

THE GENERA *ATERGATIS*, *MICROCASSIOPE*, *MONODAEUS*, *PARACTEA*,
PARAGALENE, AND *XANTHO* (DECAPODA, XANTHIDAE) IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA

BY

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ABSTRACT

A review of the relevant literature and a comparative study of adequate samples from the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, revealed new key morphological features that facilitate a distinction of the Mediterranean species of Xanthidae. Based on this study, the Mediterranean *Xantho granulicarpus* Forest, 1953 is clearly distinguished from the Atlantic *Xantho hydrophilus* (Herbst, 1790) and *Monodaeus guinotae* Forest, 1976 is identical with *Monodaeus couchii* (Couch, 1851). For the species studied, additional information is given about their geographical distribution, as well as an identification key based on selected, constant features.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Literaturstudien und vergleichende Untersuchungen geeigneter Proben aus dem Mittelmeer und dem Atlantischen Ozean haben neuen morphologische Schlüsselmerkmale erbracht, die eine Unterscheidung der aus dem Mittelmeer stammenden Arten der Xanthidae erleichtern. Als Ergebnis dieser Untersuchungen kann gesagt werden, dass *Xantho granulicarpus* Forest, 1953 aus dem Mittelmeer klar von *Xantho hydrophilus* (Herbst, 1790) aus dem Atlantik unterschieden ist und dass *Monodaeus guinotae* Forest, 1976 identisch mit *Monodaeus couchii* (Couch, 1851) ist. Für die untersuchten Arten werden zusätzliche Verbreitungsangaben gemacht und ein Bestimmungsschlüssel auf der Grundlage ausgewählter konstanter Merkmale bereitgestellt.

INTRODUCTION

According to d'Udekem d'Acoz (1999) and Türkay (2001), the following nine species of Xanthidae MacLay, 1838 are known from the Mediterranean: *Atergatis roseus* (Rüppell, 1830); *Microcassiope minor* (Dana, 1852); *Monodaeus couchii*

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(Couch, 1851); *Monodaeus guinotae* Forest, 1976; *Paractea monodi* Guinot, 1969; *Paragalene longicrura* (Nardo, 1868); *Xantho granulicarpus* Forest, 1953; *Xantho pilipes* A. Milne-Edwards, 1867; and *Xantho poressa* (Olivi, 1792). However, a consideration of the relevant literature still shows a confusion concerning the genera *Xantho* and *Monodaeus*. In particular, some authors (Garcia Raso et al., 1987; d'Udekem d'Acoz, 1999; Reuschel & Schubart, 2006) consider *X. granulicarpus* a subspecies (or forma) of *X. hydrophilus* (Herbst, 1790), which is the valid name for *X. incisus* (Leach, 1814) according to Sakai (1999), while others regard it as a distinct species (Holthuis & Gottlieb, 1958; Koukouras et al., 1992; Türkay, 2001). In respect to *Monodaeus*, *M. guinotae* and *M. couchii* are considered two distinct species, but no reliable distinguishing features have been given for them. Due to the above, the geographical distribution of these species is also uncertain.

This study aims to elucidate the two above problems, as well as to provide more information on the geographical distribution and also facilitate the distinction of the Mediterranean Xanthidae.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Numerous Mediterranean and Atlantic specimens from various localities were examined. Initially, all the various characters of the studied species were examined, in order to estimate their variability. Then, the most comparable ones for *Monodaeus guinotae* versus *M. couchii* and *Xantho hydrophilus* versus *X. granulicarpus* were selected and are given in table I and table II, respectively, along with relevant literature data. The following abbreviations are used: CL = maximum carapace length; CW = maximum carapace width; Mxp = maxilliped; P = pereopod.

For the distinction of *X. granulicarpus* from *X. hydrophilus* the following typical, Atlantic specimens of *X. hydrophilus* were studied: — Atlantic coast of France: 3 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀ (2 ovig.), CW = 4.0 cm, Kerlouan, Finistère, Bretagne, depth 0 m, 14.vii.1991; 1 ♂, CW = 3.7 cm, Ile de Raguene, Concarneau, Finistère, Bretagne, depth 0 m, 23.i.1992; 1 ♂, CW = 2.9 cm, Roscoff, Finistère, Bretagne, depth 0 m, 24.i.1992; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, CW = 3.5 cm, Ile de Yeu, Vendée, Pays de Loire, depth 0 m, 15.viii.1993; 1 ♂, CW = 2.9 cm, pointe du Bindy, Brest, Finistère, Bretagne, depth 0 m, 23.i.1992.

RESULTS

***Monodaeus couchii* (Couch, 1851) (fig. 1)**

Xantho couchii Couch, 1851: 13.

Xantho tuberculata Bell, 1853: 359, 1 fig.; Adensamer, 1898: 611. (Not *X. tuberculatus* of Heller, 1863 = *X. granulicarpus* Forest, 1953.)

Xantho couchi, Bouvier, 1940: 267, figs. 171-173, pl. 10 fig. 11.

Monodaeus couchi, Guinot, 1967: 371, figs. 23, 32.

Medaeus couchi, Zariquiey Alvarez, 1968: 400, figs. 9, 15e, 133, 134a; Relini-Orsi & Relini, 1972: 66, fig. 11; Arena & Li Greci, 1973: 166.

Monodaeus guinotae Forest, 1976: 63, figs. 1-7; Türkay & Koukouras, 1988: 401, figs. 1-3.

Monodaeus cf. *guinotae*, d'Udekem d'Acoz, 1994: 26, fig. 1.

Material examined. — Atlantic Ocean: 5 ♂♂, 9 ♀♀, CW = 2.5 cm, off Agadir (31°1'N 10°16'W), Morocco, depth 360-375 m, 18.vi.1967; 10 ♂♂, 9 ♀♀, CW = 2.4 cm, off Lisbon (37°41.5'N 9°11.9'W), Portugal, depth 800 m, 20.i.1967. — Aegean Sea, Greece: 40 ♂♂, 13 ♀♀, CW = 3.5 cm, from various localities of the Aegean, depth 2-800 m.

Forest (1976) describing *M. guinotae*, distinguished it from *M. couchii* based on: the more hexagonal shape of the carapace, the absence of endostomal ridges in the buccal cavity, and the more slender pereopods. However, from table I it is obvious that the only character that can distinguish the “two species”, or the Atlantic and Mediterranean specimens, is the presence or absence of endostomal ridges in the buccal cavity. However, the absence of those ridges was noted only by Forest (1976), while both our Atlantic and Mediterranean specimens have endostomal ridges, which are incomplete (fig. 1). It is most likely that Forest (1976) overlooked the presence of these endostomal ridges, as they are hardly visible and incomplete. Thus, although the authors' efforts to find and study the holotype of *M. guinotae* where unsuccessful, it should be concluded that *M. guinotae* is identical to *M. couchii* and should be considered a junior synonym of the latter.

Distribution. — Eastern Atlantic: from Shetland Islands to Angola (d'Udekem d'Acoz, 1999). — Mediterranean Sea: western basin, Alboran Sea (Garcia Raso, 1984), Catalonia and Balearic Islands (Zariquiey Alvarez, 1968), Ligurian Sea (Relini-Orsi & Relini, 1972), Tyrrhenian Sea (Arena & Li Greci, 1973); Adriatic Sea (Adensamer, 1898); central basin, Gulf of Taranto (Forest, 1976); Aegean Sea (Adensamer, 1898; Türkay & Koukouras, 1988; d'Udekem d'Acoz, 1994; Ateş et al., 2006); Sea of Marmara (Müller, 1986).

***Xantho granulicarpus* Forest, 1953 (figs. 2, 3)**

Xantho tuberculatus, Heller, 1863: 68, pl. 2 figs. 5-7; Gilat, 1969: 62; Vatova, 1975: 37.

Xantho florida, Carus, 1885: 512.

Xantho floridus, Pesta, 1918: 423, fig. 139; Colosi, 1923: 7.

Xantho floridus var. *granulicarpus* Forest in Drach & Forest, 1953: 14, figs. 2, 15, 20.

Xantho incisus granulicarpus, Forest, 1957: 118; Zariquiey Alvarez, 1968: 398, figs. 130c, 132;

Pastore, 1976: 113; Garcia Raso, 1984: 108; Garcia Raso et al., 1987: 49, figs. 1-10.

Xantho granulicarpus, Holthuis & Gottlieb, 1958: 93.

Material examined. — Western Mediterranean, France: 1 ♀, CW = 1.4 cm, Six Fours les Plages, Var, Provence, depth 2 m, 16.x.1995; 3 ♂♂, 1 ♀, CW = 2.6 cm, various localities, Roussillon,

TABLE I
Comparison of the main morphological features of *Monodactylus guinotae* Forest, 1976 and *M. couchii* (Couch, 1851) according to literature data and the material studied (key features in **bold**). In parentheses, the references used: 1, Forest, 1976; 2, Crosnier, 1967; 3, Noël, 1992; 4, Garcia Raso, 1996; 5, Inglé, 1980, pl. 20b; 6, d'Udekem d'Acoz, 1994

| | Literature | | Present study | |
|---|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | <i>M. guinotae</i> | <i>M. couchii</i> | Atlantic specimens | Mediterranean specimens |
| Carapace | | | | |
| Minimum – maximum width | – | – | ♂♂: 0.7-3.5 ♀♀: 0.6-3.0 | ♂♂: 0.9-2.4 ♀♀: 1.0-2.5 |
| CL ₁ /CW | 0.67 (1) | 0.66-0.69 (2) | ♂♂: 0.65-0.84 ♀♀: 0.67-0.73 | ♂♂: 0.68-0.76 ♀♀: 0.67-0.76 |
| Front width/CW | 0.33 (1) | – | ♂♂: 0.26-0.43 ♀♀: 0.27-0.45 | ♂♂: 0.28-0.42 ♀♀: 0.27-0.38 |
| Antero-lateral teeth | Denticulated (3) | Not denticulated (3) | Granulated | Granulated |
| Endostomal ridges of the buccal cavity | Absent (1) | Present (1) | Present (incomplete) | Present (incomplete) |
| P3 | | | | |
| Height to length ratio of dactylus | 0.11 (1) | 0.16 (2, fig. 14) | 0.09-0.13 | 0.08-0.16 |
| Dactylus to propodus and carpus length ratio | 0.80 (1) | 0.73 (2, fig. 14) | 0.64-0.94 | 0.60-0.91 |
| Dactylus to merus length ratio | 0.66 (1) | 0.68 (2, fig. 14) | 0.6-0.78 | 0.62-0.76 |
| Height to length ratio of merus | 0.22 (1) | 0.33 (2, fig. 14) | 0.18-0.3 | 0.20-0.35 |
| P4 | | | | |
| Merus distal margin exceeds the level of the penultimate antero-lateral tooth | Yes (4) | No (5) | No | No |
| Merus distal margin exceeds the level of the ultimate antero-lateral tooth | Yes (4) | Yes (5) | Yes | Yes |
| P5 | | | | |
| Merus distal margin exceeds the level of the ultimate antero-lateral tooth | Yes (6) | No (5) | No | No |

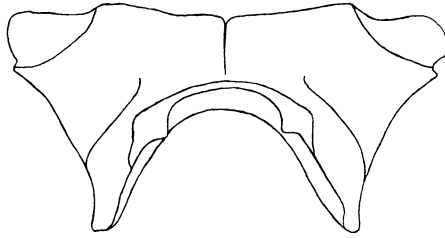


Fig. 1. Endostome of *Monodaeus couchii* (Couch, 1851). The endostomal ridges are present but incomplete.

Pyrénées Orientales, depth 0.5-7 m. — Aegean Sea, Greece: 24 ♂♂, 18 ♀♀ (1 ovig.), CW = 4.7 cm, from various localities in the Aegean, depth 0-30 m.

A detailed comparison of *Xantho granulicarpus* with *X. hydrophilus* (table II) revealed many constant, non-overlapping characters on the carapace, the carpus of the second to fourth pereopods, and the merus of Mxp3, that clearly separate the two species. In the relevant literature, the confusion created over the validity of *X. granulicarpus* is mainly due to the use of highly variable and overlapping characters for the distinction of the two species, like the length to width ratio of dactylus and merus of the first three pairs of ambulatory legs used in the identification keys of Drach & Forest (1953), Zariquiey Alvarez (1968), and Noël (1992), or the carapace width, carapace length, body height, and P4 ventral length used by Reuschel & Schubart (2006).

Almaça (1959, 1972) in his detailed work, considered the irregular shape of the superior margin of the carpus of P2 and the presence of the concavity on the anterior margin of the merus of Mxp3 to represent basic key features to distinguish *X. granulicarpus* from *X. hydrophilus* (figs. 2, 3). These features are quite constant and the few deviations observed both in the present study (figs. 2b, 3b) and the literature (Garcia Raso et al., 1987, figs. 1-10) should be attributed to size (very small or very large individuals) or malformations during moulting, as observed in other species, too (Koukouras et al., 2002).

Distribution. — Mediterranean Sea: western basin, Alboran Sea (Garcia Raso, 1984), Catalonia and Balearic Islands (Zariquiey Alvarez, 1968), French coast (Bourdillon-Casanova, 1960), Ligurian Sea (Carus, 1885; Gilat, 1969), Tyrrhenian Sea (Drach & Forest, 1953), Algeria (Forest, 1957); Adriatic Sea (Pesta, 1918); central basin (Vatova, 1975; Pastore, 1976); Aegean Sea (Kocataş, 1971; Koukouras et al., 1992); Sea of Marmara (Müller, 1986); Levantine basin, Libya (Colosi, 1923), Cyprus (Lewinsohn & Holthuis, 1986), Israel (Holthuis & Gottlieb, 1958), Lebanon (Shiber, 1981).

TABLE II
 Comparison of the main morphological features of *Xantho hydrophilus* (Herbst, 1790) and *X. granulicarpus* Forest, 1953 among literature data and material studied (key features in **bold**). In parentheses, the number of specimens

| | Drach & Forest (1953) | | Almaça (1959, 1972) | | Present study | |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| | <i>X. hydrophilus</i> | <i>X. granulicarpus</i> | <i>X. hydrophilus</i> | <i>X. granulicarpus</i> | <i>X. hydrophilus</i> | <i>X. granulicarpus</i> |
| Carapace | | | | | | |
| Minimum/Maximum CW | | | | | ♂♂: 1.6-4.7 | ♂♂: 0.5-3.9 |
| Dorsal surface | Slightly or not granulated | Strongly granulated | Granulose 93.4% (128) | Granulose 93.4% (43) | ♀♀: 3.4-3.8 Granulose 0% (0) | ♀♀: 0.6-2.5 Granulose 100% (47) |
| Last 2 antero-lateral teeth | Blunt or slightly acute | Acute | Not granulose 6.6% (9) | Not granulose 6.6% (3) | Not granulose 100% (11) | Not granulose 0% (0) |
| Large chela of males | | | Acute | Acute | Acute | Acute |
| The pigmentation of the fixed finger enters the palm | No | Yes | 97.1% (133) | 100% (44) | 27.3% (3) | 100% (47) |
| P2 Merus | | | Blunt | Blunt | Blunt | Blunt |
| L/W ratio | <2 | >2 | 2.9% (4) | 0% (0) | 72.7% (8) | 0% (0) |
| P2 Carpus | | | No (small ind.) Yes (large ind.) | No (small ind.) Yes (large ind.) | Yes 100% (6) | Yes 100% (20) |
| Superior margin | Regular | Very irregular | Slightly irregular 19.0% (26) | Very irregular | >2: 100% (11) | >2: 100% (24) |
| | | | Regular 81.0% (111) | Very irregular 0% (0) | Very irregular 0% (0) | Very irregular 93.1% (27) |
| | | | | Slightly irregular 9.1% (1) | Slightly irregular 9.1% (1) | Slightly irregular 6.9% (2)* |
| | | | | Regular 90.9% (10) | Regular 90.9% (10) | Regular 0% (0) |

TABLE II
(Continued)

| | Drach & Forest (1953) | | Almaça (1959, 1972) | | Present study | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|--|---|
| | <i>X. hydrophilus</i> | <i>X. granulicarpus</i> | <i>X. hydrophilus</i> | <i>X. granulicarpus</i> | <i>X. hydrophilus</i> | <i>X. granulicarpus</i> |
| Tubercles on superior margin | Absent | Present (strong) | Present All over (6%) Distal half (12%) Distal end (82%) | Present All over (100%) | Present 0% (0) | Present (strong) 93.1% (27) |
| Lateral depression on external surface | Shallow | Deep | - | - | Absent 100% (11) Very shallow 72.7% (8) Shallow 27.3% (3) Deep 0% (0) | Absent 6.9% (2)* Very shallow 0% (0) Shallow 6.9% (2)* Deep 93.1% (27) |
| P2 Carpus | | | | | | |
| Lateral keel of external surface | Regular | Irregular | - | - | Regular 100% (11) Irregular 0% (0) | Regular 0% (0) Irregular 100% (29) |
| Tubercles on lateral keel of external surface | Absent | Present | - | - | Present 0% (0) Absent 100% (11) | Present 93.1% (27) Absent 6.9% (2)* |
| P2 Dactylus | | | | | | |
| L/W ratio | ≈4 | 5 | - | - | ≤4: 18.2% (2) 4-5: 54.5% (6) ≥5: 27.3% (3) | <4: 3.4% (1) 4-5: 13.8% (4) ≥5: 82.8% (24) |
| P3 Merus | | | | | | |
| L/W ratio | <2 | >2 | - | - | =2: 18.2% (2) >2: 81.8% (9) | =2: 0% (0) >2: 100% (24) |

TABLE II
(Continued)

| | Drach & Forest (1953) | | Almaça (1959, 1972) | | Present study | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|--|
| | <i>X. hydrophilus</i> | <i>X. granulicarpus</i> | <i>X. hydrophilus</i> | <i>X. granulicarpus</i> | <i>X. hydrophilus</i> | <i>X. granulicarpus</i> |
| P3 Carpus | | | | | | |
| Superior margin | Regular | Very irregular | Slightly irregular 19.0% (26) Regular 81.0% (111) | Very irregular | Very irregular 0% (0) Slightly irregular 9.1% (1) Regular 90.9% (10) | Very irregular 100% (24) Slightly irregular 0% (0) Regular 0% (0) Present 91.7% (22) Absent 8.3% (2)* |
| Tubercles on superior margin | Absent | Present | Present All over (6%) Distal half (12%) Distal end (82%) | Present All over (100%) | Present 0% (0) Absent 100% (11) | Present 0% (0) Absent 8.3% (2)* Very shallow 0% (0) Shallow 8.3% (2)* Deep 91.7% (22) |
| Lateral depression on external surface | Shallow | Deep | - | - | Very shallow 72.7% (8) Shallow 27.3% (3) Deep 0% (0) | Very shallow 0% (0) Shallow 8.3% (2)* Deep 91.7% (22) |
| P3 Carpus | | | | | | |
| Lateral keel of external surface | Regular | Irregular | - | - | Regular 100% (11) Irregular 0% (0) Present 0% (0) Absent 100% (11) | Regular 0% (0) Irregular 100% (24) Present 91.7% (22) Absent 8.3% (2)* |
| Tubercles on lateral keel of external surface | Absent | Present | - | - | Present 0% (0) Absent 100% (11) | Present 0% (0) Absent 8.3% (2)* |

TABLE II
(Continued)

| | Drach & Forest (1953) | | Almaga (1959, 1972) | | Present study | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| | <i>X. hydrophilus</i> | <i>X. granulicarpus</i> | <i>X. hydrophilus</i> | <i>X. granulicarpus</i> | <i>X. hydrophilus</i> | <i>X. granulicarpus</i> |
| P3 Dactylus L/W ratio | ≈4 | 5 | - | - | ≤4: 36.4% (4) 4-5: 21.2% (3) ≥5: 36.4% (4) | ≤4: 4.2% (1) 4-5: 12.5% (3) ≥5: 83.3% (20) |
| P4 Merus L/W ratio | <2 | >2 | <2: 5.2% (7) =2: 52.9% (72) >2: 41.9% (57) | <2: 0% (0) =2: 0% (0) >2: 100% (46) | <2: 0% (0) =2: 0% (0) >2: 100% (10) | <2: 0% (0) =2: 0% (0) >2: 100% (22) |
| P4 Carpus superior margin | Regular | Very irregular | - | - | Regular 100% (10) Irregular 0% (0) | Regular 0% (0) Irregular 100% (22) |
| Lateral depression on external surface | Shallow | Deep | - | - | Very shallow 80.0% (8) Shallow 20.0% (2) Deep 0% (0) | Very shallow 0% (0) Shallow 0% (0) Deep 100% (22) |
| P4 Dactylus L/W ratio | ≈4 | 5 | =4: 29.1% (39) =5: 70.9% (95) | =4: 4.8% (2) =5: 95.2% (42) | ≤4: 30% (3) 4-5: 40% (4) ≥5: 30% (3) | ≤4: 9.1% (2) 4-5: 9.1% (2) ≥5: 81.8% (18) |
| P5 Carpus superior margin | Regular | Very irregular | - | - | Regular 100% (11) Irregular 0% (0) | Regular 0% (0) Irregular 100% (24) |

TABLE II
(Continued)

| | Drach & Forest (1953) | | Almaça (1959, 1972) | | Present study | |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| | <i>X. hydrophilus</i> | <i>X. granulicarpus</i> | <i>X. hydrophilus</i> | <i>X. granulicarpus</i> | <i>X. hydrophilus</i> | <i>X. granulicarpus</i> |
| Dactylus L/W ratio | - | - | - | - | ≤4: 81.8% (9) 4-5: 18.2% (2) ≥5: 0% (0) | ≤4: 45.8% (11) 4-5: 25.0% (6) ≥5: 29.2% (7) |
| 3rd abdominal somite (♂♂) | | | | | | |
| Lateral board | Right or slightly acute angle | Acute angle | Acute angle | Acute angle | Acute angle | Acute angle |
| | | | 86.4% (76) | 100% (18) | 100% (7) | 100% (27) |
| | | | Right or slightly acute angle | Right or slightly acute angle | Right or slightly acute angle | Right or slightly acute angle |
| | | | 13.6% (12) | 0% (0) | 0% (0) | 0% (0) |
| Exceeding the external edges of the penultimate thoracic sternite | No | Yes (in general) | Reaching or passing | Reaching or passing | Reaching or passing | Reaching or passing |
| | | | 44.3% (39) | 50% (9) | 100% (7) | 100% (27) |
| | | | Not reaching | Not reaching | Not reaching | Not reaching |
| | | | 55.7% (49) | 50% (9) | 0% (0) | 0% (0) |
| Mxp3 anterior margin of merus | | | | | | |
| Alignment in comparison with the posterior margin | Very oblique | Almost parallel | - | - | Very oblique | Almost parallel |
| | | | | | 100% (11) | 100% (47) |
| Projecting lobe near the articulation with the carpus | - | - | - | - | No | Yes |
| Concavity near the articulation with carpus | No | Yes | - | - | 100% (11) | 100% (47) |
| | | | | | Yes | Yes |
| | | | | | 0% (0) | 91.5% (43) |
| | | | | | No | No |
| | | | | | 100% (11) | 8.5% (4) |

* Moulting specimens.

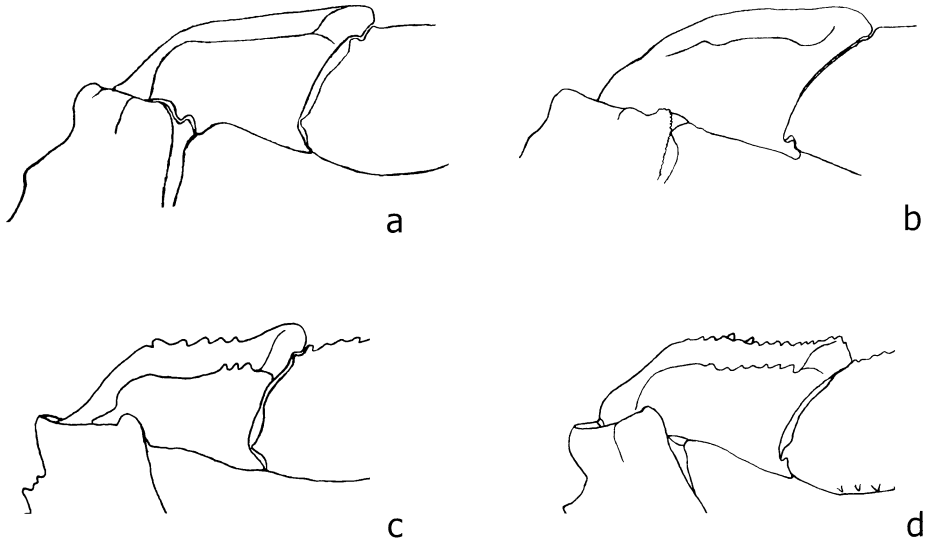


Fig. 2. Carpus of second pereopod, external view, of: a, *Xantho hydrophilus* (Herbst, 1790): typical specimen from sta. 3 (CW = 2.5 cm); b, *X. granulicarpus* Forest, 1953: moulting specimen from sta. 42 (CW = 1.6 cm); c-d, *X. granulicarpus*: typical specimens from sta. 36 (CW = 1.0 cm) and sta. 104 (CW = 2.5 cm), respectively.

***Xantho pilipes* A. Milne-Edwards, 1867**

Xantho pilipes A. Milne-Edwards, 1867: 268; Drach & Forest, 1953: 17, figs. 4, 7, 9, 11, 13, 17, 23; Ingle, 1980: 118, figs. 57, 64, 65, pl. 21a.

Material examined. — Atlantic Ocean, France: 19 ♂♂, 10 ♀♀ (4 ovig.) CW = 3.9 cm, various localities, Finistère, Bretagne, depth 0 m. — Western Mediterranean, France: 2 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀, CW = 2.7 cm, various localities, Pyrénées Orientales, depth 0-7 m; Spain: 1 ♀, CW = 1.4 cm, Balears (39°52'N 02°45'E), depth 0-1 m, 10.vi.1952. — Aegean Sea, Greece: 2 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀, CW = 1.7 cm, from various localities of the Aegean, depth 0-20 m.

The material examined fits well to the descriptions of this species given by Nobre (1936), Drach & Forest (1953), and González & Méndez (1986). The complex nomenclatural history of this species was discussed by Holthuis (1954).

Distribution: — Eastern Atlantic: from S.W. Norway to Angola (d'Udekem d'Acoz, 1999). — Mediterranean Sea: western basin (d'Udekem d'Acoz, 1999); Adriatic Sea (Stevcic, 1990); central basin (Forest & Guinot, 1956; Pastore, 1976); Aegean Sea (Kocataş, 1981; Koukouras et al., 1992).

***Xantho poressa* (Olivi, 1792)**

Cancer poressa Olivi, 1792: 48, pl. 2 fig. 3.

Xantho rivulosa, Ostroumoff, 1896: 83.

Xantho hydrophilus, Pesta, 1918: 420, fig. 138; Bouvier, 1940: 266, pl. 10 fig. 171; Huni & Aravindan, 1984: 5. (Not *X. hydrophilus* (Herbst, 1790).)

Xantho rivulosus, Drach & Forest, 1953: 16, figs. 3, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, 22.

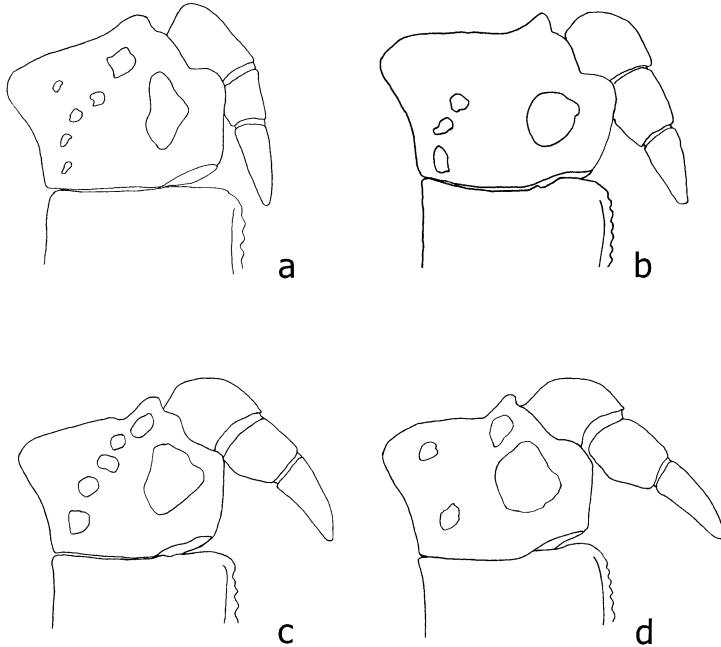


Fig. 3. Third maxilliped of: a, *Xantho hydrophilus* (Herbst, 1790): typical specimen from sta. 3 (CW = 2.5 cm); b, *X. granulicarpus* Forest, 1953: moulting specimen from sta. 42 (CW = 1.6 cm); c-d, *X. granulicarpus*: typical specimens from sta. 36 (CW = 1.0 cm) and sta. 104 (CW = 2.5 cm) respectively.

Xantho poressa, Holthuis, 1954: 104; Zariquiey Alvarez, 1968: 395, figs. 1, 130, 131.

Material examined. — Western Mediterranean, Italy: 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀, CW = 1.5 cm, Cagliari, Sardinia, depth 0-1 m, 21.ii.1997. — Aegean Sea, Greece: 140 ♂♂, 68 ♀♀ (14 ovig.), CW = 4.1 cm, from various localities of the Aegean, depth 0-20 m.

The examined material agrees well with the descriptions of this species given by Nobre (1936), Drach & Forest (1953) and Christiansen (1969). The complex nomenclatural history of this species was discussed by Holthuis (1954).

Distribution: — Eastern Atlantic: from Portugal to Canary Islands (d'Udekem d'Acoz, 1999). — Mediterranean Sea: western basin (d'Udekem d'Acoz, 1999); Adriatic Sea (Stevcic, 1990); central basin (Forest & Guinot, 1956; Pastore, 1976); Aegean Sea (Koukouras, 1972; Kocataş et al., 1987); Sea of Marmara (Ostroumoff, 1896); Levantine basin (Holthuis & Gottlieb, 1958; Huni & Aravindan, 1984; Lewinsohn & Holthuis, 1986). — Black Sea (Băcescu, 1967).

OTHER XANTHIDAE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Atergatis roseus (Rüppell, 1830)

Carpilius roseus Rüppell, 1830: 13, pl. 3 fig. 3.

Atergatis roseus, Lewinsohn & Holthuis, 1964: 58, fig. 4; Barnard, 1950: 207, fig. 38; Galil et al., 2002: 132, photo.

Material. — No specimens studied.

Distribution. — Indo-Pacific: from Red Sea to Fiji (Galil et al., 2002). — Mediterranean Sea: Lessepien species, first recorded in Israel in 1961 (Lewinsohn & Holthuis, 1964). Also found in Lebanon (Shiber, 1981) and southern Turkey (Ozcan et al., 2005).

Microcassiope minor (Dana, 1852)

Xantho minor Dana, 1852: 169; atlas, 1855, pl. 8 fig. 7.

Xanthias granosus, Balss, 1936: 38; Bouvier, 1940: 268, pl. 10 fig. 12.

Micropanope rufopunctata, Monod, 1956: 313, figs. 386-392; Guinot, 1967: 358, figs. 10, 15.

Microcassiope minor, Manning & Holthuis, 1981: 138, fig. 30.

Material examined. — Aegean Sea: 1 ♂, CW = 0.7 cm, Linaraki, Sykia, Chalkidiki, depth 0-0.5 m, 5.viii.1975.

The only individual studied matches well the descriptions of the species from the literature (Holthuis & Gottlieb, 1958; Guinot, 1967; Garcia Raso & López de la Rosa, 1992). The complex ancient nomenclature of this species is well given by Manning & Holthuis (1981).

Distribution. — Western Atlantic: from Bahamas to Venezuela (d'Udekem d'Acoz, 1999). — Eastern Atlantic: from Azores to Saint Helena Islands (d'Udekem d'Acoz, 1999). — Mediterranean Sea: western basin (Garcia Raso & Lopez de la Rosa, 1992); Aegean Sea (Kocataş, 1981); Levantine basin (Balss, 1936; Kocataş et al., 2001).

Paractea monodi Guinot, 1969

Actaea rufopunctata, Balss, 1936: 37; Bouvier, 1940: 269, fig. 174, pl. 10 figs. 13, 14; Zariquiey Alvarez, 1968: 404, fig. 134c.

Paractea monodi Guinot 1969: 259, figs. 33, 34; Türkay, 1982: 118.

Paractea rufopunctata, Garcia Raso & Barrajon, 1982: 8, fig. 3; Castelló et al., 1987: 296.

Material examined. — Aegean Sea: 1 ♀, CW = 1.3 cm, Sykia, Milos I., depth 10-40 m, 19.vi.1992; 1 ♂, CW = 0.5 cm, Antipsara I., depth 60 m, 26.ix.1955; 1 carapace, CW = 1.0 cm, Messiniakos Gulf, depth 38-40 m, 11.iv.1955.

Our specimens fit well the original description of Guinot (1969) for this species. The male studied had the three areas of the gastric lobe (3M) merged, as noted by Guinot (1969) for very small individuals.

Distribution. — Eastern Atlantic: from Azores to Cape Verde Islands (d'Udekem d'Acoz, 1999). — Mediterranean Sea: western basin (Zariquiey Alvarez, 1968; Castello et al., 1987; Noël, 1993); Adriatic Sea (Stevcic, 1990); central basin, from various localities (d'Udekem d'Acoz, 1999); Aegean Sea (Koukouras et al., 1992); Levantine basin (Balss, 1936; d'Udekem d'Acoz, 1994).

Paragalene longicrura (Nardo, 1868)

Eriphia longicrura Nardo, 1868: 302, pl. 13 fig. 8.

Paragalene neapolitana Kossmann, 1878: 253.

Paragalene longicrura, Bouvier, 1940: 263, fig. 169, pl. 10 fig. 8; Türkay, 1976: 70, figs. 1-2; Pallaoro, 2005: 750, fig. 2.

Material examined. — Levantine, Greece: 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀ (1 ovig.), CW = 4.2 cm, Kastelorizo I., Dodekanissa, 40 m, 20.x.2004.

Distribution. — Eastern Atlantic: Madeira (Türkay, 1976); Canary Islands (González Pérez, 1995). — Mediterranean Sea: western basin (Kossmann, 1878; Dieuzeide & Goëau-Brissonière, 1955; García Socias, 1985; Grippa, 1993); central basin (Pallaoro, 2005); Aegean Sea (Türkay, 1976); Levantine basin, reported for the first time in the present study from Kastelorizo I., Greece.

KEY TO THE MEDITERRANEAN XANTHIDAE

1. Dorsal face of carapace smooth, suboval, without any indication of regions. Antero-lateral margin of carapace smooth, without any teeth or lobes *Atergatis roseus*
 – Dorsal face of carapace more or less divided into regions. Antero-lateral margin of carapace with teeth or lobes (2)
2. Dorsal face of carapace divided into lobes that are covered with pearl-like granules. Antero-lateral margin of carapace with five rounded lobes (exorbital lobe included) *Paractaea monodi*
 – Dorsal face of carapace divided into lobes that are not covered with pearl-like granules. Antero-lateral margin of carapace with more or less acute teeth (3)
3. Carapace front with four distinct teeth *Paragalene longicrura*
 – Carapace front smooth or granulated (4)
4. Carapace hexagonal. Last three antero-lateral teeth prominent, triangular, and elevated. Ambulatory legs (P2-P5) very slender *Monodaeus couchii*
 – Carapace transversally oval. Last three antero-lateral teeth not prominent or not triangular. Ambulatory legs short (5)
5. Carapace surface and chelipeds strongly tuberculated. Antero-lateral teeth small, subtriangular, and denticulated. Small species (CL < 1 cm) *Microcassiope minor*
 – Carapace surface and chelipeds smooth or weakly granulated. Antero-lateral teeth smooth or granulated. Large species *Xantho* (6)
6. Carapace with last two antero-lateral teeth with fringe of long hairs on their ventral surface. Carpus and propodus of ambulatory legs with a continuous fringe of long hair *Xantho pilipes*
 – Carapace with last two antero-lateral teeth without fringe of hairs on their ventral surface. Carpus and propodus of ambulatory legs sparsely setose (7)
7. Carapace lobes granulose, strongly projecting, and limited by deep depressions. Antero-lateral teeth more or less granulated. First sternite apically triangular, with narrow lateral depressions. P2-P4 carpus with superior margin and lateral keel tuberculated *Xantho granulicarpus*
 – Carapace lobes smooth, weakly projecting, and limited by shallow depressions. Antero-lateral teeth smooth. First sternite apically ensiform, with wide lateral depressions. P2-P4 carpus with superior margin and lateral keel smooth or granulated *Xantho poressa*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank Dr. P. Y. Noël, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, for kindly offering the Atlantic and western Mediterranean *Xantho* material from his personal collections.

This study was supported by the Operational Programme for Education and Initial Vocational Training (EPEAEK II), action "PYTHAGORAS I" (co-funded by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs of Greece and the European Union).

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