

Thanks are expressed to Professor John Richards for examining the material, and to John Parnell and Paul Hackney for loan of material in TCD and BEL respectively.

Biological Records Centre, Monks Wood Experimental Station,  
Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, Cambs PE17 2LS  
c/o The Herbarium, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9

T. C. G. RICH  
M. J. P. SCANNELL

---

#### ZOOLOGICAL NOTE

##### *HETEROLAOPHONTE HAMONDI* HICKS (CRUSTACEA: COPEPODA: HARPACTICOIDA) NEW TO IRELAND

One of us (DFM) maintains a small marine aquarium. Seawater for the aquarium was obtained from the Blackrock area of Dublin Bay. Approximately 100 litres were collected every six months, at high tide level on the shore at either of two places; near Blackrock station (O215295), or alternatively near Seapoint (O227288). The gravel for the bottom of the aquarium, and various examples of marine life, were also collected at the Seapoint site.

On 19 March 1986 a female harpacticoid copepod was collected from the lower layers of gravel at the bottom of the aquarium. It was identified by JMCH as *Heterolaophonte hamondi* Hicks, a species not hitherto found in Ireland. Further specimens, all female, were found in similar circumstances in the aquarium in April and May 1986, July 1987 and January 1988. The precise locality for these specimens is problematical, but they must have come originally from either Blackrock or Seapoint, 1.7km apart on the S shore of Dublin Bay.

*Heterolaophonte hamondi* was originally described (Hicks, G. R. F. 1975 *Norw. J. Zool.* 23: 141-147) from Norfolk, on the E coast of England. It was also described a little later the same year from the North Sea coast of Germany (Mielke, W. 1975 *Microfauna meeresboden*, 52: 1-143, as *H. bisetosa* nov. spec.).

The Dublin area has been searched intensively for harpacticoids (Roe, K. M. 1958 *Proc. R. Ir. Acad.* 59B: 221-255; O'Riordan, C. E. 1971 *Proc. R. Ir. Acad.* 71B: 191-210). There is nothing in these collections, lodged in the National Museum, resembling this distinctive species. For a harpacticoid it is relatively large and robust. The suggestion is that it is a recent introduction. Bearing in mind that it was described only as recently as 1975 (Hicks *op. cit.*, Mielke *op. cit.*), it may even be a recent introduction to Europe.

Other harpacticoids found in the aquarium were: *Tisbe* sp., *Parathalestris irelandica* Roe, *Ameira* sp., *Nitocra typica* Boeck, and *Pseudonyhocamptus koreni* (Boeck). On one occasion, 20 January 1988, a marine mite *Thalassarachna procera* (Viets) was found, and kindly identified by Paul Somerfield, Zoology Dept., TCD.

Voucher material is lodged in the NMI.

37 Oakley Park, Blackrock, Co Dublin  
National Museum of Ireland, Dublin 2

DECLAN F. MURPHY  
J. M. C. HOLMES

---

#### GEOLOGICAL NOTE

##### FOSSIL BOVID DREDGED FROM ST. GEORGE'S CHANNEL

The National Museum of Ireland has been presented with a bone of a fossil bovid, either *Bos primigenius* Bojanus, the aurochs, or *Bison priscus* (Bojanus), an extinct bison. Mr Sean Radford of Kilmore, Co Wexford discovered the bone while operating a bottom trawl for scallops S of the Saltee Islands. Neither species of bovid has been recorded previously from Ireland although both are well known from Upper Pleistocene sites in Britain.

The specimen is a right tibia and has incomplete fusion of the symphyses at the distal end. The animal therefore would have been about two years old at death. The length of the bone is 350mm, the proximal end being slightly imperfect. Some small barnacles are attached to the bone indicating its exposure on the sea bed before being caught up in the trawl net. These were identified as *Semibalanus balanoides* (L.) by Mr J. M. C. Holmes. It is presumed that the bone came from a ridge of Quaternary