

A New Cave Species of Genus *Alpioniscus* (Isopoda: Trichoniscidae) from Albania

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Abstract: The new species *Alpioniscus beroni* is described based on the material from Albania collected in a cave in district Lubrazhd. Regarding some characteristics such as pleopod-exopodite I and pereopod-meropodite VII, the new species is closer to the species *Alpioniscus boldorii*, but it is clearly distinct by the form of exopodite I and the different structure of pleopod II.

Key words: Isopoda, Trichoniscidae, *Alpioniscus*, new species, Albania.

Derivatio nominis. The species was named after the prominent Bulgarian zoologist and biospeliologist Dr. Peter Beron.

Introduction

At present, 16 species of genus *Alpioniscus* are known, although herein the representatives of subgenus *Illirionethes* (Tabacaru 1996) are not included. The only known species from Albania is *Alpioniscus boldorii* from a cave in district Durrös that was described by Arcangeli (1951-1952). This species was found also in Macedonia in the surroundings of Skopje and described as a new subspecies *Alpioniscus boldorii macedonicus* (Buturovic 1954). Schmalfuss (2003) accepts with good reason that this subspecies should be considered synonymous with *A. boldorii*.

The new species was found by Dr. Peter Beron during the investigations of Albanian caves.

The material was collected and preserved in 70% alcohol. For treatment and study the conventional methods with Binocular and Microscope were applied. The holotype was dissected and taxidermied in glycerine gelatin. The holotype and the paratypes are kept in the collection of the National Museum of Natural History in Sofia.

Description

Alpioniscus beroni n. sp.

Type locality: Albania. District Librazhd, Steblevë village, Kusar Mts, 1895 m a.s.l., Shpella nej shkamin e haidutit Cave. 19 06 2007. 4 ♂, 3 ♀, P. Beron leg.

Holotype: adult male of a length of 6 mm.

Paratypes: 3 male specimens of a length of 5-6 mm; 3 females of a length of 5-7 mm.

Coloration: white-yellowish, unpigmented.

Eyeapparatus: missing.

Ecology: Troglöbionte.

Tegument's characters: Cephalon and teguments covered with granules. Over the cephalon four lines of granules are located, two lines on the front and two lines on the proximal part. Tergites with two lines of granules located on the hind part of each tergite. Pleional segments and telson flat.

Appendix

Antennae: consist of five articles and flagellum. The first articles almost equal in length. They do not exceed the length of article IV and article V. Flagellum with eight slightly discernible articles, the distal one with a tuft of long fine brushes.

Antennules (Fig. 1, A): consisting of three segments, the first and the third equal in length, nearly twice as long as the second article. The distal article

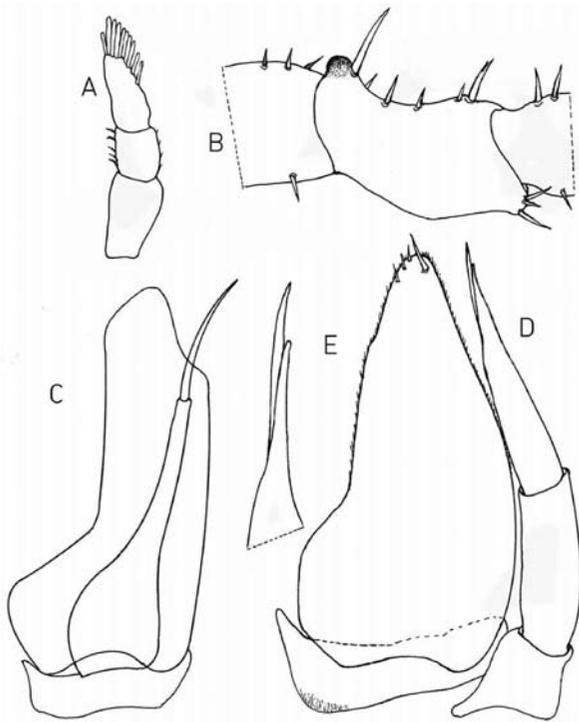


Fig. 1. *Al pioniscus beroni* n. sp. Holotype ♂: A – antenna; B - pereopod VII, meropodite; C – pleopod I; D - pleopod II; E – pleopod II – apex enlarged.

with 10 aesthetascs both apical and subapical.

Male sexual characters

Meropodit of pereopod VII (Fig. 1, B) in the proximal part with an excrescence covered by fine hyaline scales. Two strong thorns and four shorter thorns on the board sternal.

Pleopod I (Fig. 1, C): Exopodite of two articles, widened in the proximal part and narrowing distal by two parallel sides. Outer board distal oblique.

Endopodite longer than the exopodite, highly widened in the base and narrowing to two-thirds of the length. Second article shorter and prick-shaped.

Pleopod II (Fig. 1, D): Exopodite pear-shaped, widened in the base, apical equipped with one strong thorn and subapical with three smaller thorns. Outer board slightly concave. Both the outer and the internal board with one line of fine brushes each. Endopodite formed by three articles, exceeding the length of the exopodite. Third article longer than the first and second articles.

Remarks

The new species *Al pioniscus beroni* n. sp. shows a certain similarity to species *Al pioniscus boldorii* in the structure and the form of pleopod-endopodite I and pereopod-meropodite VII. It differentiates clearly in the form of pleopod-exopodite I and in the rather different pleopod II. In its structure and the form of the basic characters typical for the genus, the new species has a specific difference in relation to the other representatives of genus *Al pioniscus*.

***Al pioniscus boldorii* Arcangeli 1952**

The species was found in the field of district Peshkopi. Location: village Golemo Ostreni, Cave Peshtnik, 01 08 2004, 4 ♂, 3 ♀. A Zhalov, K. Stoishkov, Zh. Petkov leg.

Bibl.: Arcangeli, 1952; Buturović, 1954, 1958; Schmalzfuss, 2003; Schmölzer, 1965; Karaman, 1966; Tabacaru, 1996.

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