

COMPARATIVE MORPHOLOGY OF THE FAMILY LAOPHONTIDAE (COPEPODA : HARPACTICOIDA)

by

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The Laophontidae is a large harpacticoid family, distributed in marine environments over the entire world. The description of new genera and species in recent years, has raised some questions on the homogeneity of the family. The comparative study of (1) the habitus, (2) the appendages, (3) the integument and (4) the distribution, however, produce the necessary criteria for a revision of laophontid taxonomy. The extremely diversified habitus of laophontids, reflects the phylogenetic relationships on generic and specific level. Special attention is paid to the structure of the antennule. Its shape, neglected in harpacticoid taxonomy, allows the discrimination of different groups. In the thoracic appendages sexual dimorphism remains a major characteristic, but the degree of reduction in the segmentation of the legs seems to be less important than generally accepted. The comparison of the integumental structures in widely distributed species shows that these structures are useful characteristics in specific discrimination.

A NEPHROCERUS SPECIES, NEW TO SCIENCE, FROM BELGIUM (DIPTERA, PIPUNCULIDAE)

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Due to more intensive sampling with Malaise traps, a new *Nephrocerus* species was found in two localities in Belgium. It is closely related to *N. scutellatus* Macquart but distinct from the latter by yellow maculations on abdomen, proportion of third antennal segment to height of eyes, slight differences in male genitalia, bristling of female abdomen and smaller body size.

MEIOFAUNA OF A DEEP-SEA TRANSECT OFF CORSICA

by

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In September 1982 six stations (175 m, 305 m, 540 m, 805 m, 1020 m, 1605 m) in a transect were sampled with a Reineck box-corer off the west coast of Corsica, near 42° 40' N and 8° 40' E. Undisturbed samples were obtained from which two replicates were taken for faunal analysis and one for analysis of sediments.

Total density of the meiofauna varied between 94 and 444 ind./10 cm², with a significant decrease with depth (based on ANOVA on untransformed data). Nearly all organisms were found in the upper 2 cm of the sediment at all deeper stations. Nematodes dominate at all stations, with between 86 % and 97 % of the total meiofauna, foraminiferans excluded.