NOTES AND NEWS

NEW RECORDS OF TWO SPECIES OF AMPHIPODS, *MELPHIDIPPELLA MACRA* (NORMAN, 1869) AND *MONOCOROPHIUM SEXTONAE* (CRAWFORD, 1937) FOR TURKISH SEAS

BY

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Melphidippella macra (Norman, 1869) and *Monocorophium sextonae* (Crawford, 1937) are here reported for the first time from Turkish seas as a result of recent benthic sampling surveys carried out in the Turkish Strait Systems, Çanakkale Strait (fig. 1). The genus *Melphidippella* (Melphidippidae), here reported, is as far as kown represented by only one species in the Mediterranean Sea as a whole (Ledoyer, 1993). *Monocorophium sextonae* has recently been removed from the genus *Corophium* to a separate genus, *Monocorophium* (Corophiidae, Bousfield & Hoover, 1997). In Europe, this species was first discovered in 1934, at Plymouth (Crawford, 1937). It has spread along the entire North Atlantic coastline of Europe, and into the Mediterranean. Several authors suggest this to be an exotic, non-indigenous species in European waters; if so, it is now permanently established. According to Hurley (1954), specimens of this species have been transported on ships' hulls. Its area of origin probably is New Zealand (Hurley, 1954; Eno et al., 1997), although the only evidence for this assumption seems to be that it has been found in that country before 1921 (Hurley, 1954), i.e., earlier than anywhere else.

SYSTEMATICS

Melphidippella macra (Norman, 1869) (fig. 2)

Atylus macer Norman, 1869: 280.
Melphidippella macera — Gurjanova, 1951: 697, fig. 482.

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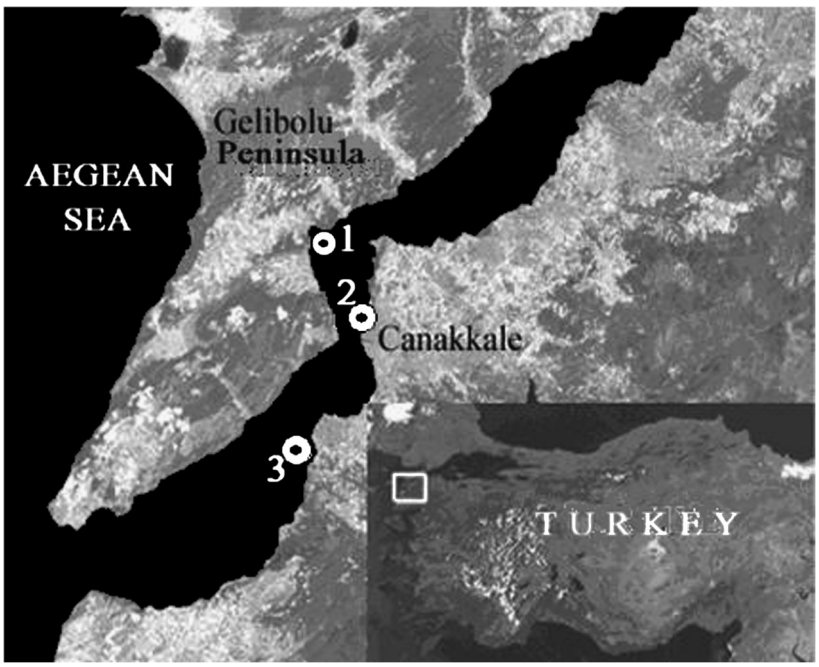


Fig. 1. Map showing the locations of the new records of: 1, 2, *Monocorophium sextonae* (Crawford, 1937); and 3, *Melphidippella macra* (Norman, 1869) in Çanakkale Strait.

Melphidippella macra — Ledoyer, 1977: 393; 1993: 577, fig. 397; d'Udekem d'Acoz, 2006: 498.

Material examined. — One ♂ (slide) (fig. 1), coast off Çanakkale Strait, sampling point 3, Aegean Sea, GPS coordinates: 40°04′59″N 26°21′30″E, depth 19 m, muddy bottom, partially covered with *Zostera marina* L., 27.ix.2006, TL = 3.4 mm.

Remarks. — The specimen agrees well with the description by Ledoyer (1993). Body slender, laterally flattened, and posterodorsally carinate. Coxae short, just overlapping. Accessory flagellum reduced. Gnathopods I and II weak, nearly simple, carpus longer than propodus. Pereiopods III and IV very thin, with dactylus reduced like a seta. Epimeral plate III with posterior border crenulate. Uropods I-III with two rami. Telson short, cleft, with one pair of long and terminal spines, and lateral setae.

Ecology. — *M. macra* has been found on muddy bottoms at 19 m depth. This species has been reported from muddy bottoms principally in the circalittoral zone, and in the water column during the night (Ledoyer, 1993). Generally, this species is distributed in a depth range from 10 to 200 m (Lincoln, 1979).

Distribution. — According to Ledoyer (1993), *M. macra* is an amphipod of Atlantic origin. Several records are available from the Mediterranean Sea, as well, i.e., from the western Mediterranean (Marseille, Embiez: Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1973; Ledoyer, 1977), the Adriatic Sea (Boka Kotorska (former

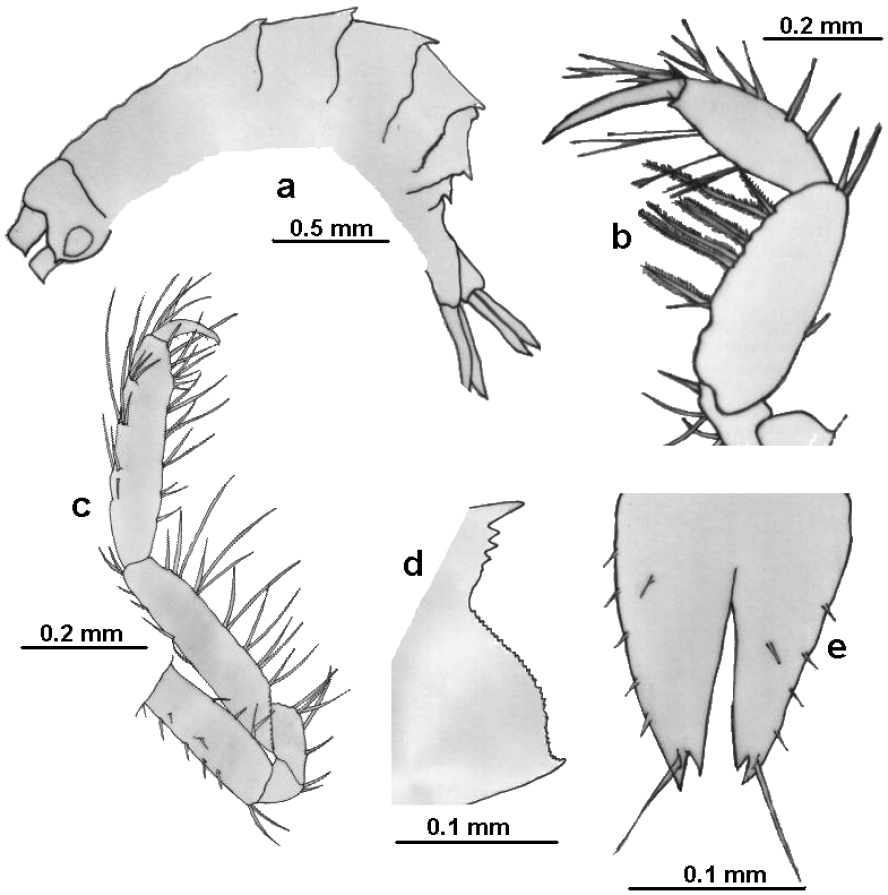


Fig. 2. *Melphidippella macra* (Norman, 1869), ♂ from the Turkish Strait Systems (Çanakkale Strait): a, general view; b, gnathopod I; c, gnathopod II; d, epimeral plate III; e, telson.

Yugoslavia): Karaman, 1973) and from the eastern Mediterranean (Aegean Sea: Stefanidou & Voultsiadou-Koukoura, 1995). The species is further distributed in the Atlantic Ocean, from Norway to Senegal (Ledoyer, 1993). Its finding in the Turkish Strait Systems comprises the second report of this species from the eastern Mediterranean.

Monocorophium sextonae (Crawford, 1937) (fig. 3)

Corophium sextoni Crawford, 1937: 620; Giordani-Soika, 1950: 211.
Corophium sextonae — Myers, 1982: 199, fig. 135.
Monocorophium sextonae — Bousfield & Hoover, 1997: 120-121.

Material examined. — Coast of Çanakkale Strait, sampling point 1, 2 ♂♂ (fig. 1), 27.ii.2006, one ♀, 09.xi.2006, Aegean Sea, GPS coordinates: 40°12′09″N 26°22′01″E, depth 11 m, gravely and dead shell bottoms with detritus, TL ♂ = 3.9 mm. Coast of Çanakkale Strait, sampling point 2, 4

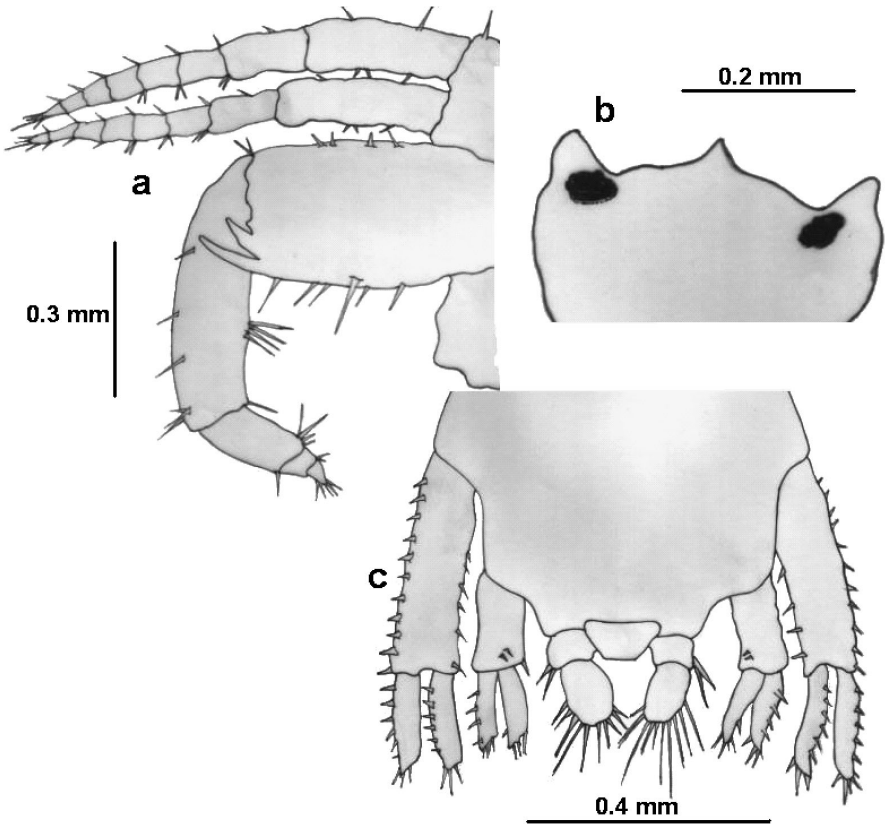


Fig. 3. *Monocorophium sextonae* (Crawford, 1937), ♂ from the Turkish Strait Systems (Çanakkale Strait): a, antennae I-II; b, rostrum I; c, urosomal somites.

♂♂, 3 ♀♀, 14.vi.2006, 2 ♀♀, 1 ♂, 10.xi.2006, GPS coordinates: 40°09′5″N 26°24′00″E, depth 26 m, coarse sand, various algae, TL ♂ = 4.2 mm.

Remarks. — Rostrum small and triangular. Antenna I longer than antenna II. Antenna II robust; peduncular article IV with posterodistal spines. Urosomal somites coalesced. Uropod III uniramous, peduncle broader distally, ramus sub-ovoid, with long setae on distal margin. Telson trapezoidal, with no setae on distal margin, dorsolateral setae present.

Females have sexually dimorphic characters. Antenna II peduncular article 4 without posterodistal spine or spines.

Ecology. — *M. sextonae* specimens have been found in sandy, muddy bottoms covered with detritus and dead shells at 11-26 m depth. This species has been reported from the lower intertidal to depths of about 50 m, building mud tubes on hydroids, sponges, and algae (Crawford, 1937).

Distribution. — According to Myers (1982), *M. sextonae* is a species of Atlantic origin in the Mediterranean. Several records are available from the Mediterranean, i.e., from the Tyrrhenian Sea (Italy: Ruffo & Wieser, 1952), and the Adriatic Sea (Italy: Giordani Soika, 1950). The species is further distributed in the Atlantic Ocean (coasts of S. England, the Netherlands, and France), and the Pacific Ocean (New Zealand). Its finding in the Turkish Strait Systems comprises the first report of this species from Turkish seas.

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