

RECORDS OF MARINE SAND-DWELLING COPEPODS (CRUSTACEA) FROM GALWAY BAY, INCLUDING EIGHT SPECIES NEW TO IRELAND

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Abstract

Shore samples were taken at Finavarra Point, Co. Clare, Ireland, and these yielded a diverse collection of marine sand-dwelling copepods (Crustacea). A total of two genera and eight species are new to Ireland. The identified material is listed.

Key words: marine records, additions, Ireland, copepods, Crustacea, Calanoida, Harpacticoida, Cyclopoida, Poecilostomatoida

Introduction

Collections were made at a site near Finavarra (M241114), Co. Clare, on the south shore of Galway Bay. The precise location was on a south-facing exposed shore near the martello tower at Finavarra (sometimes spelt Finnavarra) Point. The upper shore was a boulder beach while the lower shore was wet fine sand with ripple-marks left by a receding tide, interspersed with occasional rocks and fragments of macrophytic algae.

Sampling consisted of taking a small (3cc) scraping of surface sand from the lower beach. Two collections were made, at the same place but on separate dates. The first was taken on 19 April 1990. As results looked promising, a second similar sample was taken on 13 May 1990.

Although the samples were small, they yielded a wide variety of sand-dwelling copepods (Crustacea), and these are listed. A total of two genera (*Schizopera*, *Stenocaris*) and eight species (*Ameira listensis* Mielke, *Parapseudoleptomesochra polychaeta* (Noodt), *Pseudoleptomesochrella halophila* (Noodt), *Psyllocamptus minutus* (G. O. Sars),

Paraleptastacus spinicauda (T. Scott and A. Scott), *Laophontina dubia* Norman and T. Scott, *Emertonia coelebs* (Monard), *Scottopsyllus minor* (T. Scott and A. Scott)) are new to Ireland. The new taxa are indicated by an asterix* in the list.

The investigation of the marine interstitial copepod fauna of Ireland is still in its infancy. Notable studies were by O’Riordan (1971) and Bodin and Jackson (1989) but, unsurprisingly, even a small sample can reveal species rarely recorded in Ireland.

A list of the copepod species recorded from Finavarra, Co. Clare

CALANOIDA

Metridinidae

***Metridia lucens* Boeck, 1865**

1 ♀, 19 April 1990.

A common species in the plankton. The specimen was probably left behind by the receding tide and stranded in a ripple in the sand.

Parapontellidae

***Parapontella brevicornis* (Lubbock, 1857)**

1 ♂, 13 May 1990.

A common species in the plankton. The specimen was probably left behind by the receding tide.

Calanidae

***Calanus helgolandicus* (Claus, 1863)**

One specimen, 19 April 1990.

A common species in the plankton. The specimen was probably left by the receding tide.

HARPACTICOIDA

Canuellidae

***Canuella perplexa* T. Scott and A. Scott, 1893**

1 ♂, 13 May 1990.

An infaunal sand-dweller, but perhaps too large to be considered truly interstitial.

Harpacticidae

***Harpacticus chelifera* (O. F. Müller, 1776)**

One specimen, 19 April 1990.

Phytal rather than interstitial. Probably from nearby fragments of macrophytic algae.

***Harpacticus uniremis* Krøyer, 1842**

Several specimens, 13 May 1990.

A phytal species.

Dactylopusiidae

***Dactylopusia dissimilis* Brian, 1921**

Several specimens, 13 May 1990.

Phytal. Previous Irish records (e.g. Holmes and O'Connor, 1990) refer to this distinctive species as *Dactylopusia vulgaris* Sars, var. *dissimilis* Brian.

***Diarthrodes major* (T. Scott and A. Scott, 1895)**

2♀♀, 13 May 1990.

Phytal.

Miraciidae

***Amphiascoides debilis* (Giesbrecht, 1881)**

1♂♂, 19 April 1990; 2♂♂ 3♀♀, 13 May 1990.

Phytal rather than interstitial.

***Paramphiascella vararensis* (T. Scott, 1903)**

1♂♂, 13 May 1990.

A shallow-water benthic species.

****Schizopera* sp.**

Genus new to Ireland

2♀♀, 19 April 1990.

Sand-dweller. The identity of these specimens remains a mystery. They are most similar to *Schizopera gauldi* Chappuis and Rouch (1961), known only from Ghana, but differ in detail.

Possibly they represent an undescribed species.

Thalestridae

***Parathalestris clausi* (Norman, 1868)**

Four specimens, 19 April 1990.

A common and abundant littoral and phytal species.

***Parathalestris hibernica* (Brady and Robertson, 1873)**

1 ♀, 19 April 1990.

A phytal species.

***Parathalestris irelandica* Roe, 1958**

Four specimens, 19 April 1990; four specimens, 13 May 1990.

Phytal.

Ameiridae

****Ameira listensis* Mielke, 1973**

New to Ireland

1 ♀, 13 May 1990.

Interstitial.

***Nitocra typica* Boeck, 1865**

1 ♂, 19 April 1990.

A common and abundant littoral species.

****Parapseudoleptomesochra polychaeta* (Noodt, 1952)**

New to Ireland

1 ♀, 19 April 1990.

Interstitial.

****Pseudoleptomesochrella halophila* (Noodt, 1952)**

New to Ireland

1 ♀, 19 April 1990.

Interstitial.

****Psyllocamptus minutus* (G. O. Sars, 1911)**

New to Ireland

1 ♀, 13 May 1990.

Interstitial.

Cylindropsyllidae

**Stenocaris* sp.

Genus new to Ireland

2♀♀, 13 May 1990.

Interstitial. Lacking a male, the available material does not allow identification to species.

Leptastacidae

Leptastacus laticaudatus Nicholls, 1935

1♂, 13 May 1990.

Interstitial.

Paraleptastacus espinulatus Nicholls, 1935

1♀, 13 May 1990.

Interstitial.

**Paraleptastacus spinicauda* (T. Scott and A. Scott, 1895)

New to Ireland

2♂♂, 13 May 1990.

Interstitial.

Leptopontiidae

Leptopontia flandrica Huys and Conroy-Dalton, 1996

1♀, 13 May 1990.

Interstitial. The Finavarra specimen was mentioned by Huys and Conroy-Dalton (1996) in their paper in which the species was described.

Cletodidae

Enhydrosoma propinquum (Brady, 1880)

1♀, 13 May 1990.

An infaunal sand and silt dweller.

Rhizotrichidae

Rhizothrix curvatum (Brady, 1880)

1♀, 13 May 1990.

An infaunal sand dweller.

***Rhizothrix minuta* (T. Scott, 1903)**

7♀♀, 13 May 1990.

Infaunal sand dweller.

Laophontidae

***Asellopsis hispida* Brady and Robertson, 1873**

4♀♀, 13 May 1990.

Littoral sand-dweller.

***Asellopsis intermedia* (T. Scott, 1895)**

1♀, 13 May 1990.

Sand-dweller.

***Heterolaophonte minuta* (Boeck, 1873)**

4♀♀, 19 April 1990; 1♂ 3♀♀, 13 May 1990.

Normally regarded as a brackish or estuarine species.

***Laophonte setosa* Boeck, 1865**

2♂♂, 13 May 1990.

A common littoral species.

****Laophontina dubia* Norman and T. Scott, 1905**

New to Ireland

1♀, 13 May 1990.

Interstitial. *Laophontina dubia* is known from Anglesey and Scilly around Great Britain, from Brittany in France and from Sardinia in the Mediterranean (Fiers, 1991).

***Paralaophonte congenera* (G. O. Sars, 1908)**

1♂, 13 May 1990.

A common littoral species.

***Pseudolaophonte* sp.**

1♂ 9♀♀, 19 April 1990; 1♀, 13 May 1990.

Interstitial. The specimens cannot be assigned to *P. spinosa* (Thompson), the only member of the genus recorded from Ireland.

Orthopsyllidae

***Orthopsyllus linearis* (Claus, 1866)**

1 ♀, 13 May 1990.

A common littoral species.

Ectinosomatidae

***Arenosetella tenuissima* (Klie, 1929)**

Four specimens, 19 April 1990.

A common and abundant interstitial species.

***Ectinosoma tenuipes* T. Scott and A. Scott, 1896**

1 ♀, 13 May 1990.

Interstitial.

***Pseudobradya minor* (T. Scott and A. Scott, 1896)**

5 ♂♂ 4 ♀♀, 13 May 1990.

Interstitial.

Paramesochridae

****Emertonia coelebs* (Monard, 1935)**

New to Ireland

1 ♂, 13 May 1990.

Interstitial. *Emertonia coelebs* (until recently known as *Kliopsyllus coelebs*) has been recorded from Exmouth and Anglesey around Great Britain, Brittany in France and in the Mediterranean (Wells, 1986).

***Scottopsyllus herdmani* (I. C. Thompson and A. Scott, 1900)**

1 ♀, 13 May 1990.

Interstitial.

****Scottopsyllus minor* (T. Scott and A. Scott, 1895)**

New to Ireland

Several, 13 May 1990.

Interstitial.

CYCLOPOIDA

Cyclopinidae

***Cyclopina brachystylis* G. O. Sars, 1921**

4♀♀, 13 May 1990.

POECILOSTOMATOIDA

Macrochironidae

***Macrochiron fucicolum* Brady, 1872**

1♀, 13 May 1990.

An invertebrate associate. The above specimen was recorded previously in Holmes and Gotto (1992) in a check-list of the poecilostomatoid copepods of Ireland, where it was inadvertently listed under Co. Galway.

Pseudanthessiidae

***Pseudanthessius gracilis* Claus, 1889**

1♂, 13 May 1990.

An invertebrate associate. The above specimen was recorded previously in Holmes and Gotto (1992).

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