

An annotated checklist of the Amphipoda (Crustacea) of the Iraqi coast, north-western Persian- Arabian Gulf

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Received 02 February 2024 | Accepted 22 April 2024 | Published 01 June 2024

Abstract

Amphipods are one of the most diverse groups of peracarid crustaceans, living in both marine and fresh waters, including underground and semi-terrestrial settings. Data about amphipods from the Iraqi coast are spread throughout valid published and confused published references. So, a checklist of the amphipods of the Iraq coast is presented listing 8 species belonging to six families, using published records and field observations. The present paper shows that the list of amphipoda from the Iraqi coast is very limited compared with lists of other adjacent countries on the Persian-Arabian Gulf close to Iraq.

Key words: Iraqi coast, amphipods, Persian- Arabian Gulf

1. Introduction

In 1985, Salman described a new marine amphipod species *Stenothoe gallensis* Walker, 1904, from Khour Abdullah (Salman, 1985), and later in 1986, Salman described a new marine amphipod species, *Parhyale basrensis*, from the Shatt Al- Arab River (Abu-Al-Kaseeb, Iraq) (Salman, 1986). In 1990, Salman and Jabbar described a new amphipod species, *Cheiriphotis williamsoni*, and redescribed the known species *C. megacheles* (Giles, 1885) from two localities in Iraqi waters of the northwestern Arabian Gulf, namely, Khour Abdullah and Khour Al-Zubair (Salman and Jabbar, 1990). Later, the same author recorded two other species, namely: *Insularorchestia monodi* (Mateus, Mateus & Afonso, 1986) from Shatt Al-Arab, and *Elasmopus pecteniscrus* (Spence Bate, 1863) from northwest of the Persian-Arabian Gulf in 1997 and 1998, respectively.