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NOTA CIENTÍFICA

FIRST FINDING OF *MACROCHIRON SARGASSI* G. O. SARS, 1916 (COPEPODA: POECILOSTOMATOIDA: MACROCHIRONIDAE) IN THE GULF OF MEXICO.

Primer hallazgo de Macrochiron sargassi G. O. Sars, 1916 (Copepoda: Poecilostomatoida: Macrochironidae) en el Golfo de México.

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ABSTRACT

For the first time, one species from the family Macrochironidae, is recorded from the Gulf of Mexico. The species, *Macrochiron sargassi*, was found on the west coast of Florida, USA, while performing *Sargassum* washes.

KEY WORDS: Copepoda, Poecilostomatoida, Macrochironidae, *Macrochiron sargassi*, Gulf of Mexico.

RESUMEN

Se registra por primera vez para el Golfo de Mexico un representante de la familia Macrochironidae. La especie Macrochiron sargassi *fue hallada luego de lavados de* Sargassum sp. *colectado en la costa oeste de La Florida, USA.*

PALABRAS CLAVE: *Copepoda, Poecilostomatoida, Macrochironidae,* Macrochiron sargassi*, Golfo de Mexico.*

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Macrochiron* Brady, 1872 currently comprises 14 species (WoRMS, 2017), most of which live in association with the hydroid genera *Aglaophenia*, *Lytocarpus* and *Gymnangium*. One species is known to live associated with echinoids, one species is known to live with ascidians, and three are considered free-living (Brady, 1872, Boxshall and Halsey, 2004, Humes and Stock, 1973, Kim, 2000, Stock, 1957 and Vervoort, 1964). This report documents the first time *Macrochiron sargassi* from the family Macrochironidae

is found amongst *Sargassum* mats within the Gulf of Mexico.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

Copepods were collected by gathering *Sargassum* sp. along the west coast of Florida, USA. The mats were shaken to release material from the algae and sieved through 300 µm sieve. The copepods were separated manually at 60x magnification using a Wild M5 stereomicroscope and the drawings were made with the aid of a *camera lucida*. The classification system proposed by Khodami *et al*., (2017) has been followed and for the identification of the material, the keys of Humes and Stock (1973) were used. All material was vouchered and deposited in the Florida International Crustacean Collection (FICC) at Florida International University (F.I.U).

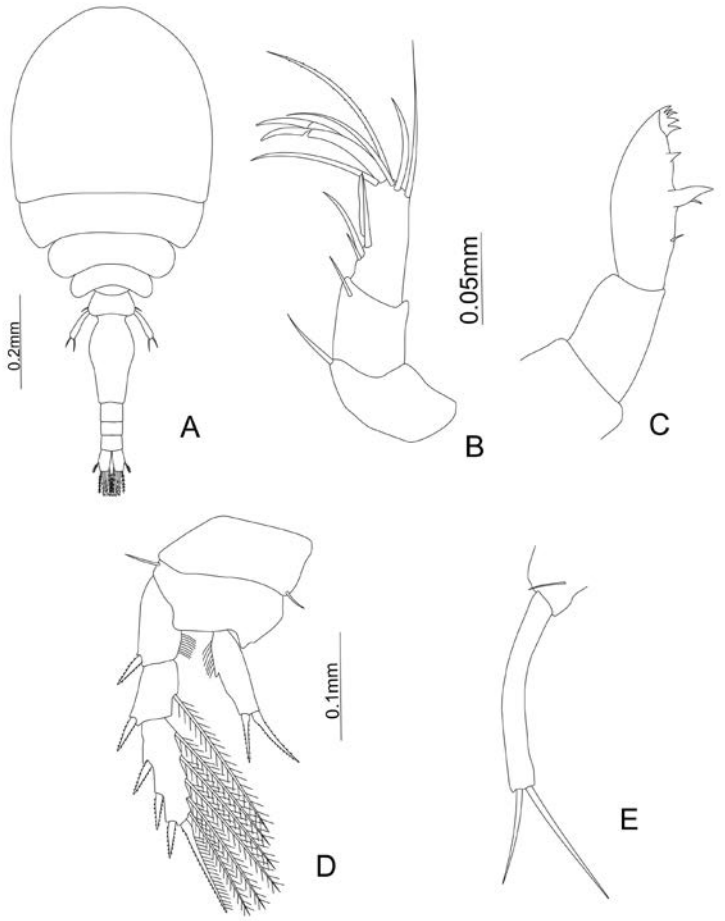

Fig. 1. *Macrochiron sargassi.* Female. A. Dorsal view. B. Second antenna. C. Maxilliped; D. Leg 4 and E. Leg 5.

RESULTS

Class Hexanauplia
Subclass Copepoda
Order Cyclopoida
Suborder Poecilostomatoida
Superfamily Lichomolgoidea
Family Macrochironidae
Macrochiron sargassi G. O. Sars, 1916

Material examined. 1 male and 1 female. Collected in Tampa Bay (27° 32'N and 82°44'W), Florida, USA; 12 February 2014; 1, 5 meters deep; col. D. Rosales. HBG 8475.

Diagnosis. Non ovigerous female of 0.83 mm and 1 male of 0.78 mm. Body cyclopiform (Fig. 1A); second antenna with two claws nearly the equal to length of segment (Fig. 1B); maxilliped with armature dentiform in appearance (Fig. 1C); last segment of exopod of leg 4 with armature III, I, 5 (Fig. 1D); endopod of leg 5 a single segment (Fig. 1E).

Distribution. This species has been found in several localities of the Sargasso Sea, Curacao Island, San Martin Island, and the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico (Caribbean Sea) (Suarez-Morales and Reid, 1991). This is the first finding of a member of the family Macrochironidae in the Gulf of Mexico.

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