

## *Paralaophonte harpagone* sp. n. (Copepoda: Harpacticoida), a laophontid with an extremely specialised maxilliped

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### Abstract

*Paralaophonte harpagone* sp. n. is described from the coast of Kenya. Its most distinguishing feature is the robust, enlarged and specialised maxilliped, present in both sexes. This maxilliped is similar in robustness and position to the highly specialised maxilliped in the laophontid genus *Namakosiramia* Ho & Perkins, 1977 the two members of which live as ectoparasites on holothurians. The detailed description of *P. harpagone* sp. n. and a discussion of the possible role of the maxilliped are presented in the accompanying Organisms Diversity & Evolution Electronic Supplement.

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**Keywords:** Laophontidae; *Paralaophonte harpagone* sp. n.; Specialised maxilliped

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### Systematics

Family Laophontidae T. Scott, 1905

Subfamily Laophontinae T. Scott, 1905 sensu Huys and Lee (2000)

Genus *Paralaophonte* Lang, 1944

*Paralaophonte harpagone* sp. n.

### Etymology

The specific epithet is derived from the Latin noun *harpago* (= grappling hook), *harpagone* being the ablative form, and refers to the large maxilliped.

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### Type material

Holotype ♀ on one slide (COP 4714, deposited in the Invertebrate Collections of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (KBIN), Brussels); western Indian Ocean, Kenyan coast, in front of village Kurwitu (03°47'S, 39°49'E), from dead coral fragments, water depth less than 1 m; 26 February 2002, leg. M. Raes.

Paratypes. (A) As holotype, except as follows: allotype ♂ dissected on three slides (COP 4715a–c); 2 ♀♀ and 2 ♂♂ dissected on slides (COP 4716–COP 4719); 4 ♀♀, 4 ♂♂, 2 CII, 1 CIII, 2 CIV and 1 ♀ CV preserved in 70% alcohol (COP 4720). (B) 1 ♀ preserved in 70% alcohol (COP 4721); western Indian Ocean, Kenyan coast, Watamu Marine Park (03°21'S, 40°01'E), from dead coral fragments, water depth 2–3 m; 27 February 2002, leg. M. Raes.

## Diagnosis

The new species does not show any sexual dimorphism in the endopodite of P3, nor in the exopodites of P2 to P4. However, it is a true representative of the genus *Paralaophonte* Lang, 1944 by the typical sexually dimorphic P2 endopodite with its modified distal inner seta on the second endopodal segment. Within the genus, *Paralaophonte harpagone* sp. n. has a unique chaetotaxy, but the most distinguishing feature is the

shape and position of the robust maxilliped, previously unseen in *Paralaophonte*.

## Reference

- Huys, R., Lee, W., 2000. Basal resolution of laophontid phylogeny and the paraphyly of *Esola* Edwards. Bull. Nat. Hist. Mus. (Zool.) 66, 49–107.