

## **A new species of *Argeiopsis* Kensley, 1974 (Crustacea: Isopoda: Bopyridae: Argeiinae) from the northern Arabian Sea**

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### **Abstract**

A parasitized specimen of *Microprosthema validum* Stimpson (Stenopodidea) from the Arabian Sea off Pakistan was found to bear a pair of bopyrid isopods referable to the genus *Argeiopsis* Kensley, 1974. Although damaged, these specimens clearly represent a new species that is only the second in the genus. This new species is described and illustrated and a discussion of previous records of the type species *A. inhacae* is given.

**Key words:** *Argeiopsis*, Bopyridae, *Microprosthema*, Stenopodidea, Spongicolidae, Pakistan

### **Introduction**

The bopyrid *Argeiopsis inhacae* Kensley, 1974 was described as a new genus and species based on a single ovigerous female collected from a specimen of *Stenopus hispidus* (Olivier) (Stenopodidea: Stenopodidae) from Moçambique. Subsequently, two females and one male bopyrid collected from specimens of the same host species obtained for the aquarium trade from the Philippines were referred to *A. inhacae* by Adkison *et al.* (1982). The material reported herein was obtained from the sole representative of stenopodids present in the waters off Karachi, Pakistan, *Microprosthema validum* Stimpson (Stenopodidea: Spongicolidae). The host was first reported from Pakistani waters by Tirmizi & Kazmi (1979) but the parasitized specimen reported on here was not collected until 1996 (Kazmi 1996). Although the Pakistani specimens suffered from careless handling by a photographer who left them unattended after photographing the live parasitized host and parasites, there are numerous identifiable morphological features that distinguish these specimens from any previously identified as *A. inhacae*.