

Record of *Acartia margalefi* Alcaraz, 1976 in the Sevastopol bay in 2007 [Обнаружение *Acartia margalefi* Alcaraz, 1976 в Севастопольской бухте в 2007 г.]. *Acartia* (*Acartiura*) *margalefi* Alcaraz, 1976 was first found in the Black Sea in 1940 being identified as a small form of *A. clausi* Giesbrecht, 1889 by Potemkina (1940) due to very similar morphological features. *A. margalefi* was described as separate species by M. Alcaraz (1976) from Ria de Vaigo, north-west of Spain. Later, it was ascertained, that a small form of *A. clausi* from the Black Sea was actually *A. margalefi* (Belmonte, Mazzocchi, 1997). Long-term, regular studies of coastal plankton communities were started in 1976 and resumed in 2002, based on bi-weekly plankton casts at three stations located within and adjacent to Sevastopol Bay, Crimea, northern Black Sea. Samples were collected by vertical hauls through the whole water column using a Juday plankton net (mouth area 0.1 m² and mesh size 150 µm). Zooplankton counts were made under a MBS-9 stereomicroscope in Bogorov counting chamber. Appendages were dissected under a stereomicroscope and mounted in microscope slides for detailed examination. Specimens of *A. margalefi* Alcaraz, 1976 were found in the samples collected on 30 March 2007: four males at the station near the entrance to the Sevastopol Bay, three males and three females at the station near Sukharnaya Gully. All animals were in rather good state. Total body lengths of these specimens were: females, 0.75 – 0.76 mm; males, 0.69 – 0.70 mm. The recorded specimens fully correspond morphologically to the Alcaraz's (1976) description and to the specimens found in the Sevastopol Bay in 1976 and 1980. *A. margalefi* differs from *A. clausi* in having no posterodorsal small spinules on urosome segments 2 and 3 in female and presence of inner process in segment 1 of right fifth leg in male (Fig. 1).

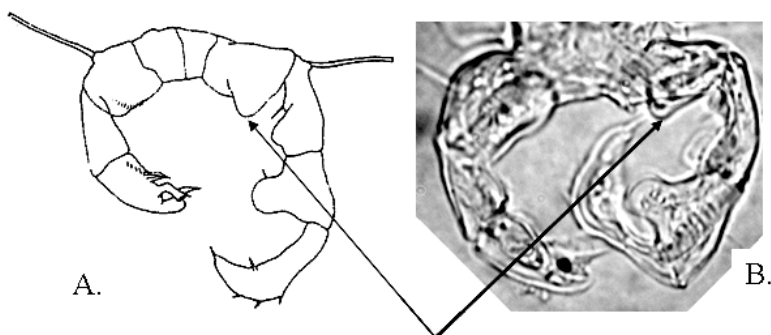


Figure 1. *Acartia margalefi* male. Fifth leg. A – from Alcaraz, 1976; B – from Sevastopol Bay, 2007. Arrows indicate characteristic process on the first segment.

Рисунок 1. *Acartia margalefi*, самец, пятая пара ног. А – по: Alcaraz, 1976; В – из Севастопольской бухты, 2007 г. Стрелки указывают на характерные выросты на первом сегменте.

A. margalefi is usually registered in the coastal waters, bays and estuaries (Alcaraz, 1976; Belmonte, Mazzocchi, 1997; Gubanova, 2004). In the Sevastopol Bay the species was rather abundant in 1976 and 1980. For example, its density exceeded 20000 ind. /m³ in February, 1980 and it made up to 44% of average annual total copepods density (Gubanova, 2004). Since the 1990ies, *A. margalefi* has not been found in the Black Sea (Gubanova et al. 2002). As yet, present discovery of *A. margalefi* appears to represent an isolated record that does not allow making any conclusions. However, it is reasonable to note that this species is able to produce resting eggs (Belmonte, 1991) and resting eggs may stay in diapause for tens of years (Belmonte, Rossi, 1998). Thus there is a probability that the first sign of recovering of *A. margalefi* population in the Sevastopol Bay was observed (Shadrin et al., 1999). **D. A. Altukhov, A. D. Gubanova, I. Yu. Prusova** (Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas, Sevastopol, Ukraine)