

Genus *Chitonosphaera*, gen. nov.

Type species: *Gnorimosphaeroma lata* Nishimura, 1968, by designation.

Description

Body elliptical, dorsally moderately convex, lateral margins fringed only by short setae, without a membrana cingula. Anterolateral margins of cephalon slightly produced and adjoining with second articles of antennular peduncle, cephalon thus not forming part of body outline. Coxal plates broad, subquadrangular, separated by sutures from tergites, strongly dilated laterally and adjoining each, forming smooth body outline. Dorsal surface of pereon smooth. Only pleonites 1 and 2, and narrow anterior parts of pleotelson reach the lateral border of the body; posterior pleonite narrower than preceding pleonites, not participating in outline of the body. Anterior pleonal suture indicated by lateral incisions which are shorter than width of coxal plates; second suture much longer than incomplete. Pleotelson evenly convex, subtriangular, apex obtusely truncated, not concealed by uropods, entire, without notches, grooves, or projections. Antennule peduncle articles 1 and 2 flattened and dilated, subtriangular, produced in front of cephalon, entirely concealing anterior margin. Basal articles of antennule approximating each other on the midline and not separated by epistome, which does not expand forward and is not visible. Articles 2-4 of maxilliped palp produced into wide but not long lobes. Mandible with well-defined, very broad molar process, and incisive part rather narrow. Pereopods ambulatory, non-modified with 2 unequal claws. Two rami of pleopod 3 without sutures, bearing long plumose setae. All rami of posterior pleopods flat, membranous, lacking transverse folds. Pleopod 4 exopod with a few plumose apical setae and several simple outer-marginal setules, endopod lacks any of them. Both rami of pleopod 5 without setae or setules. Rami of penis short, blunt-tipped not united at base. Appendix masculina slightly dilated in distal third, with rounded top. Both uropodal rami take part in forming the body contour; endopod long, not extending beyond pleotelsonal apex; exopod short, fixed, inserted into notch of sympod.

Remarks

In 1968, Nishimura described a new species, *Gnorimosphaeroma lata*, from central Honshu, Japan. However, this species clearly differs from other species of *Gnorimosphaeroma* Menzies, 1954, in its more flattened body, in its subquadrangular rather than tongue-shaped epimera, in its subtriangular rather than semi-circular pleotelson with truncated apex and, especially, in the different structure of the uropods, with the immovable exopod fixed fast into the notch of the sympod and forming with the exopod the body outline. Moreover, peduncle articles 1 and 2 of the antennule of *G. lata* are greatly dilated, subequal in width and form the anterior part of the body contours; article 3 is considerably narrower. In contrast, in all species of *Gnorimosphaeroma*, the antennular articles are moderately dilated and gradually narrowed distally. A new genus, *Chitonosphaera*, must for this reason be erected to contain *Gnorimosphaeroma lata* Nishimura, 1968, and probably also *Gnorimosphaeroma salebrosa* Nishimura 1968, both from central Japan. The new genus must be placed into group 'E' of Wägele (1989).

Etymology

The generic name is composed of the Latin for 'flat oval mollusc' and the Greek 'sphaيرا' (globe). It means that this genus has a similar outline of a depressed body and is capable of rolling into a ball. Gender feminine.

Chitonosphaera lata (Nishimura), comb. nov.

(Figs 16-18)

Gnorimosphaeroma lata Nishimura, 1968: 273-9, figs 1-5.

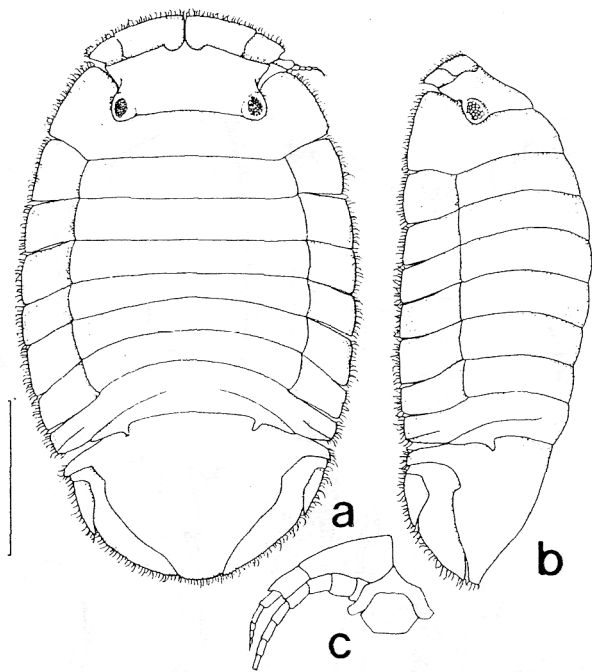


Fig. 16. *Chitonosphaera lata*, female: a, dorsal view; b, lateral view; c, epistome and labrum and right antennule and antenna.

Material Examined

South China Sea: south-eastern Vietnam, Nha Trang, 4 m, 15.iii.1981, S. Rostomov, 1♂ (3.4 mm); Gulf of Tonkin, a beach on the river Van-Uk, 1.vii.1961, E. F. Gurjanova, 1 damaged specimen without cephalon; China coast, Lau-Chjou I., intertidal zone, 10.xii.1958, O. B. Mokievsky, 1♂.

Distribution

West Pacific subtropic-tropical species. Known from central Honshu, Japan and south-eastern Vietnam.

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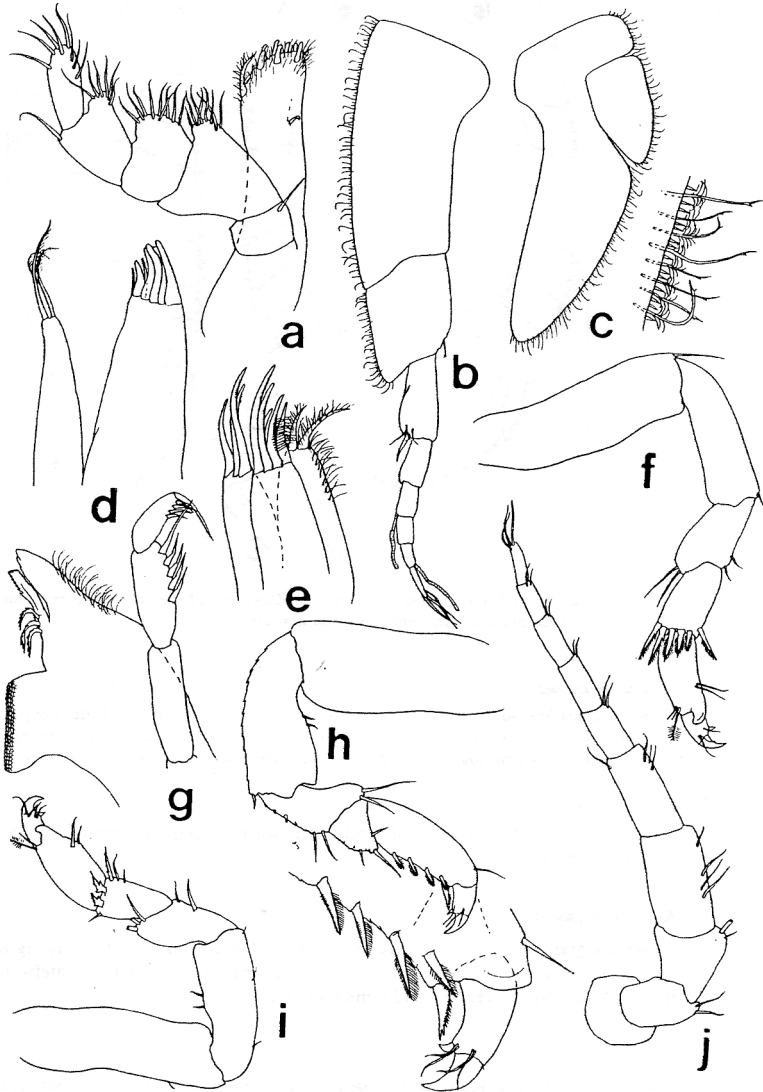


Fig. 17. *Chitonosphaera lata*, female: a, maxilliped; b, antennule; c, uropod; d, maxillule; e, maxilla; f, pereopod 7; g, left mandible; h, pereopod 1; i, pereopod 4; j, antenna.

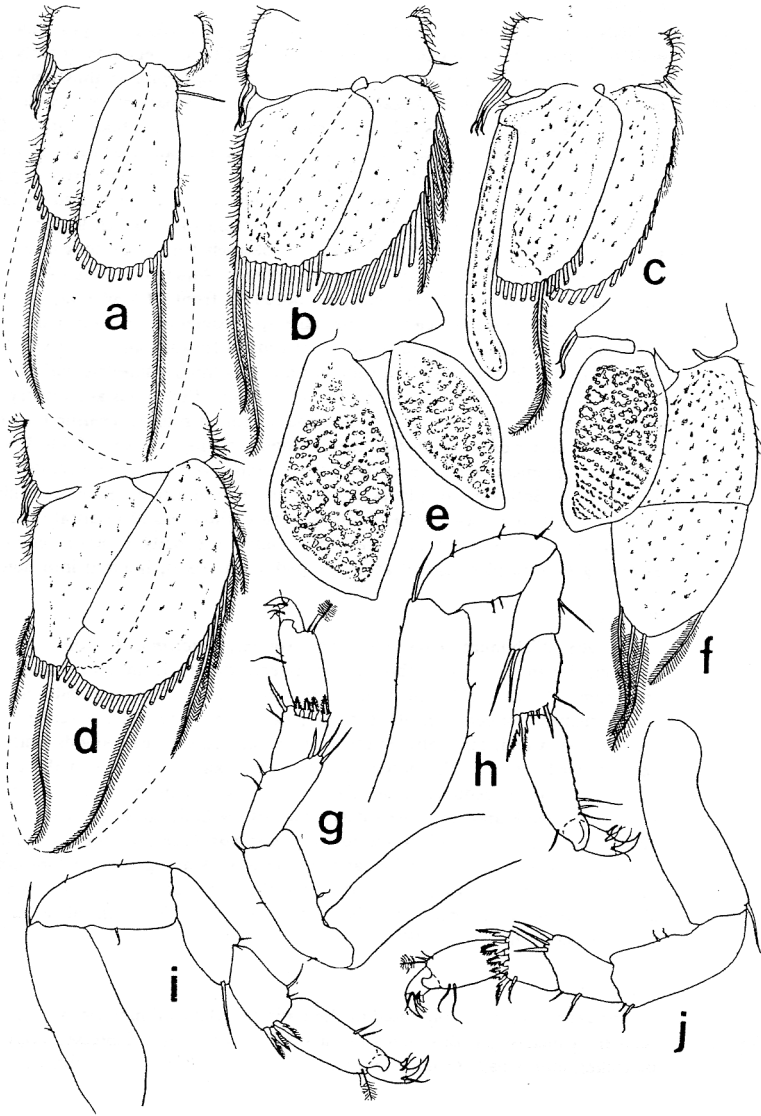


Fig. 18. *Chitonosphaera lata*, c, male; remainder, female: a, pleopod 1; b, pleopod 2; c, pleopod 2; d, pleopod 3; e, pleopod 4; f, pleopod 5; g, pereopod 6; h, pereopod 2; i, pereopod 3; j, pereopod 5.

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