

NOTES AND NEWS

NOTE ON AN ANOMOLOUS TANAID: *LEPTOCHELIA* SP. (CRUSTACEA, TANAIDACEA) COLLECTED FROM MANORA CHANNEL (NORTHERN ARABIAN SEA)

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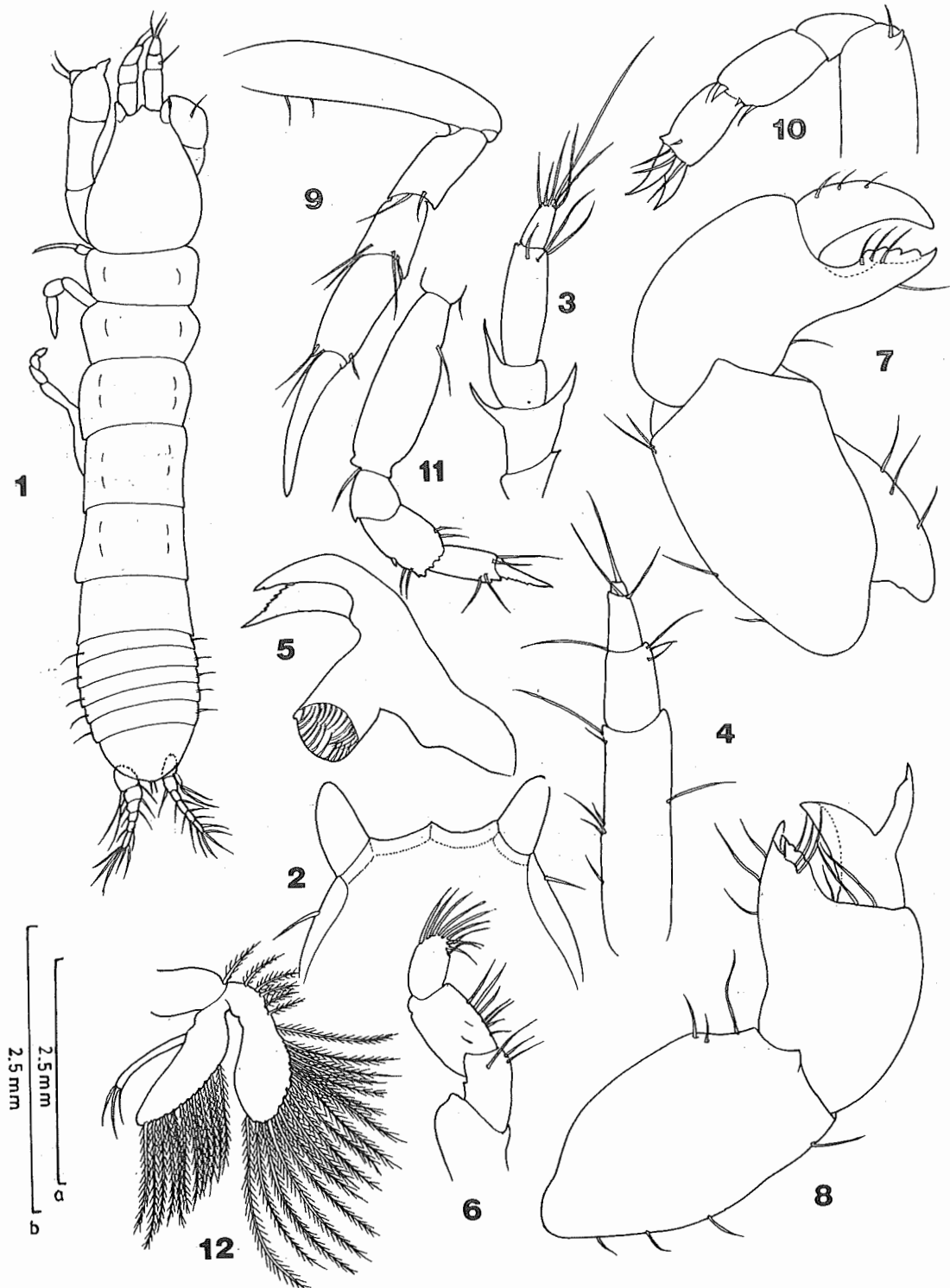
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Bacescu (1978; 1980) described *Pakistanapseudes leptochelatus* and *Cristapseudes omercooperi* from Pakistani waters (25°23'O'N; 63°30'6'E). Recently a sample was collected (evening, 24 December, 1989) among the zooplankton obtained from the Manora Channel (25°47'N; 66°57'E), and was maintained in a glass aquarium. It was then that an interesting crustacean was noticed afloat on the surface. The specimen, ensheathed in a material of unidentified nature, was picked and dissected for identification. On knowing that it was female of a tanaid, tentatively identified as *Leptochelia* sp. Dr. M. Bacescu was approached (Q.B.K. personal communication) with a reply from Dr. M. Gutu, his colleague. An extra finger on the left cheliped was pointed out to Gutu. It seemed to be an anomaly to him. In subsequent samples, more specimens of the species were collected and all were found without a process on the dactylus of the cheliped.

Later the illustrations were also referred to Gutu, who pointed out that the second pereopod shows the same phenomenon at the level of the dactylus. He also pointed out that: "Up to the present, this case of anomaly has not been mentioned for the tanaidacea within the specialised literature", "that is the reason this problem can be interesting for the specialists". However, Gardiner (1975) in his comprehensive account on the deep sea tanaids suggested that aberrations in tanaids, involving an entire appendage probably are the result of injury and regeneration although genetic causes cannot be ruled out.

An intensive survey of the Karachi coast tanaids is being made by Ghani, the report will be published at some future time. It therefore seems advisable to report this anomalous specimen. Since this is the first record for this species from Pakistani waters, the tanaid at hand is described here briefly.

The carapace (Fig.1) is oval; the rostrum is in the form of a minute triangular lobe. The ocular lobes (Fig.2) are distinct. All pereonites and pleonites are approximate to each other; first three pereonites have rounded edges, remaining are with straight lateral margin, each pleomere bears a single lateral seta. The pleotelson is conical, with two distal setules on a small protuberance (Fig.1). Antenna I and II are illustrated in figures 3 and 4 respectively; as can be seen they are uniramous and with long setae, the basal antennular segments are produced anterolaterally. The mandible (Fig.5) is without a palp. The palp of maxilliped (Fig.6) is thinly setose. The chelipeds are equal having only a few setae; the propodi are stout and slightly curved; the immovable and movable fingers are equal; the cutting edges of the immovable fingers are dentate on chelipeds (Fig.7 & 8), the left cheliped (Fig.8) has an extra, well-



Leptocheilia sp. 1. Entire specimen, dorsal view; 2. Front, magnified; 3. Antenna I; 4. Antenna II; 5. Mandible; 6. Maxilliped; 7. Cheliped; 8. Left cheliped; 9-11. First to third legs; 12. Pleopod. (except 8 all appendages are of right side). Scale 'a' for 1,3,4,7 to 11 and scale 'b' for 2,5,6 and 12.

developed fingerlike outgrowth on the dactylus; other segments are normal and overlap each other. The first pereopod (Fig.9) is slender, unarmed and has a simple, prolonged dactylus. The second pereopod (Fig.10), however, has an extra dactylus, which may also be an abnormality. The third pereopod (Fig.11) bears serrations on the distal segments. The pleopods are large and foliaceous; each endopod bears long inner phanera (Fig.12); the latter is provided with three apical setae. The basal segment of each of the uropods is short and stout; the endopod is five-segmented and is much longer than the exopod which is very small and single segmented.

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