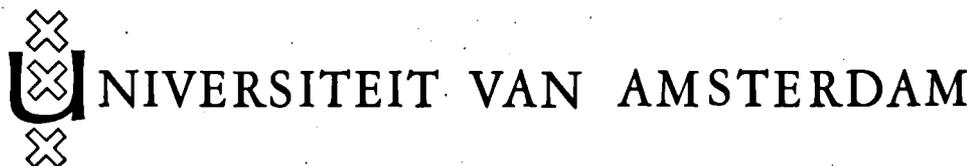


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A NEW SPECIES OF ENDEIS AND OTHER PYCNOGONID RECORDS FROM THE GULF OF AQABA

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ABSTRACT

Five species of Pycnogonida are recorded from shallow waters at Eilat. Of these, *Anoplodactylus pygmaeus* (Hodge) and *Endeis biseriata* Stock are new to the Ethiopian region, whereas also a new species, *Endeis pauciporosa*, is described.

Through the kindness of Mr. Helmut Schuhmacher, of the Marine Biological Laboratory, Eilat, Israel, I received a small number of Pycnogonida collected on the harbour pier of Eilat in the Gulf of Aqaba. The collection contained 5 species, of which only 2 were recorded before from the region in question.

1) *Rhopalorhynchus pedunculatum* Stock, 1957.

A single specimen (ZMA Pa. 1885) was collected at a depth of 6 m, 21 Feb. 1970. This species is known only from the Gulfs of Eilat and Suez.

2) *Ammothella appendiculata* (Dohrn, 1881).

Two males (ZMA Pa. 1882) collected on the new pier, 1 March 1970. This species is common in Eilat (Stock, 1957, 1958).

3) *Anoplodactylus pygmaeus* (Hodge, 1864).

Of this species, which is widely distributed in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, 7♀ and 1♂ (ZMA Pa. 1884) were collected on the new pier on 1 March 1970. It is new to the Erythrean region.

4) *Endeis biseriata* Stock, 1968.

From the piers of Eilat, 8 specimens are present in the collection, taken on 1 and 3 March 1970 (ZMA Pa. 1881, 1883). These specimens agree morphologically with the specimens from Galathea Station 325 (Strait of Malacca), recorded by Stock, 1968. The previously known range of this Indo-West Pacific species—from Hawaii to India—is considerably extended by the present record from the Gulf of Aqaba.

5) *Endeis pauciporosa* n. sp. Fig. 1, p.

From this species two samples are available:

- Eilat, Israel, new harbour pier, inner side, 28 Jan. 1970, 2♂ (ovig.), 1♀, 2 juv. (one male is made the holotype, the other specimens are paratypes, ZMA Pa. 1880).
- Al-Ghardaqa, Egypt, amongst *Galaxea* at a depth of 5 m, October 1965, V. Storck, collector, 1♂ juv. (ZMA Pa. 1698).

Description.- Male: Body moderately slender. Anterior margin of neck unarmed, collar distinct. Each cruriger provided with a small but distinct spiniform process; crurigers separated by at least 1.5 times their own diameter. Ocular tubercle conical, eyes well pigmented. Abdomen well-developed, unarmed. Proboscis slender, swollen in its central part, provided with numerous setules.

Oviger 7-segmented, as illustrated. Eggs very numerous, small.

Legs with exceedingly long, slender second coxa, which is more than 4 times as long as its greatest diameter. Coxa 1 with 2 short spines or spiniform processes. Femur slightly distorted, with 2 long spines over half its length. Tibia 2 armed with several shorter spines. Propodus feebly curved, with 4 basal spines, and about 8 spinules on the sole. Claw short, auxiliary claws slightly over half as long as the main claw. Femoral cement gland pores very few in number: 6 to 7 only, all situated distalward of the long central spine on the femur.

Female: Much the same as the male, perhaps slightly less spinose. Ovigera absent.

Measurements (in microns) of ♂ holotype.-

Length trunk (frontal margin cephalic segment to tip 4th lateral process)	2723
Width across 3rd lateral processes	856
Length proboscis (dorsal)	1556
Greatest width proboscis	486

Second leg

coxa 1	272	tibia 1	2256
coxa 2	1245	tibia 2	2608
coxa 3	467	tarsus	156
femur	2412	propodus	739

Remarks.- The present species belongs to a group of closely related species, comprising *Endeis spinosa* (Montagu, 1808), *E. meridionalis* (Böhm, 1879), and *E. charybdaea* (Dohrn, 1881).

It differs from *spinosa* and *charybdaea* in having a distinctly less curved propodus and a much more elongate second coxa (see fig. 1). It differs from *meridionalis* in having a less spinose trunk and proboscis, and in a more slender second coxa (1245 x 272 microns, thus more than 4 times as long as wide in the new species; 1395 x 465 microns, thus 3 times as long as wide in *meridionalis*). From all these three species, the new species differs in its low number of cement gland pores (*pauciporosa* 6 - 7; *spinosa* 11 - 18; *meridionalis* 21 - 32; *charybdaea* 22 - 29). In *pauciporosa* these pores are situated in the distal half of the male femur only, in the other three species they are spread over the entire length of the femur. The proposed specific name, *pauciporosa*, alludes to the low number of gland pores.

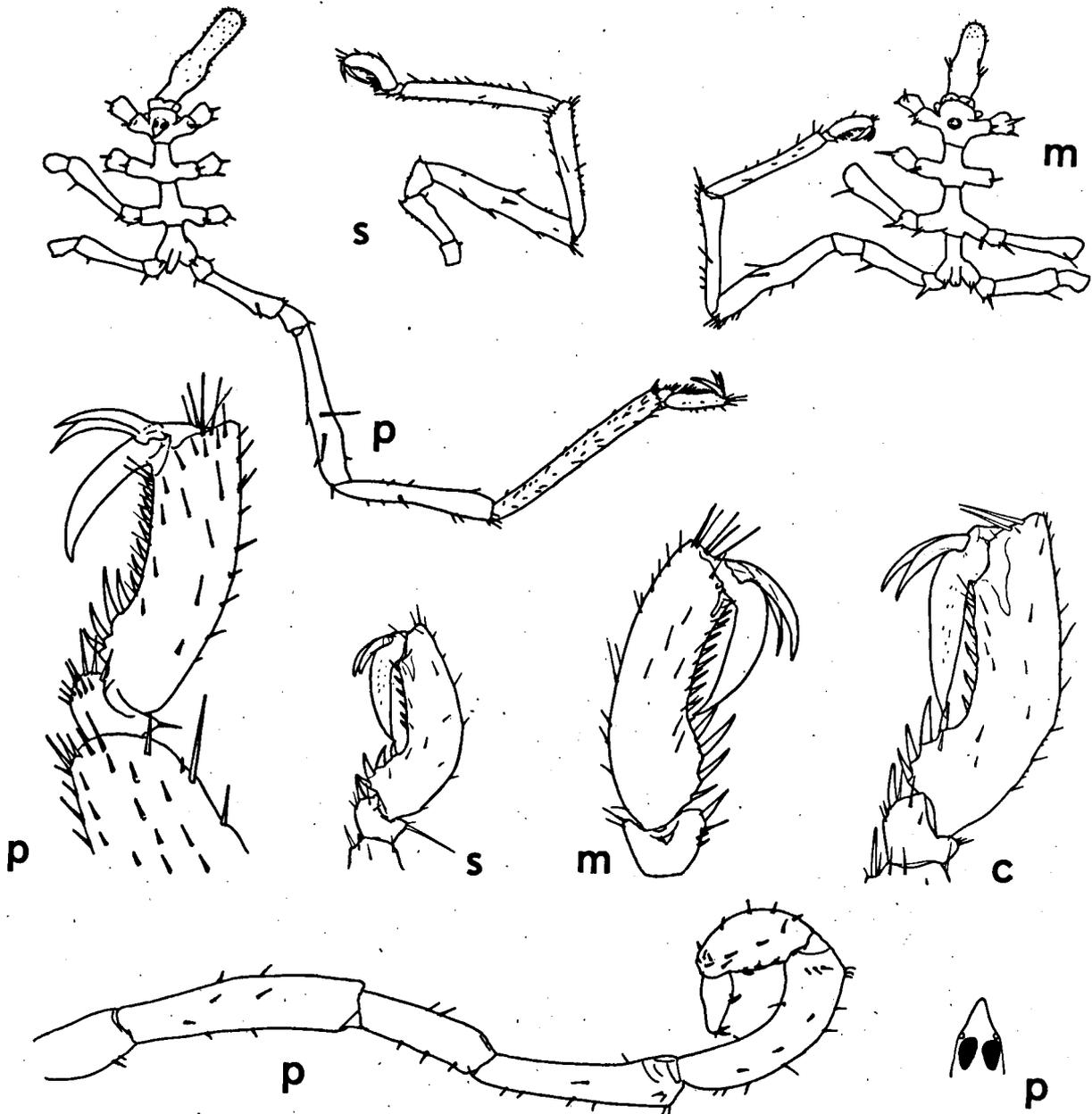


Fig. 1. Some related *Endeis* species (σ): p = *E. pauciporosa* n. sp.; s = *E. spinosa* (Montagu); m = *E. meridionalis* (Böhm); c = *E. charybdaea* (Dohrn). Of the new species, the entire body, the ocular tubercle (from the right), the oviger, and the distal segments of the 4th leg are figured. For comparison, the distal segments of the 4th leg of s, m, and c are also figured, as well as the entire body of m, and the entire 4th leg of s. Notice the stronger curvature of the propodus in s and c. The illustrated specimen of *pauciporosa* is the holotype from Eilat; that of *meridionalis* is likewise from Eilat, collected at a depth of 40 - 50 m; the figures of the legs of *spinosa* and *charybdaea* have been made after specimens from Banyuls (France).

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