

New record of amphipod *Elasmopus alkhiranensis* (Myers and Momtazi, 2015) from the breakwaters at Faw city, Iraq

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Abstract

One male specimen of the new record amphipod *Elasmopus alkhiranensis* (Myers and Momtazi, 2015) previously recorded from Iraq was discovered. The specimen was collected alive from the intertidal zone at the breakwaters of Faw city on the Iraqi coast. Although this species is widespread in the Persian-Arabian Gulf, our study is the first to report it along the Iraqi coast.

Key words: Intertidal zone, Persian-Arabian Gulf, amphipods

1. Introduction

In 1986, Salman described a new marine amphipod species *Stenothoe irakiensis* Salman, 1985 from Khour Abdullah (Salman, 1985), and later in 1986, Salman described a new marine amphipod species, *Parhyale basrensis*, from the Shatt Al- Arab River (Abu-Al-Kaseeb, Iraq) (Salman, 1986). In 1990, Salman and Jabbar described a new amphipod species, *Cheiriphotis williamsoni*, and redescribed the known species *C. megacheles* (Giles, 1885) from two localities in Iraqi waters of the northwestern Arabian Gulf, namely, Khour Abdullah and Khour Al-Zubair (Salman and Jabbar, 1990). Later, the same author recorded two other species, namely: *Platorchestia monodi* (Mateus, Mateus & Afonso, 1986) from Shatt Al-Arab, and *Elasmopus pecteniscrus* (Spence bate, 1863) from northwest of the Persian-Arabian Gulf in 1997 and 1998, respectively. Most recently, Naser et al., (2010) listed another amphipod *Grandidierella macronyx* K.H. Barnard, 1935 from the brackish water of the Shatt Al-Basrah Canal.

In 2015, Myers and Momtazi described a new amphipod *E. alkhiranensis* from five Arabian Gulf localities including Khiran (Kuwait).

This paper presents additional records of the amphipod *E. alkhiranensis* not previously recorded from Iraq along with a preliminary checklist of the amphipods of Iraq.

2. Materials and methods

Specimens of *E. alkhiranensis* were collected from the breakwaters at Faw city of the northwest of the Persian-Arabian Gulf at 29.901427° N, 48.439762° E on 22 November 2022 (Fig. 1). The specimens were preserved in 70% ethanol and deposited in the Marine Science Centre (MSC), with collection voucher number (702), University of Basrah, Iraq. Provisional identifications were made following Myers & Momtazi (2015).

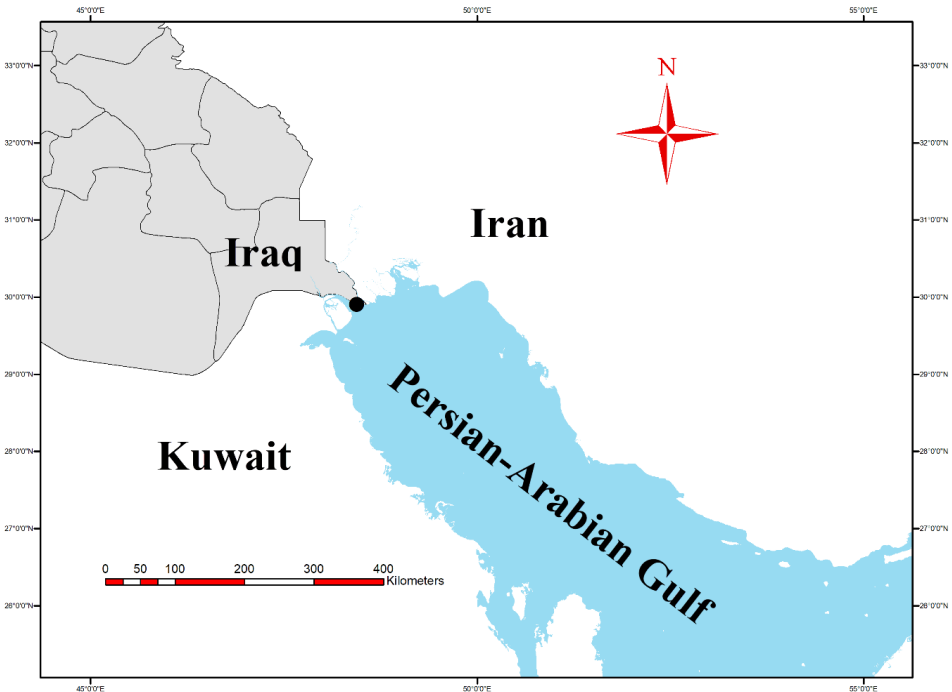


Figure 1. Map sampling from breakwaters at Faw city, Iraq (black dot)

3. Results and Discussion

Materials examined: 1 male, Male length 10.0 mm (Fig. 2A).

Head with well-developed notch; eye lobes truncate; eye ovate. Antenna 1 is about half body length, peduncular articles 1 and 2 subequal in length; article 3 is about half the length of article 2; primary flagellum shorter than peduncle, with 14 articles; accessory flagellum with 2-3 articles. Antenna 2 is shorter than antenna 1, articles 4 and 5 are subequal in length; flagellum is subequal to peduncular article 5, with 6-9 articles (Fig.2 B). Gnathopod 1 (G1) coxa deeper than broad, anterior margin weakly convex; basis stout, weakly excavated for reception of carpus when folded; carpus and propodus subequal, anterior margins heavily setose; palm weakly convex; dactylus fitting palm. Gnathopod 2 (G2) coxa narrower than coxa 1, much deeper than broad; basis slender; carpus greatly reduced, cup-shaped; propodus

greatly enlarged subovoid; palm a short shelf bordered with robust setae; dactylus very large falciform, greatly overlapping palm.



Figure. 2. *Elasmopus alkhiranensis*.

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Conflict of interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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