

The shallow-water Asellota (Crustacea: Isopoda) from the Beagle Channel: Preliminary taxonomic and zoogeographical results*

BRENDA LÍA DOTI¹, DANIEL ROCCATAGLIATA¹ and DIEGO GABRIEL ZELAYA²

¹ Departamento de Biodiversidad y Biología Experimental, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Ciudad Universitaria, C1428EHA, Buenos Aires, Argentina. E-mail: bdoti@bg.fcen.uba.ar
² Museo de La Plata, Paseo del Bosque s/n, (1900) La Plata, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina.

SUMMARY: The shallow-water Asellota from the Beagle Channel were investigated, based on material collected at four localities in 2001-2002. A total of 3,124 asellotes were sorted, and three new species and 12 new records of distribution were reported. The Paramunnidae showed the highest species diversity and abundance (11 species and 1,463 specimens). The present research raises the number of species known from the Beagle Channel to 23; of these, 16 were previously reported from the Magellan Straits, representing 69% of similarity. Based on the present results and published data, the faunistic affinities for the shallow-water Asellota was 30% between the Magellan region and the Scotia Arc, and 26% between the Magellan region and the Antarctic Peninsula.

Keywords: Asellota, Isopoda, diversity, Beagle Channel, Magellan region.

RESUMEN: ASELOTA (CRUSTACEA: ISOPODA) DE AGUAS SOMERAS DEL CANAL BEAGLE: PRIMEROS RESULTADOS TAXONÓMICOS Y BIOGEOGRÁFICOS. – Se estudiaron los isópodos Asellota colectados en cuatro localidades de aguas poco profundas del Canal Beagle en el 2001 y 2002. Se obtuvo un total de 3.124 ejemplares, se identificaron 3 especies inéditas y se dieron a conocer 12 registros nuevos de distribución. Paramunnidae fue la familia con mayor diversidad específica y abundancia (11 especies y 1.463 individuos). En el presente trabajo se elevó a 23 el número de especies conocidas para el Canal Beagle, 16 de las cuales son también conocidas del Estrecho de Magallanes (69% de similitud). A partir de los resultados del presente trabajo y datos bibliográficos, las afinidades faunísticas para los Asellota de aguas poco profundas fueron de 30% entre la región magallánica y el Arco de Scotia; y de 26% entre la región magallánica y la Península Antártica.

Palabras clave: Asellota, Isopoda, diversidad, Canal Beagle, región magallánica.

INTRODUCTION

The Beagle Channel is a narrow, elongated sound located at the southern tip of South America. Brandt *et al.* (1997) stated that this channel is one of the key areas for taxonomic, ecological and biogeographic research, and they suggested that it should be investigated faunistically in more detail.

Many isopod Asellota have been reported from the Magellan region, mainly by Nordenstam (1933), Menzies (1962), Winkler and Brandt (1993) and Winkler (1994a). Despite this, only seven species are known from the Beagle Channel up to now (Monod, 1926; Nordenstam, 1933; Brandt, 1999).

The aims of this study are to describe the taxonomic composition and abundance of the shallow-water Asellota from the Beagle Channel, and to ana-

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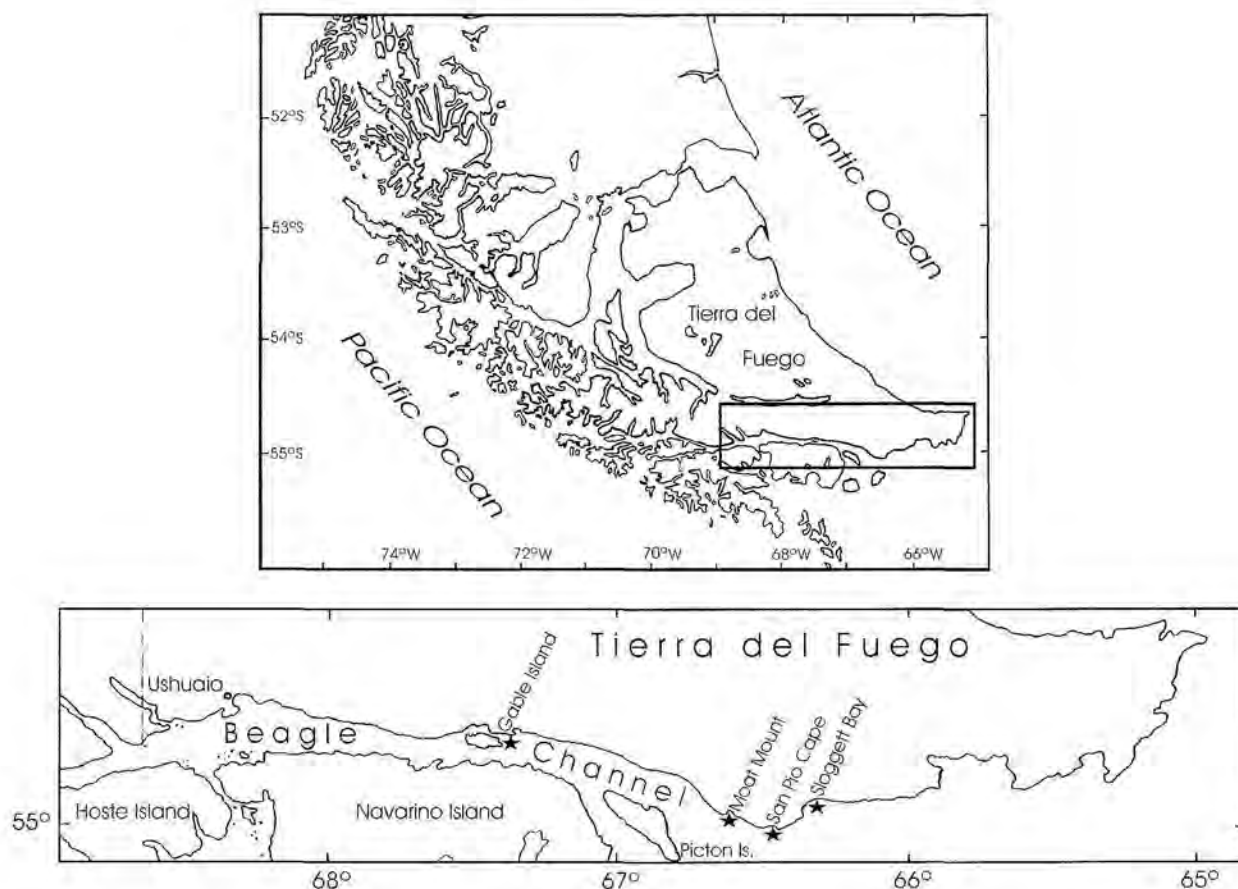


FIG. 1. — Locations of the sampling stations in the Beagle Channel.

lyze the faunistic affinities between this channel and the surrounding areas.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The specimens studied were collected at four shallow-water localities, one in the Beagle Channel and the other three in front of its eastern mouth (Fig. 1, Table 1). For the sake of simplicity, all these localities are regarded as belonging to the Beagle Channel. Samples were dredged from the Argentine navy vessel "Alférez Sobral" at 15-35 m depth in February and May 2001 and September 2002. A 45 x 50 cm trawl fitted with a net of 2 mm mesh size was used. The material collected was fixed in 10% buffered formaldehyde solution and transferred to 70% ethanol. The Asellota were picked from the bulk samples and identified to species (or genus) level.

In this contribution the Magellan region has been defined as the Patagonian shelf south of 41°S on both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts (including the

Malvinas/Falkland Islands); the Scotia Arc comprises the South Georgia, South Sandwich and South Orkney Islands; and the Antarctic Peninsula includes the South Shetland Islands.

The biogeographic analysis deals with the Asellota whose vertical distribution is restricted to depths < 200 m and those which were found at greater depths but also at < 200 m. In order to facilitate comparisons between areas, a list of all the Asellota collected in shallow waters from the Magellan region (including our data from the Beagle Channel), the Scotia Arc and the Antarctic Peninsula is provided (Table 3). Papers which were consulted to prepare this list are mentioned in Winkler (1994b). Other papers utilised include the following:

TABLE 1. — Localities sampled in the Beagle Channel.

Locality	Latitude	Longitude	Depth (m)	Date
Gable Island	54°54.0'S	67°21.0'W	15-20	11 May 2001
Moat Mount	55°01.5'S	66°41.7'W	15-25	09 Feb 2001
San Pio Cape	55°03.0'S	66°37.0'W	30-35	29 Sep 2002
Stoggett Bay	55°00.0'S	66°20.6'W	15-30	09 Feb 2001

Kussakin (1965), Richardson and Hedgpeth (1977), Branch *et al.* (1991), Teodorczyk and Wägele (1994), Wilson and Wägele (1994), Serov and Wilson (1995), Mariani *et al.* (1996), Lorenti and Mariani (1997), Brandt (1999), Castelló (1999, 2004), Cariceo *et al.* (2002), Lörz and Brandt (2003), and Just and Wilson (2004). For the faunistic analysis, the localities marked with one or two asterisks and the specimens identified as "*Paramunna cf. menziesi*", "*Sporonana sp.*", "*Austrofilus sp. A*", "*Ianiropsis sp. A*", "*Caecianiroopsis cf. ectiformis*", "*Joeropsis sp. A*", "*Munna sp.*" and "*Munna spec.*" in Table 3 were excluded. Junior synonyms in Table 3 are mentioned only when these names were used for specimens collected in the Magellan/Antarctic/Subantarctic areas. Affinities between areas were estimated using Simpson's Coefficient of Similarity ($C/N_1 \times 100$), where C = number of shared species and N_1 = total number of species reported from the smaller of the two groups being compared (see Cheetham and Hazel, 1969). The term "diversity" refers to the total number of species, and the term "abundance" to the total number of specimens.

RESULTS

Species composition and abundance in the Beagle Channel

A total of 3,967 isopods were sorted, the Asellota being the dominant group (3,124 specimens), followed by the Sphaeromatidae (790 specimens), Rectarcturidae (17 specimens), Gnathiidae (15 specimens), Serolidae (14 specimens), Idoteidae (6 specimens) and Aegidae (1 specimen).

Among the Asellota, 25 species belonging to six families were identified (Table 2). Three of these species are new to science and 12 are new records for the Beagle Channel. All these new records belong to species formerly found in the Magellan Strait or other localities of the Magellan region (Table 3).

Of the three new species reported herein, two belong to the genus *Austrosignum* and one to the genus *Paramunna*. Since the *Austrosignum/Munnonogonium* complex is under revision (Jean Just and George D.F. Wilson, pers. comms.), the inclusion of the new species identified as "*Austrosignum n. sp.*"

TABLE 2. – Number of Asellota isopods collected in the Beagle Channel during this study. (*) First record for the area.

	Gable Island	Moat Mount	San Pfo Cape	Sloggett Bay
Paramunnidae				
<i>Allorostrata ovalis</i> Winkler, 1994 *			6	6
<i>Antennulosignum elegans</i> Nordenstam, 1933 *	4			
<i>Austrosignum n. sp. 1</i> (unpublished)		3	30	401
<i>Austrosignum n. sp. 2</i> (unpublished)				188
(?) <i>Paramunna dentata</i> Nordenstam, 1933 * (1)		2		11
<i>Paramunna integra</i> Nordenstam, 1933 *	5		41	216
(?) <i>Paramunna kerguelensis</i> Vanhöffen, 1914 * (1)		1		
(?) <i>Paramunna menziesi</i> Winkler, 1994 * (1)			2	7
(?) <i>Paramunna cf. menziesi</i> (1)			69	178
<i>Paramunna n. sp.</i> (unpublished)			15	
<i>Pleurosignum magnum</i> Vanhöffen, 1914 *			11	
<i>Sporonana sp. A</i>	171	3	92	1
Janiridae				
<i>Austrofilus furcatus</i> Hodgson, 1910	101		8	
<i>Austrofilus sp. A</i>		8		
<i>Caecianiroopsis cf. ectiformis</i> (Vanhöffen, 1914)	3	1	1	1
<i>Ianiropsis varians</i> Winkler and Brandt, 1993 *	1	95		60
<i>Ianiropsis sp. A</i>		5		
<i>Iathrippa menziesi</i> Sivertsen and Holthuis, 1980 (= <i>I. chilensis</i> Menzies, 1962) *	1	33	14	2
<i>Neojaera antarctica</i> (Pfeffer, 1887)	41	10	127	10
Joeropsidae				
<i>Joeropsis curvicornis</i> (Nicolet, 1849) (= <i>J. patagoniensis</i> Richardson, 1909)	160	45	55	38
<i>Joeropsis intermedius</i> Nordenstam, 1933	192	18	187	17
<i>Joeropsis sp. A</i>	124		12	4
Munnidae				
<i>Munna gallardoj</i> Winkler, 1992 *			10	
<i>Munna sp.</i>	11	1	233	1
Santiidae				
<i>Santia compacta</i> Sivertsen and Holthuis, 1980 *		3	1	1
Acanthaspidiidae				
<i>Ianthopsis laevis</i> Menzies, 1962 *		1	25	

(1) not in *Paramunna* after Just and Wilson (2004).

TABLE 3. – Asellota collected in the Magellan region, the Scotia Arc and the Antarctic Peninsula at depths < 200 m. The species shared between the Beagle Channel and the Magellan Strait are in **bold**. Depths refer to the entire bathymetrical range of the species. BC, Beagle Channel; MS, Magellan Strait; OL, other localities.

	BC	Magellan Region MS	OL	Scotia Arc	Antarctic Peninsula	Depths (m)
PARAMUNNIDAE						
<i>Austrosignum</i> n. sp. 1 (unpublished)	+					15-35
<i>Austrosignum</i> n. sp. 2 (unpublished)	+					15-30
<i>Paramunna</i> n. sp. (unpublished)	+					30-35
(?) <i>Paramunna</i> cf. <i>menziesi</i> ⁽¹⁾	+					15-35
<i>Allorostrata ovalis</i> Winkler, 1994	+	+				12-35
<i>Paramunna integra</i> sensu Winkler, 1994 ⁽²⁾	+	+				10-70
(?) <i>Paramunna kerguelensis</i> Vanhöffen, 1914 ⁽¹⁾	+	+				0-25
(?) <i>Paramunna menziesi</i> Winkler, 1994 ⁽¹⁾	+	+	+			9-35
<i>Pleurosignum chilense</i> Menzies, 1962	+	+	+			0-50
<i>Antennulosignum elegans</i> Nordenstam, 1933	+		+			15-22
(?) <i>Paramunna dentata</i> Nordenstam, 1933 ⁽¹⁾	+		+			15-30
<i>Sporonana</i> sp. ⁽³⁾	+	+		+		0-35
<i>Pleurosignum magnum</i> Vanhöffen, 1914	+		+		+	22-385
<i>Allorostrata scutifrons</i> Just and Wilson, 2004		+				9
<i>Austrosignum dentatum</i> Winkler, 1994		+				12
<i>Austrosignum globifrons</i> Menzies, 1962		+				intertidal
<i>Magellianira serrata</i> Winkler, 1994		+				10
<i>Omonana brachycephala</i> Just and Wilson, 2004		+				9
<i>Omonana parasimplex</i> (Winkler, 1994)		+				9
(?) <i>Paramunna magellanensis</i> Winkler, 1994 ⁽¹⁾		+				9-12
(?) <i>Paramunna patagoniensis</i> Winkler, 1994 ⁽¹⁾		+				12-21
<i>Munnogonium tillerae</i> (Menzies and Barnard, 1959)		+			+	10-361
<i>Austrosignum falklandicum</i> Nordenstam, 1933			+			22-150
<i>Austrosignum latifrons</i> Menzies, 1962			+			100
<i>Omonana simplex</i> (Menzies, 1962)			+			100
<i>Paramunna integra</i> Nordenstam, 1933			+			40-157
<i>Austrosignum grande</i> Hodgson, 1910 (= <i>A. glaciale</i> Hodgson, 1910)			+	+	+	0-743
<i>Pleurosignum elongatum</i> Vanhöffen, 1914			+		*	25-385
<i>Palanana serrata</i> (Richardson, 1908)			?		+	0-55
<i>Paramunna rostrata</i> complex ⁽⁴⁾				+	+	6-107
(?) <i>Paramunna lunata</i> Hale, 1937 ⁽¹⁾				+	+	3-32
<i>Coulmannia australis</i> Hodgson, 1902				*	+	89-400
<i>Austrinumma antarctica</i> Richardson, 1906				+	+	12-107
<i>Austrosignum escanellae</i> Castelló, 2004					+	45
<i>Austrosignum incisum</i> (Richardson, 1908)					+	0-15
<i>Austrosignum spinosum</i> Kussakin, 1982					+	17
<i>Coulmannia ramosae</i> Castelló, 2004					+	124
<i>Harrietonana subtriangulata</i> (Richardson, 1908)					+	25
<i>Palanana gaini</i> (Richardson, 1913)					+	1-6
(?) <i>Paramunna gaussi</i> Vanhöffen, 1914 ⁽¹⁾					+	45-385
JANIRIDAE						
<i>Austrofilius</i> sp. A	+					15-25
<i>Ianiropsis</i> sp. A	+					15-25
<i>Caecianiropsis</i> cf. <i>ectiformis</i> (Vanhöffen, 1914)	+					15-35
<i>Ianiropsis varians</i> Winkler and Brandt, 1993	+	+				9-32
<i>Iathrippa menziesi</i> Sivertsen and Holthuis, 1980 (= <i>I. chilensis</i> Menzies, 1962)	+	+	+			5-300
<i>Iathrippa longicauda</i> (Chilton, 1884)	+	+	+	*		12-500
<i>Iais pubescens</i> (Dana, 1852) (= <i>I. hargeri</i> Bovallius, 1886)	+	+	+	+		0-5
<i>Neojaera antarctica</i> (Pfeffer, 1887)	+	+	+	+	+	1-700
<i>Austrofilius furcatus</i> Hodgson, 1910	+	+	+	+	+	0-190
<i>Iathrippa multidentis</i> Menzies, 1962		+				intertidal
<i>Ianiropsis chilensis</i> Menzies, 1962		+	+			0-40
<i>Ianiropsis perplexus</i> Menzies, 1962			+			intertidal
<i>Iathrippa sarsii</i> (Pfeffer, 1887) (= <i>Notasellus australis</i> Hodgson, 1902)			*	+	+	0-700
<i>Iathrippa trilobatus</i> (Richardson, 1910)			+	+	*	13-410
<i>Ectias turqueti</i> Richardson, 1906				+	+	6-126
<i>Austrofilius serratus</i> Vanhöffen, 1914					**	170-385
JOEROPSIDAE						
<i>Joeropsis</i> sp. A	+					15-35
<i>Joeropsis curvicornis</i> (Nicolet, 1849) (= <i>J. patagoniensis</i> Richardson, 1909)	+	+	+			0-641
<i>Joeropsis intermedius</i> Nordenstam, 1933	+	+	+		**	3-641
<i>Joeropsis bidens</i> Menzies, 1962			+			0-300
<i>Joeropsis antarctica</i> Menzies and Schultz, 1968					+	45-1408

TABLE 3 (Cont.). – Asellota collected in the Magellan region, the Scotia Arc and the Antarctic Peninsula at depths < 200 m. The species shared between the Beagle Channel and the Magellan Strait are in **bold**. Depths refer to the entire bathymetrical range of the species. BC, Beagle Channel; MS, Magellan Strait; OL, other localities.

	BC	Magellan Region MS	OL	Scotia Arc	Antarctic Peninsula	Depths (m)
MUNNIDAE						
<i>Munna</i> sp.	+					15-35
<i>Munna gallardoi</i> Winkler, 1992	+	+				9-41
<i>Munna longipoda</i> Teodorczyk and Wägele, 1994	+		+		+	15-285
<i>Munna chilensis</i> Menzies, 1962		+				intertidal
<i>Munna lundae</i> Menzies, 1962		+				intertidal
<i>Uromunna nana</i> (Nordenstam, 1933)		+	+			0-120
<i>Uromunna schauinslandi</i> (G. O. Sars, 1905)			+			intertidal
<i>Munna neglecta</i> Monod, 1931			+	+	+	0-215
<i>Munna pallida</i> Beddard, 1886			+		+	3-173
<i>Munna affinis</i> Nordenstam, 1933				+		6-15
<i>Munna</i> spec. Monod, 1931				+		20
<i>Munna antarctica</i> (Pfeffer, 1887) (= <i>Haliaeris australis</i> Hodgson, 1902)				+	+	2-420
<i>Munna bituberculata</i> Nordenstam, 1933				+	+	15-310
<i>Munna amphoricauda</i> Teodorczyk and Wägele, 1994					+	104-234
<i>Munna globicauda</i> Vanhöffen, 1914					+	26-522
<i>Munna jazdzewskii</i> Teodorczyk and Wägele, 1994					+	10-45
SANTIIDAE						
<i>Santia compacta</i> Sivertsen and Holthuis, 1980	+	+				10-40
<i>Santia hispida</i> (Vanhöffen, 1914)		+	+		+	5-95
<i>Santia mawsoni</i> (Hale, 1937)		+	+		+	2-45
<i>Santia dimorphis</i> (Menzies, 1962)			+			0-80
<i>Santia laevifrons</i> (Menzies, 1962)			+			intertidal
<i>Santia hofsteni</i> (Nordenstam, 1933)				+		0-100
<i>Santia marmorata</i> (Vanhöffen, 1914)				+		0-54
<i>Santia charcoti</i> (Richardson, 1906)					+	0-305
ACANTHASPIDIIDAE						
<i>Ianthopsis laevis</i> Menzies, 1962	+	+	+			3-100
<i>Ianthopsis bovalli</i> (Studer, 1884)		+	+	+	**	12-457
<i>Ianthopsis nasicornis</i> Vanhöffen, 1914				+	+	3-887
<i>Ianthopsis multispinosa</i> Vanhöffen, 1914					+	98-385
STENETRIIDAE						
<i>Tenopedunculus inflectofrons</i> (Schultz, 1982)		+	*			82-586
<i>Tenopedunculus acutus</i> (Vanhöffen, 1914)			+		+	150-3397
DESMOSOMATIDAE						
<i>Eugerdella falklandica</i> (Nordenstam, 1933)			+		+	16-234
<i>Desmosoma australis</i> Nordenstam, 1933				+	+	64-410
<i>Desmosoma brevipes</i> Nordenstam, 1933				+	+	64-188
<i>Desmosoma modestum</i> Nordenstam, 1933				+	+	125-250
<i>Desmosoma anversense</i> Schultz, 1979					+	109-137
<i>Pseudogerda latipes</i> (Hansen, 1916)					+	163-1102
MUNNOPSISIDAE						
<i>Echinozone quadrispinosa</i> (Beddard, 1886) (= <i>Notopais spicatus</i> Hodgson, 1910)				+	+	10-1500
<i>Echinozone spinosa</i> Hodgson, 1902				+	+	18-569
<i>Coperonus frigidus</i> (Vanhöffen, 1914)				*	+	36-399
<i>Ilyarachna nordenstami</i> Wolff, 1962				*	+	51-310
<i>Coperonus gracilis</i> Brandt, 1992					+	45-420
<i>Coperonus pulcher</i> Brandt, 1992					+	89-429
<i>Coperonus vanhoeffeni</i> Brandt, 1992					+	139
<i>Echinozone bispinosa</i> Kussakin and Vasina, 1982					+	65-460
<i>Lionectes humicephalotus</i> Wilson, 1989					+	58-659
<i>Munopsurus australis</i> (Vanhöffen, 1914)					+	173-649

* depth > 200 m.

** depth unknown.

(1) not in *Paramunna* after Just and Wilson (2004).

(2) includes *Paramunna integra* sensu Winkler (1994) and many specimens present in our samples.

(3) includes *Paramunna subtriangulata* sensu Monod (1926), Nordenstam (1933), Menzies (1962), Winkler (1994a), and many specimens present in our samples.

(4) includes *Austrimunna rostrata* sensu Richardson (1913) and *Paramunna rostrata* sensu Nordenstam (1933). Some of these specimens may belong to the genus *Pagonana* proposed by Just and Wilson (2004).

1" and "*Austrosignum* n. sp. 2" in Tables 2 and 3 should be taken as provisional.

At family level, the Paramunnidae showed the highest diversity (11 species) and abundance

(1,463 specimens). Janiridae was the second family in diversity (7 species) and Joeropsidae the second family in abundance (852 specimens) (Table 2).

Faunistic affinities between the Beagle Channel and the Magellan Straits

Including the data herein reported, the number of shallow-water asellotes in the Beagle Channel and the Magellan Straits was 23 and 34 respectively (Table 3). Sixteen of the species of the Beagle Channel co-occur in the Magellan Straits, which represents 69% of similarity (Table 3).

The Beagle Channel and the Magellan Straits shared six of the eight families reported from the Magellan region: Paramunnidae, Janiridae, Joeropsidae, Munnidae, Santiidae and Acanthaspidiidae (Table 3). One species of Stenetriidae has been reported from the Magellan Straits but no specimens were found in our samples. No member of Desmosomatidae has been reported from the Magellan Straits, and our samples did not contain any species of this family either.

For both areas the Paramunnidae and Janiridae were the most diverse families (Table 3). For the Paramunnidae 11 species were found in the Beagle Channel and 14 in the Magellan Straits. Of these, only five species co-occur in both areas. For the Janiridae six species were found in the Beagle Channel and eight in the Magellan Straits, all the species recorded from the Beagle Channel being also present in the Magellan Straits.

Faunistic affinities between the Magellan region and the Scotia Arc and the Antarctic Peninsula

Table 3 lists all the Asellota recorded at depths < 200 m from the Magellan region, the Scotia Arc and the Antarctic Peninsula. Of the 89 species reported for the entire area, 58 were found in the Magellan region, 23 in the Scotia Arc, and 50 in the Antarctic Peninsula. The Magellan region shared 7 species with the Scotia Arc (30% of similarity) and 13 species with the Antarctic Peninsula (26% of similarity).

The Paramunnidae showed the highest diversity in the Magellan region and the Antarctic Peninsula, while the Janiridae was the most diverse family in the Scotia Arc (Table 3).

DISCUSSION

The examination of just a few samples yielded three new species and 12 new records for the Beagle Channel, which suggests that many species of Asellota still remain undiscovered in this coastal area.

Winkler (1994b) mentioned that the Paramunnidae was the most diverse family in the Magellan region, followed by the "Janiridae/Joeropsidae", a fact that is consistent with our results in the Beagle Channel.

Nordenstam (1933) erected the genus *Antennulosignum* (Paramunnidae) to include *A. elegans* from the Malvinas Islands. This species is reported herein for the second time after its original description (Table 2). Brandt (1999) described some specimens from the Beagle Channel as *Pleurosignum chilense* Menzies, 1962. However, it is likely that because of their peculiar antennule the specimens studied by Brandt belong to the genus *Antennulosignum*.

The genus *Caecianiropsis* (Janiridae) includes three species. Of these, only *C. ectiformis* (Vanhöffen, 1914) is found in the southern hemisphere. This species was previously known from the following Subantarctic islands: Kerguelen, St. Paul, and Marion/Prince Edward (Vanhöffen, 1914; Kensley, 1976; Branch *et al.*, 1991). Our finding of *C. cf. ectiformis* in the Beagle Channel widely extends the range of distribution of the genus *Caecianiropsis* in the southern hemisphere.

The genus *Munna* (Munnidae) is well represented in the Magellan region (Winkler, 1994b), as well as in Antarctic and Subantarctic waters (Teodorczyk and Wägele, 1994). Although six species were reported from the Magellan region (Nordenstam, 1933; Menzies, 1962; Winkler, 1992, 1994b; Teodorczyk and Wägele, 1994; Lorenti and Mariani, 1997) only one, *Munna gallardoi* Winkler, 1992, was identified from the Beagle Channel (Table 3). Most probably, among the specimens herein reported as "*Munna* sp." more than one species were included, but the poor condition of the available material has prevented us from identifying them.

The family Santiidae has a pronounced southern distribution, and its species occur at depths of less than 100 m (Wolff, 1989). Five species of *Santia* have been reported from the Magellan region (Winkler, 1994b; Lorenti and Mariani, 1997); in contrast, only one has been found in the Beagle Channel so far (Table 3).

Two species belonging to the family Acanthaspidiidae have been recorded from the Magellan region. *Ianthopsis laevis* Menzies, 1962, endemic for this region, was recorded herein from the Beagle Channel. On the other hand, *Ianthopsis bovallis* (Studer, 1884) was not reported from the Beagle Channel, despite its wide distribution in the southern seas (see Winkler, 1994b; Lorenti and Mariani, 1997).

The species of the genus *Tenupedunculus* (Stenetriidae) and those of the families Desmosomatidae and Munnopsidae are distributed mainly in deep-sea waters (Kussakin, 1973; Serov and Wilson, 1995). However, emergence has been postulated for many deep-sea Asellota, especially at higher latitudes (see Brandt *et al.*, 2004). This could explain the larger number of species found in the Scotia Arc/Antarctic Peninsula in comparison with the Magellan region (Table 3). Although no species of the three families mentioned above have been recorded from the Beagle Channel, *Eugerdella falklandica* (Nordenstam, 1933) and some species of *Tenupedunculus*, a genus that is distributed from around the southern tip of South America to the Antarctic, are likely to be found in future surveys carried out in the Beagle Channel.

Menzies (1962) recorded four species from Chile, viz., *Uromunna schauinslandi* (G. O. Sars, 1905) near 41°S, *Joeropsis bidens* Menzies, 1962 between 42 and 20°S, *Santia dimorphis* (Menzies, 1962) near 44°S and *Santia laevifrons* (Menzies, 1962) between 44 and 32°S. All these species were found slightly below 41°S and thus were listed in Table 3. Because zoogeographic regions cannot be neatly divided, the addition of these species to the Magellan fauna must be taken with caution.

Knowledge of the Magellan Asellota is still scarce and further taxonomic studies are strongly required. Although the results presented herein are preliminary, they will hopefully contribute to a better understanding of this faunal group.

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