with other sphaeromatids is probably herbivorous, feeding primarily on diatoms within the sand or on plant detritus. The preference shown by *S. anathitis* for the lower part of medium to coarse sand beaches probably relates to the relatively well-oxygenated watersaturated nature of these sediments (Jansson, 1967).

**Summary**

A eubranchiate sphaeromatid isopod new to science has been recorded during quantitative sampling of sand beaches at Watamu Marine Park, Kenya. Although this sphaeromatid superficially resembles a number of other genera, the eubranchiate nature of the fourth and fifth pairs of pleopods in combination with the non-emarginate pleotelson, and absence of marked sexual dimorphism, clearly separates it from them.

Analysis of the habitat preferences indicate that this new sphaeromatid prefers the MLWN level of fairly exposed beaches composed of medium to coarse grained particles. No defined pattern of swimming activity was recorded and behavioural experiments indicate a fossorial existence for this isopod in contrast to the mode of life of most other isopods in the same beaches. Examination of gut morphology and contents indicate that this sphaeromatid is most probably a herbivore.

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**REFERENCES**


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