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Article in *Zootaxa* · September 2018

DOI: 10.11646/zootaxa.4472.2.10

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Redescription of *Cerceis biformina* Javed & Yousuf, 1996 from the Gulf of Oman (Crustacea: Isopoda: Sphaeromatidae) with remarks on the status of *Cymodoce insolita* Yousuf, 2011

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Abstract

Cerceis biformina Javed & Yousuf, 1996 is redescribed and illustrated based on material from the Iranian coasts of the Gulf of Oman. This species is distinguished by the smooth pereonites 1–6, pereonite 7 with a row of tubercles and short setae; pleon dorsal surface with multiple prominent tubercles medially; pleotelson with two prominent semilunar tuberculate ridges and clearly trilobed posterior margin. *Cerceis insolita* Yousuf, 2011 is transferred to genus *Cymodoce* and synonymised with *Cymodoce manorii* (Nooruddin, 1965). An extended diagnosis is provided for the genus *Cerceis*.

Key words: Isopoda, Sphaeromatidea, Gulf of Oman, Indian Ocean, *Cerceis biformina*

Introduction

The genus *Cerceis* Milne Edwards, 1840, is currently comprised of 17 nominal species (Boyko *et al.* 2008 onwards), distributed across the Indo-West Pacific from the northern Arabian Sea to the Philippines, southern China and Australia (Harrison & Holdich 1982; Kussakin & Maljutina 1993; Javed & Yousuf 1996). The distribution of *Cerceis* species has remained limited to Indo-West Pacific region, with correctly excluding of *C. carinata* Glynn, 1970 from Venezuela (the northern coast of South America) by Harrison and Holdich (1982). The maximum species number (six species) occurs in the coastal zone of Australia and only one species has been reported from the northern Arabian Sea.

Harrison and Holdich (1982) briefly reviewed *Cerceis*, recognising 10 species in the genus and provided a short discussion of species they considered to be inappropriately placed in the genus *Cerceis*. They transferred *Cerceis trilobata* Baker, 1908, from Australia to *Pseudocercesis* Harrison & Holdich, 1982 and excluded four additional species (*C. carinata* Glynn, 1970 from Venezuela and *Cerceis trispinosa* Haswell, 1882; *C. obtusa* Baker 1908; *C. ovata* Baker 1926 from Australia) from the genus *sensu stricto*. Subsequently, Kussakin and Maljutina (1993) included 12 species in *Cerceis*, all from the tropical Indo-West Pacific region, including two new species. They also extended the range of *Cerceis* to Vietnam and southern China. Finally, a further two species were described from Pakistan: *C. biformina* Javed & Yousuf, 1996 and *C. insolita* Yousuf, 2011. Recently, *Cerceis manorii* Nooruddin, 1965 was transferred to *Cymodoce* (see Khalaji-Pirbalouty 2016). The present paper redescribes *Cerceis biformina* Javed and Yousuf, 1996 from the Iranian side of the Gulf of Oman and synonymises *Cerceis insolita* Yousuf, 2011 with *Cymodoce manorii* (Nooruddin 1965). In addition, an annotated list of 12 included species is provided following the genus diagnosis.

Material and methods

Specimens for this study were collected during a biodiversity project on the coastal zone isopods of the Iranian side of the Gulf of Oman during 2013–2015. The material was preserved in 96% ethanol and has been deposited in the