Natanolana albicaudata* (Stebbing, 1900), a probable misidentification (that species being