

FIRST RECORD OF THE THALASSINID *CALLIANASSA SUBTERRANEA* (MONTAGU) (CRUSTACEA, DECAPODA) FROM THE COAST OF NORWAY¹

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SARSIA



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A small specimen of *Callianassa subterranea* has been found on the south coast of Norway between 60 and 100 m depth. This is the first published record of the species from the Norwegian coast.

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When one of us (L.G.) was identifying some Tanaidacea from the south coast of Norway, a small decapod crustacean was found in a sample among the tanaidaceans. It turned out to be the thalassinid *Callianassa subterranea* (MONTAGU), a species which has not hitherto been reported from the Norwegian coast. The specimen was collected during a cruise with the R/V 'G.M. Dannevig' 32 years ago (18 July 1950), east of Homborøy, Homborsund (c. 58° 15' N, c. 08°35' E) between 60 and 100 m depth by the late senior curator N. KNABEN, Zoological Museum, University of Oslo. There is no information on bottom conditions nor any notes about the type of gear which was used on this locality. The carapace length of the specimen is 3.1 mm from the tip of the rostrum to the medial end of the carapace. Since the abdomen is rather flexed, it is not possible to give an accurate measure of the total length. The specimen is kept in the Zoological Museum, University of Oslo, Catalogue No. F 19 181.

Before GUSTAFSON (1934) undertook an investigation on the Thalassinioidea of the Swedish west coast, *C. subterranea* had been considered to be rather rare in Scandinavian waters, and only a few specimens had earlier been reported from this area. GUSTAFSON used a deep-digging ring dredge to obtain material of Thalassinioidea and found the three species *C. subterranea*, *Upogebia deltaura* (LEACH), and *U. stellata* (MONTAGU) to be rather common in Gullmarfjorden and

on the Swedish coast plateau. *C. subterranea* was found between 30 and 53 m on bottom consisting of sand-mixed clay.

POULSEN (1940) studied Thalassinioidea from those parts of the Kattegat, Skagerrak, and the North Sea which border on the Danish coasts. Although *C. subterranea* had never been recorded from Danish waters before, POULSEN found that the species was common on suitable localities in the eastern North Sea. The northern Kattegat east of Fredrikshavn seemed to be the inner limit of *C. subterranea* in Danish waters. The specimens were either caught in a bottom sampler or found in the stomachs of haddock.

SAMUELSEN (1974) mentioned that the burrowing habits of the two *Upogebia* species seem to be the main reason for the apparent rarity of these species in Norwegian waters. This may be true also for *C. subterranea*. When diving, SAMUELSEN frequently observed the openings of *Upogebia* burrows from the littoral zone to a depth of about 40 m. He was in the littoral zone able to collect animals by digging at LW, but in deeper water specimens were not so easily obtained. Probably *C. subterranea* is difficult to collect by diving, since the species generally is found between 30 and 60 m in Scandinavian waters (POULSEN 1940).

Finds of larvae of *C. subterranea* in plankton samples taken in Oslofjorden both in 1978 and 1979 (SMEDSRUD 1982) indicate that the species also lives in this fjord. Most likely *C. subterranea* occurs on suitable localities on the south coast of Norway as observed earlier by GUSTAFSON (1934) and POULSEN (1940) with regard to Swedish and Danish waters respectively.

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