

ISOPODS (ISOPODA), EXCLUDING EPICARIDEA, FROM THE
OCEANOGRAPHIC EXPEDITIONS “FAUNA III/IV” (MNCN)
IN THE LEVANTINE ARCHIPELAGOS OF THE IBERIAN
PENINSULA (WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN)

BY

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ABSTRACT

This study focused on the isopod fauna from the Levantine area of the Iberian Peninsula (western Mediterranean). The sampling campaigns were carried out on board the R/V “García del Cid”. Seventy-nine samples containing isopods (Epicaridea excluded) were collected around various archipelagos (Balearic, Columbretes (Castellón de la Plana), Hormigas (Palos Cape, Murcia) and Alborán Island) in June-July 1994 (Fauna III: 42 samples) and July 1996 (Fauna IV: 37 samples), at depths between 0 and 650 m, although the majority of samples obtained by scuba diving were found between depths of 3 and 47 m. The bottoms sampled were diverse (photophyle and sciaphile algae, *Posidonia*, precoralligenous and coralligenous, detritus and maerl); vertical walls and caves were also sampled. A total of 356 individuals, included in 36 species belonging to 24 genera, 15 families and 6 suborders, were found, including the first record of three species (*Boreosignum maltinii* (Schiecke & Fresi, 1972), *Gnathia inopinata* Monod, 1925 and *Idusa dieuzeidei* Dollfus, 1950) from Iberian waters, five species (*Microjaera anisopoda* Bocquet & Levi, 1955, *Rocinela danmoniensis* Leach, 1818, *Eurydice truncata* (Norman, 1868), *Natatolana neglecta* (Hansen, 1890) and *Stenosoma albertoi* (Castellanos & Junoy, 2005)) from Mediterranean Iberian waters, and two species (*Joeropsis legrandi* Juchault, 1962 and *Aega rosacea* (Risso, 1816)) from the Balearic Islands. Four tables showing the sampling and ecological data, the material examined, the previous records from the areas of Iberian waters under study and the range of depth of species are provided.

Key words. — Isopoda, taxonomy, biogeography, ecology, Western Mediterranean

RESUMEN

Este estudio se centra en la fauna de isópodos del área del levante de la península Ibérica (Mediterráneo occidental). Las campañas de muestreo se llevaron a cabo a bordo del B/O “García del Cid”. Se recolectó un total de 79 muestras con isópodos (Epicaridea excluidos) alrededor de varios archipiélagos (Baleares, Columbretes (Castellón de la Plana), Hormigas (Cabo de Palos,

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Murcia), y la isla de Alborán) en junio-julio 1994 (Fauna III: 42 muestras) y julio 1996 (Fauna IV: 37 muestras), entre 0 y 650 m, aunque la mayoría de muestras fueron tomadas mediante buceo a profundidades entre 3 y 47 m. Los fondos muestreados fueron diversos (algas fotófilas y esciáfilas, *Posidonia*, precoralígeno y coralígeno, detritus y maërl); también se muestrearon paredes verticales y cuevas. Se recolectó un total de 356 individuos, incluidos en 36 especies, pertenecientes a 24 géneros, 15 familias, y 6 subórdenes. Tres especies (*Boreosignum maltinii* (Schiecke & Fresi, 1972), *Gnathia inopinata* Monod, 1925 e *Idusa dieuzeidei* Dollfus, 1950) se citan por primera vez para las costas ibéricas; cinco especies (*Microjaera anisopoda* Bocquet & Levi, 1955, *Rocinela danmoniensis* Leach, 1818, *Eurydice truncata* (Norman, 1868), *Natanolana neglecta* (Hansen, 1890) y *Stenosoma albertoi* (Castellanos & Junoy, 2005)), para el Mediterráneo ibérico; y dos especies (*Joeropsis legrandi* Juchault, 1962 and *Aega rosacea* (Risso, 1816)), para las islas Baleares. En cuatro tablas se indican los datos ecológicos y de recolección, el material examinado, las citas previas en las áreas incluidas en el estudio y el intervalo de profundidad de las especies.

INTRODUCTION

The isopod marine fauna in the Iberian Peninsula has been studied mainly in Catalonia, the Balearic Islands (Castelló, 1984, 1985, 1986), Galicia (Reboreda, 1995; Reboreda & Urgorri, 1995) and the Strait of Gibraltar (Castelló & Carballo, 2001; Rodríguez-Sánchez et al., 2001). Castelló (2002, 2008, 2011) described new species from the Levantine coast, and Cartes & Sorbe (1993) performed another study dealing with suprabenthic bathyal communities from the same area. Castellanos et al. (2003) also studied the isopods from the Chafarinas Islands, near the Mediterranean coast of Morocco. The results of these studies were included in the catalogue of the isopods from the Iberian and the Balearic coasts (Junoy & Castelló, 2003), which comprises 220 species. The present study contributes to our taxonomic, biogeographical and ecological knowledge of the isopod marine fauna from the Levantine region of the Iberian Peninsula by examining the collections “Fauna III” and “Fauna IV” obtained during the oceanographic expeditions of the Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales Madrid (MNCN), mainly around the Balearic and Columbretes archipelagos.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The oceanographic expeditions “Fauna III/IV” were performed on board the oceanographic vessel “García del Cid”. The Levantine archipelagos of the Iberian Peninsula (fig. 1) were sampled intensively (438 samples). During the expedition “Fauna III” a total of 42 samples containing free-living isopods (44.2% of total samples) were taken, and 37 samples (10.7% of total) during the campaign “Fauna IV”. The samples were obtained mainly by scuba diving, and in some cases using benthic or planktonic trawls. In both expeditions the samples were collected around various archipelagos (Balearic, Columbretes (Castellón de la Plana), Hormigas (Palos Cape, Murcia) and Alborán Island) in June-July 1994 (Fauna III) and July