

ON TWO NEW SPECIES OF *SIRIELLA* (MYSIDACEA)

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ABSTRACT

Descriptions of two new mysids, *Siriella africana* sp. nov. collected from Agulhas Bank and *Siriella intermedia* sp. nov. collected from Laccadives are given.

The present paper contains observations on two species of mysidacea collected from the Indian Ocean. The first species *Siriella africana* sp. nov. was collected from Agulhas Bank during IIOE by the ship *Africana II*. The second species *Siriella intermedia* sp. nov. was collected near the Kalpeni atoll in the Laccadive Archipelago.

Siriella africana sp. nov.

Material: One adult female from 34°51.5'S, 20°11.6'E, 30-9 m.

Description: Length 12 mm, body rather strongly built. Carapace short leaving the last two thoracic somites exposed; rostrum drawn out, long and pointed, extending to the middle of the first segment of the antennular peduncle. Latter stout, first segment longer than the second and third together. Antennal scale (Fig. 1, C) fairly broad and over-reaching the antennular peduncle, its outer margin nearly straight, distal two thirds armed with thirteen to fifteen short spines, terminal spine stout and projecting beyond the rounded apex, terminal lobe short, clearly marked off by a suture; peduncle with the second joint more than twice as long as third, spine present on the outer distal corner of the sympod. Mouth parts (Fig. 1, D, E) of the usual type for the genus. Endopod of first thoracic limb (Fig. 2, A) stout and with a small but distinct lobe from the second joint. Second endopod (Fig. 2, B) without special features. Thoracic endopods three to six (Fig 2, C-E) successively increasing in length and seventh and eighth decreasing. Carpus and propodus distinct. Dactylus with a strong claw. Basis of exopod with a denticle on the outer distal corner. Sixth abdominal somite one and a half times as long as fifth. Telson (Fig. 1, F) wedge-shaped, nearly three times as long as broad and steadily narrowing towards the rounded apex and reaching beyond the articulation of the outer uropod. Lateral borders almost throughout spiny, the widened basal part with four pairs of spines large and well-spaced, others arranged in series of two to four spines. Apex of telson armed with a pair of long spines, a pair of plumose setae and three small spines. Endopod of uropod (Fig. 1, G) with a row of closely set spines arranged as longer spines separated by groups of smaller ones extending from near the statocyst to the apex, the distal spines without smaller ones between them. Exopod distinctly longer and broader than endopod with fifteen spines on the outer margin

occupying more than half of the proximal segment, the spines gradually increasing in length distalwards.

Holotype female (partly dissected) is deposited in the Indian Ocean Biological Centre reference collection. Cat. No. IOBC-0378-10-50-1979.

Remarks: Judging from the characters of the telson and uropods, *S. africana* belongs to Hansen's second group (Hansen, 1910) to which also belong *S. media*, *S. inornata* and *S. serrata* Hansen (1910). In having the outer border of the antennal scale armed with spines *S. africana* shows the closest resemblance to *S. serrata* which is the only species of *Siriella* with the outer border of antennal scale spiny. But *S. africana* can easily be distinguished from *S. serrata* by the following characters:

- (i) The rostrum in *S. africana* is long and narrow extending to the middle of the first antennular segment. In *S. serrata* the rostrum is broad and triangular.
- (ii) In *S. africana* the outer margin of the antennal scale is armed with thirteen to fifteen spines occupying more than the distal two thirds of the scale. In *S. serrata* there are only four to five spines.

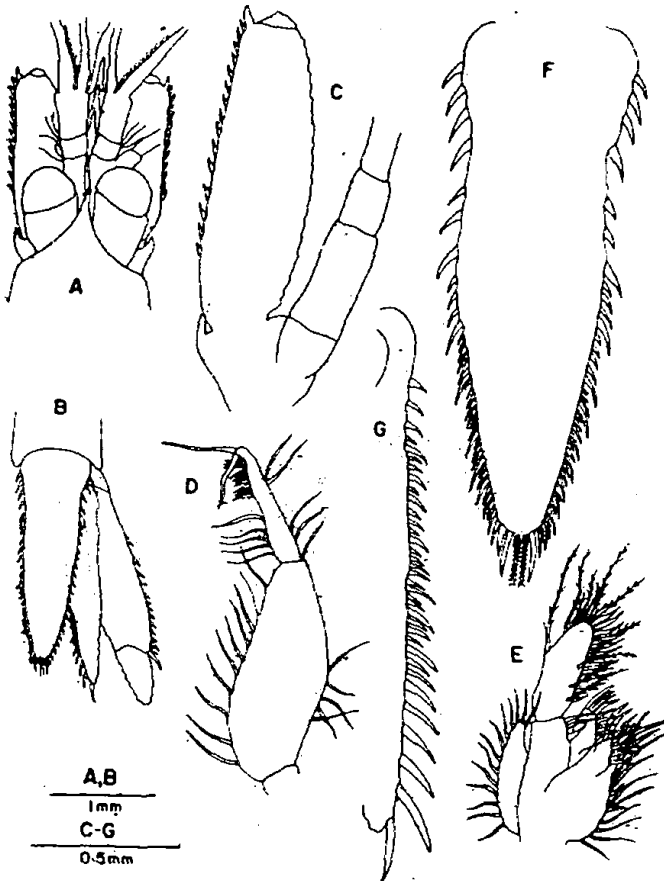


Fig. 1. *Siriella africana* sp. nov. A. Anterior end of body B. Posterior end of body. C. Antenna. D. Palp of mandible. E. Maxilla. F. Telson. G. Endopod of uropod.

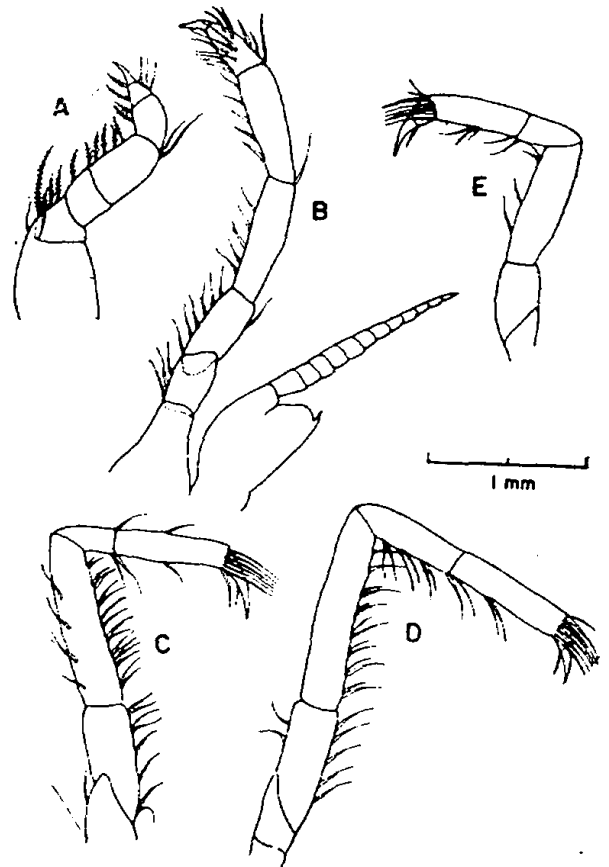


Fig. 2. *Siriella africana* sp. nov. A. First thoracic endopod. B. Second thoracic endopod. C. Third thoracic endopod. D. Fifth thoracic endopod. E. Eighth thoracic endopod.

Siriella intermedia sp. nov.

Material: One adult female from 10°04'S, 73°38'E, surface.

Description: Length 9.3, mm carapace short, frontal margin evenly rounded. Eyes large, cornea occupying more than half of the total length. Basal segment of antennular peduncle (Fig. 3, D) longer than the other two together. Antennal scale (Fig. 3, C) extends to the tip of the antennular peduncle, three and one fourth times as long as broad, terminal lobe shorter than broad, suture marking off terminal joint not evident; peduncle half the length of the scale, second joint two and a half times as long as the third, prominent spine present on the outer distal corner of the sympod. Mouth parts as in the other species of the genus. First and second thoracic endopods (Fig. 4, A, B) short and stout, remaining endopods (Fig. 4, C, D) long and slender, legs six to eight decreasing in length backwards; sixth joint undivided, nail longer than the terminal brush of setae and slightly curved. Basal plate of exopod with a denticle on the outer distal corner. Sixth abdominal somite one and two thirds times as long as the fifth. Telson (Fig. 3, E, F) short, linguiform, shorter than the last abdominal somite, about twice as long as broad at the base. Widened basal part armed with three stout spines followed by a short unarmed

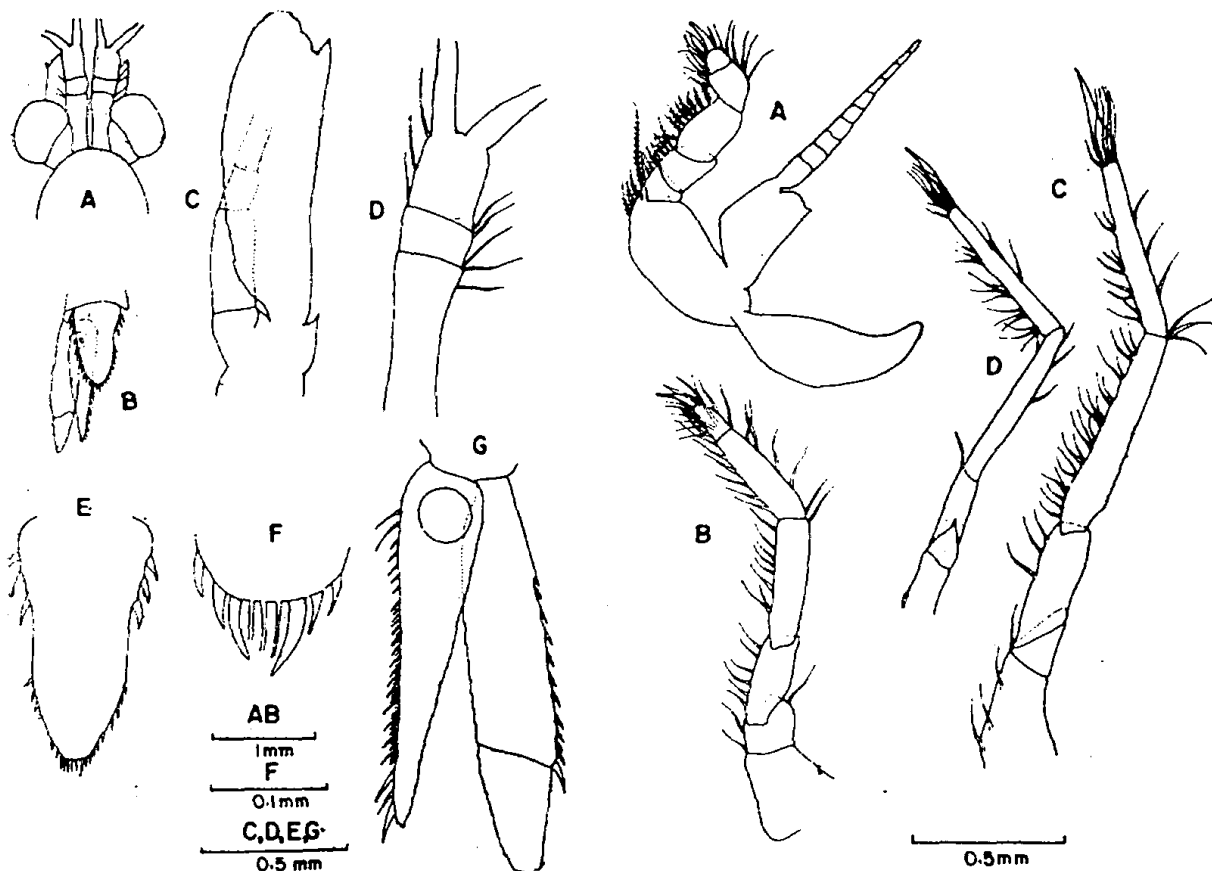


Fig. 3. *Siriella intermedia* sp. nov. A. Anterior end of body. B. Posterior end of body. C. Antenna. D. Antennule. E. Telson. F. Tip of telson. G. Uropod.

Fig. 4. *Siriella intermedia* sp. nov. A. First thoracic limb. B. Second thoracic endopod. C. Fifth thoracic endopod. D. Eighth thoracic endopod.

portion, then a series of nine short spines. Apex broadly rounded and armed with a pair of stout long spines between which are three median setae (distal end broken). Endopod of uropod (Fig. 3, G) one and a half times as long as the telson, inner margin armed with a series of long spines between which there are groups of two to three small spines extending from near the statocyst to the tip, the last three long spines without smaller ones between them. Exopod longer than endopod, more than half of outer margin of the proximal segment armed with about twelve spines increasing in length progressively backwards.

Holotype female (partly dissected) deposited in the Indian Ocean Biological Centre reference collection. Cat. No. IOBC-0379-10-50-1979.

Remarks: *S. intermedia* resembles *S. hanseni* Tattersall (1922), *S. vincenti* Tattersall (1928) and *S. linguivura* Ii (1964) in the short linguiform telson. But the telson of *S. intermedia* is unique in that the apex is armed with three setae instead of the usual two between the two large spines. In all species of *Siriella* hitherto known the apex of the telson has three small spines and a pair of setae. This alone is sufficient to distinguish *S. intermedia* from all the known species.

The armature of the uropods of *S. intermedia* is quite different from that of the other species of the group. The inner uropod has the spines definitely arranged in series against uniform spines in the others. In *S. intermedia* more than half of the basal segment of the exopod of uropod is spiny. In others the spines are few and confined to the distal parts.

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