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CONTENTS

A. J. BRUCE, Notes on some Indo-Pacific Pontoniinae, XXXVIII. <i>Apopontonia dubia</i> sp. nov., from a southern Queensland sponge host	225
ROBERT N. CRITTENDEN, Morphological characteristics and dimensions of the filter structures from three species of <i>Daphnia</i> (Cladocera)	233
BRENDA J. HANN & R. CHENGALATH, Redescription of <i>Alonella pulchella</i> Herrick, 1884 (Cladocera, Chydoridae), and a description of the male	249
KORNATH MADHAVAN & JOHN M. SHRIBBS, Role of photoperiod and low temperature in the control of ovigerous molt in the terrestrial isopod, <i>Armadillidium vulgare</i> (Latreille, 1804)	263
B. J. VENABLES, Aspects of the population biology of a Venezuelan beach amphipod, <i>Talorchestia margaritae</i> (Talitridae), including estimates of biomass and daily production, and respiration rates	271
D. M. HOLDICH & K. HARRISON, The sphaeromatid isopod genus <i>Sphaeromopsis</i> Holdich & Jones in African, Australian and South American waters	286
YVON MORIZUR, Evaluation de la perte d'oeufs lors de l'incubation chez <i>Nephtys norvegicus</i> (L.) dans la région Sud-Bretagne, France	301
Notes and News	307
BRIAN A. HAZLETT, Agonistic behavior in <i>Pagurus prideaux</i> Leach, 1815 (Decapoda, Anomura)	307
P. MAKINGS, <i>Mesopodopsis slabberi</i> (Mysidacea) at Millport, W. Scotland, with the parasitic Nematode <i>Anisakis simplex</i>	310
K. HARRISON, Preliminary description of a new species of <i>Ischyromene</i> (Isopoda, Sphaeromatidae) from the eastern Mediterranean	312
RAYMOND B. MANNING & CH. LEWINSOHN, Selection of a neotype for <i>Cancer falcatus</i> Forskål, 1775 (Stomatopoda)	314
J. D. D. BISHOP, Selection of lectotypes for species of <i>Leucon</i> Krøyer (Peracarida, Cumacea) described from the catch of the Ingolf Expedition	317
International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature	318
Reviews	319
J. H. S[TOCK], [Review of] Robert H. Morris, Donald P. Abbott & Eugene C. Haderlie, 1980. Intertidal Invertebrates of California	319
L. B. HOLTHUIS, [Review of] T. H. Butler, shrimps of the Pacific coast of Canada	319
Book Announcement	320

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PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF
ISCHYROMENE (ISOPODA, SPHAEROMATIDAE) FROM
THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

BY

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INTRODUCTION

Since its formation by Racovitza in 1908, the genus *Ischyromene* has generally been ignored. Admittedly, Racovitza's comparison of *Ischyromene* with *Dynamenella* Hansen was in part imprecise; nevertheless, not only is the genus *Ischyromene* valid, but the majority of the species currently housed in the genus *Dynamenella* are in fact species of *Ischyromene*.

The author has recently completed a major taxonomic revision of the genera: *Ischyromene*, *Dynamenella*, *Cymodocella* Pfeffer and *Dynamenopsis* Baker, which will be published in the near future, but in advance of this is the following description of a new species of *Ischyromene* collected from the Mediterranean coast of Israel by Professor Lev Fishelson of the University of Tel Aviv, Israel. The type material is deposited in the collection of the British Museum (Natural History), London.

***Ischyromene bicarinata* sp. nov. (fig. 1)**

Material examined. — Palmachim, north of Ashdod, Israel; on *Hypnea* sp.; intertidal; coll. L. Fishelson; 23 August 1977. — 1 adult male holotype, 2.76 mm (B.M.(N.H.) reg.no. 1980.222.1; plus microslide); 1 sub-adult male, 1 non-ovigerous female, 3 juveniles, all paratypes (B.M.(N.H.) reg.no. 1980.223.5).

Diagnosis of adult male holotype. — *Ischyromene* with dorsal surface of pereon smooth. Pleotelson bearing an obvious, longitudinal uneven carina either side of mid-line, with several low tubercles lateral to these. Pleotelsonic apex as a simple, ventral groove with a smoothly rounded dorsal margin and converging — but not touching — postero-ventral margins.

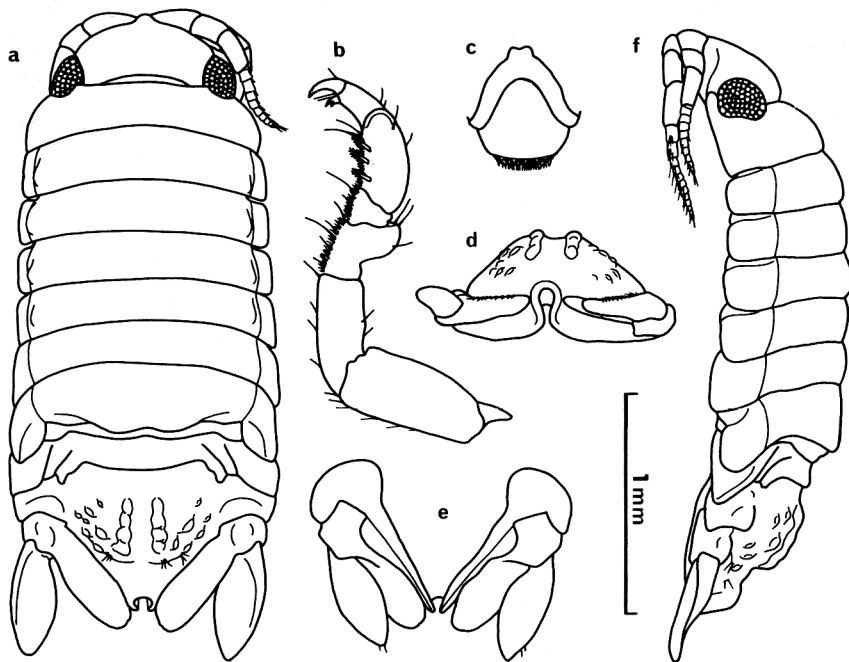


Fig. 1. *Ischyromene bicarinata* sp. nov., adult male holotype. a, dorsal view; b, pereopod 1; c, epistome and labrum; d, pleotelson, posterior view; e, pleotelson, ventral view; f, lateral view.

Epistome and labrum as shown in fig. 1c. Antennular flagellum 9-articled, extending to posterior margin of pereonite 1. Antennal flagellum 12-articled, extending to posterior margin of pereonite 2. Each pereopod with accessory unguis markedly bifid and superior margins of articles only sparsely setose. Pereopod 1 with inferior margin of propodus bearing three equidistant, plumose spines and two long, simple, infero-distal setae. Appendix masculina showing the same form as that of *I. lacazei* Racovitza, 1908 (the type species of the genus) extending almost to apex of endopod of pleopod 2, with the lateral margins sub-parallel and the tip dilated with a rounded apex deflected away

from the animal's mid-line, bearing three lateral, sub-terminal teeth. Exopod of uropod elliptical with rounded apex extending just beyond apex of endopod. Lateral margins of endopod sub-parallel; broadly rounded apex extending just beyond pleotelsonic apex.

Remarks. — This species can be separated from the only other known Mediterranean species, *I. lacazei* (from the coast of France) by: its smaller size; the bicarinate nature of the pleotelson; the smoothly rounded pleotelsonic notch with its converging postero-ventral margins, and the less setose nature of its pereopods.

Acknowledgements. — The author wishes to thank professor Lev Fishelson for the provision of the specimens and the habitat data.

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SELECTION OF A NEOTYPE FOR *CANCER FALCATUS* FORSKÅL, 1775 (STOMATOPODA)

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Recent field studies on the behavior of stomatopods of the genus *Gonodactylus* (see Caldwell & Dingle, 1975, 1976; Dingle, Caldwell & Manning, 1977) have shown that behavior patterns, color in life, and habitat can be important species characteristics for members of that genus. These field investigations led one of us (R.B.M.) to restudy the nominal species previously synonymized with *Gonodactylus falcatus* (Forskål, 1775), with the result that five distinct species were recognized (see Manning, 1978). Until then, *G. falcatus* had been considered to be widely distributed, "from the Red Sea and South Africa to Japan and Polynesia" (Holthuis, 1967: 32).

The distribution patterns within the Indo-West Pacific region of members of the *G. falcatus* complex are essentially unknown and probably can only be determined by field studies in appropriate habitats throughout the region. Some of the species, like *G. ternatensis* De Man, 1902, with its long rostrum,