

First record of the genus *Medicorophium* (Amphipoda: Corophiidea) from outside the Mediterranean

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Medicorophium runcicorne is described from the Canary Islands. This is the first record of the genus from outside the Mediterranean and Black Seas. A key is provided to the species of *Medicorophium*.

Keywords: Amphipoda, *Medicorophium*, Canary Islands, new record

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INTRODUCTION

Collections of amphipods from Tenerife Harbour in the Canary Islands proved to contain specimens of *Medicorophium runcicorne* Della Valle, 1893. This species was previously known only from the Mediterranean and Black Seas. It is also the first record of any member of the genus *Medicorophium* from outside the Mediterranean and Black Seas. Slight differences were noted between Canary Islands material and specimens from the Mediterranean Sea, but these differences were not considered significant for the erection of a new species.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Specimens were preserved in 70% ethanol. Dissection was made under a stereomicroscope and parts were mounted on microscope slides in glycerine for drawing with a camera lucida on a Nikon compound microscope.

Material is deposited in the National History Museum, London (NHMUK).

Abbreviations used in figures: A1, antenna 1 peduncle; A2, antenna 2; G1, gnathopod 1; G2, gnathopod 2; U3, uropod 3.

RESULTS

SYSTEMATICS

Medicorophium runcicorne (Della Valle)
(Figures 1 & 2)

Corophium runcicorne Della Valle, 1893, p. 13, 369, pl. 4, figure 7; pl 8, figures 1–16—Chevreux & Fage, 1925, p. 365,

figure 373—Crawford, 1937, p. 605—Gurjanova, 1951, p. 983, figure 684—Myers, 1982, p. 197, figure 134—*Medicorophium runcicorne* Bousfield & Hoover, 1997, 82.

MATERIAL EXAMINED

6 males, 10 females, Santa Cruz de Tenerife harbour, UTM 380020x/3151713y, depth: 35 m, seabed (NHMUK 2013. 161–170.): silt/clay; 4 males, 2 females, Santa Cruz de Tenerife harbour, UTM 378005x/3148879y, depth: 16 m, seabed: silt/clay.

REMARKS

Material of *Medicorophium runcicorne* Della Valle (1893) from the Canary Islands differs from Mediterranean material in being smaller (<3 mm as opposed to 4 mm). It is also more slender, the male antenna 2 article 4 being three times as long as broad (2 × as long as broad in Mediterranean material) and article 5 is four times as long as broad (about 2 × as long as broad in Mediterranean material). The spine on the posterodistal margin of the male antenna 2 article 4 is broader based (subtriangular) and more deflected than in Mediterranean material. In the female, antenna 2, article 4 has only two robust setae on the ventral margin, whereas in Mediterranean material there are five.

In addition, the outer ramus of uropod 2 is longer than the inner ramus in Canary Islands material but is subequal with it in Mediterranean material. Despite these differences the Canary Islands material agrees with Mediterranean material of *Medicorophium runcicorne* too closely to consider it specifically distinct.

HABITAT

Canary Islands material was found on silt/clay seabeds in depths of 16–35 m. It was associated with the mollusc *Abra alba*, the amphipods *Pariambus typicus* and *Apocorophium acutum*, the isopod *Anthura gracilis* and the polychaete *Aponuphis bilineata*. In the Canary Islands, corophiini have

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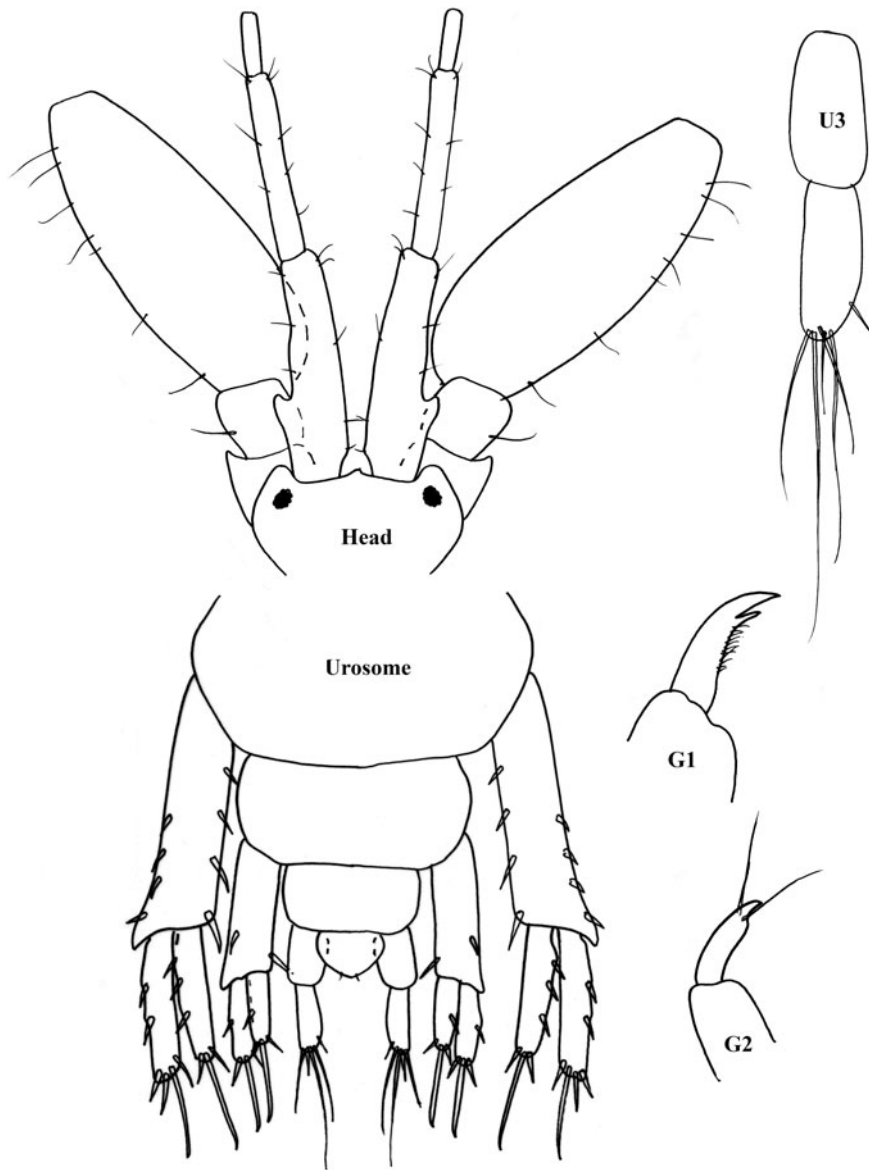


Fig. 1. *Medicorophium runcicorne* Della Valle, male, Santa Cruz de Tenerife Harbour.

been commonly recorded in harbours where sediments are dominated by silt and clay (Riera *et al.*, 2012).

Mediterranean material was found on mud and mobile substrates and among *Peyssonnelia* and *Caulerpa*.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *MEDICOROPHIUM*

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|---|---|
| <p>1. Rostrum well developed, spine-like
 <i>M. aculeatum</i> Chevreux, 1908, male
 – Rostrum small, triangular. 2</p> <p>2. Uropod 3 peduncle broader distally
 <i>M. rotundirostre</i> Stephensen, 1915
 – Uropod 3 peduncle parallel sided. 3</p> <p>3. Antenna 2 article 4 lacking spines or robust setae.
 <i>M. minimum</i> Schiecke, 1979, male
 – Antenna 2 article 4 with spine(s) and/or robust setae 4</p> | <p>4. Antenna 2 lacking robust setae, but with distoventral spine(s) <i>M. runcicorne</i> Della Valle, 1893, male
 – Antenna 2 with robust setae, with or without distoventral spine. 5</p> <p>5. Antenna 2 article 4 with robust setae and a small, blunt, distoventral spine
 <i>M. annulatum</i> Chevreux, 1908, male
 – Antenna 2 article 4 with robust setae but no distoventral spine 6</p> <p>6. Antenna 2 article 4 with proximal robust setae recurved
 <i>M. minimum</i> Schiecke, 1979, female
 – Antenna 2 article 4 proximal robust setae straight or forward curved 7</p> <p>7. Antenna 1 article 1 with robust setae or short fine setae along inner margin 8
 – Antenna 1 article 1 with long slender setae along inner margin. 9</p> |
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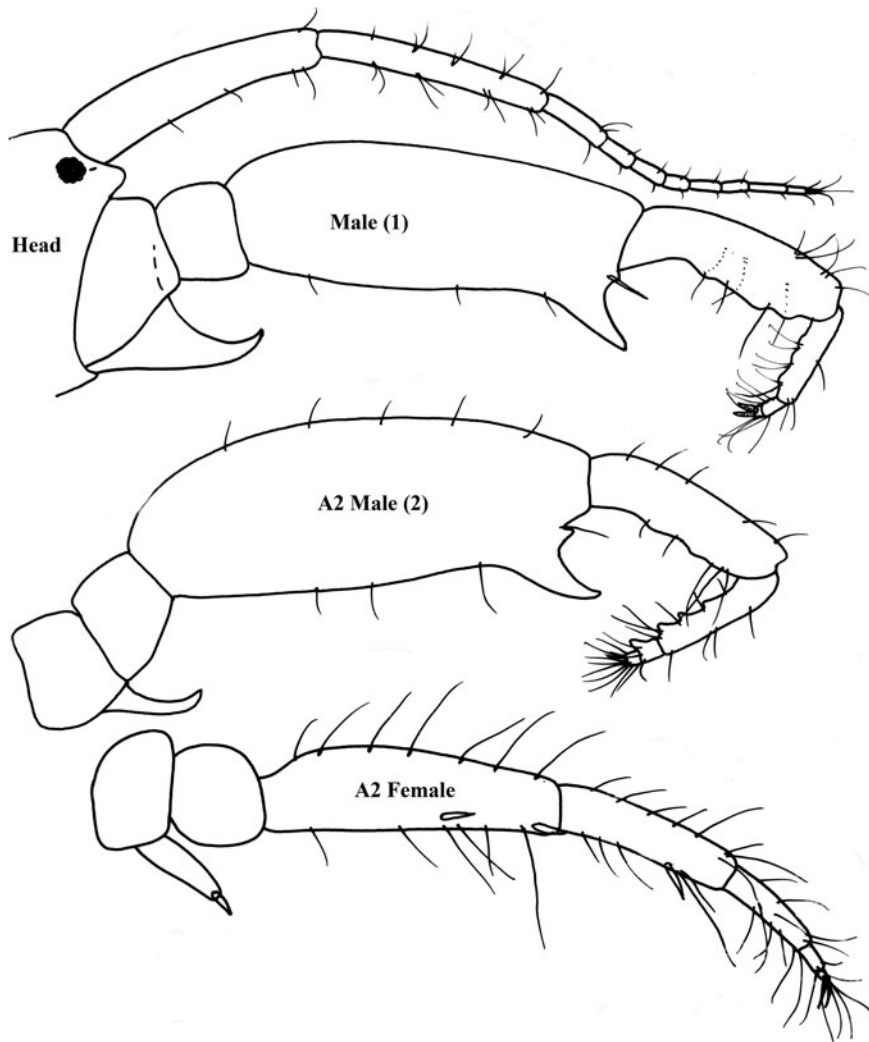


Fig. 2. *Medicorophium runcicorne* Della Valle, male and female, Santa Cruz de Tenerife Harbour.

- 8. Antenna 2 article 4 with uniformly short evenly spaced robust setae along inner margin
.....*M. annulatum* Chevreux, 1908, female
- Antenna 2 article 2 with variable length, irregularly spaced robust setae along inner margin
.....*M. aculeatum* Chevreux, 1908, female
- 9. Antenna 1 with proximal recurved robust setae
.....*M. runcicorne* Della Valle, 1893, female
- Antenna 1 lacking proximal robust setae
.....*M. longisetosum* Myers, da la Ossa Carretero & Dauvin, 2010

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