

A new squat lobster of the genus *Munidopsis* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Munidopsidae) from the Mediterranean Sea

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SUMMARY: A new species of *Munidopsis* Whiteaves, 1874 is reported from the south of Crete, at 2046–2104 m, in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. The species (*M. ariadne*) is morphologically closely related to *M. maunga* Schnabel and Bruce, 2006, from New Zealand. The species is also close to *M. polymorpha* Koelbel, 1892, from Lanzarote, Canary Islands, and *M. talismani* A. Milne Edwards and Bouvier, 1894, from the NW Africa. The new species is described and illustrated and a diagnosis along with full illustration is provided for the latter 2 species.

Keywords: Galatheoidea, morphology, new species, deep-sea.

RESUMEN: UNA NUEVA ESPECIE DE CRUSTÁCEO DEL GÉNERO MUNIDOPSIS (CRUSTACEA: DECAPODA: MUNIDOPSIDAЕ) DEL MAR MEDITERRÁNEO. – Se describe una especie nueva de *Munidopsis* Whiteaves, 1874 capturada al sur de Creta, a 2046–2104 m, en el Mediterráneo oriental. La especie (*M. ariadne*) es próxima morfológicamente a *M. maunga* Schnabel and Bruce, 2006, de Nueva Zelanda. La especie está también relacionada con *M. polymorpha* Koelbel, 1892, de Lanzarote, Islas Canarias, y *M. talismani* A. Milne Edwards and Bouvier, 1894, del NO de África. Se describe e ilustra la nueva especie y se incluye una ilustración completa y una diagnosis de estas dos últimas especies.

Palabras clave: Galatheoidea, morfología, especie nueva, mar profundo.

INTRODUCTION

The Mediterranean Sea is one of the “hot spots” of the world in marine biodiversity (Fredj and Laubier, 1985). Recent reviews have demonstrated the importance of this area, which shows a high level of endemism, mostly influenced by its geological and evolutionary history and oceanographic regime (Danovaro *et al.*, 2010). Although our knowledge of the deep-sea ecosystems and biodiversity of the Mediterranean is thought to be considerable, recent studies based on rarefaction curves suggest that a high proportion of the overall Mediterranean deep-sea fauna is still undiscovered (Danovaro *et al.*, 2010). The proportion of endemic species in the Mediterranean basin is much lower in the deep sea than in shallow water areas (Fredj

and Laubier, 1985, Galil and Goren, 1994). However, some interesting endemic deep-sea decapods have been found in this basin: e.g. *Zariqueyon inflatus*, *Chaceon mediterraneus*, and *Levantocaris hornungae* (Manning and Holthuis, 1989, Galil and Clark, 1993).

The genus *Munidopsis* Whiteaves, 1874 belongs to the family Munidopsidae Ortmann, 1898 (Ahyong *et al.*, 2010) and is one of the most diverse genera of the superfamily Galatheoidea (see Baba *et al.*, 2008). Species of this genus are commonly found living on the continental slope, usually below 500 m, and on the abyssal plain below 2000 m (Baba, 2005; Macpherson, 2007). The genus *Munidopsis* is so far represented by more than 70 species in the Atlantic Ocean (Macpherson and Segonzac, 2005, Baba *et al.*, 2008), with a depth distribution ranging from 2 m (*M. polymorpha*

Koelbel, 1892) to 5330 m [*M. parfaiti* (Filhol, 1885) and *M. thieli* Türkay, 1975]. In contrast, in the Mediterranean Sea the genus is only represented by 3 small-sized species:

1. *Munidopsis acutispina* Benedict, 1902 reported from Sardinia, in the western Tyrrenian Sea at 374-1036 m (Foglia *et al.*, 2002) and the eastern Mediterranean at 2030 m (Macpherson and Segonzac, 2005). The species is also known from the mid-Atlantic Ridge, at 830 m, and off Mauritania and Morocco at 698-950 m (A. Milne Edwards and Bouvier, 1894, 1899, 1900, Macpherson and Segonzac, 2005), and on the Galicia Bank (Macpherson, unpublished data).

2. *Munidopsis marionis* (A. Milne Edwards, 1881) is endemic to the Mediterranean Sea. It was first recorded from Planier Island, western Mediterranean, at 450 m (A. Milne Edwards and Bouvier, 1900). The species was found again in the eastern Mediterranean, at 1000-1700 m (Galil and Goren, 1994, Macpherson and Segonzac, 2005), and Sardinia (western Tyrrhenian Sea) at 374-571 m (Foglia *et al.*, 2002).

3. *Munidopsis serricornis* (Lovén, 1852) reported from the NW Mediterranean, at 960-1580 m (Abelló and Valladares, 1988, Cartes, 1993, Cartes *et al.*, 1993). The species is known from numerous localities in the Atlantic Ocean, between 92 and 2165 m (Baba *et al.*, 2008). The occurrences along the Indian and Pacific Oceans are under study and probably belong to a different species. The species has often been reported under the synonymy *Munidopsis tridentata*.

The very few individuals of the genus *Munidopsis* collected by numerous cruises carried out in the deep waters of the Mediterranean Sea (Danovaro *et al.*, 2010) suggest that this genus is poorly represented in the area. Low abundances of these animals seem to be supported by the fact that only a single specimen was recovered in the eastern basin, south of the Crete Island, at 2046-2104 m during the cruise BIOFUN. However, this specimen is a new species, being clearly differentiated from the 3 above-listed species. In the present paper this species is described and illustrated. The new species belongs to the group having a narrowly triangular rostrum, a smooth dorsal carapace surface smooth (at most 1 pair of epigastric spines), unarmed abdominal tergites, the chelipeds longer than walking legs, unarmed eyes, and absence of epipods from the pereopods (Baba, 2005). In the NE Atlantic Ocean there are only 2 species of this group: *M. polymorpha* Koelbel, 1892, from Lanzarote, Canary Islands, and *M. talismani* A. Milne Edwards and Bouvier, 1894, from NW Africa. These 2 species are only partially illustrated in the literature. Therefore, in order to facilitate the comparison among species, the diagnoses and full illustrations of these 2 known species are also provided.

The size of the carapace is indicated as the postorbital carapace length measured along the dorsal midline from the posterior orbital margin to the posterior margin of the carapace. The terminology used mainly

follows Baba (2005). The abbreviations used are: P1 = first pereopod (cheliped), P2-4 = second to fourth pereopods (first to third walking legs). The specimens studied are deposited in the Institut de Ciències del Mar (CSIC), Barcelona (ICM), Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris (MNHN), and Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt (SMF).

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Munidopsis ariadne n. sp. (Fig. 1)

Material examined. Eastern Mediterranean (South Crete). BIOFUN, Stn BF1M16, 34°36.77'N, 25°52.34'E, 17 June 2009, 2046-2104 m; 1 male 6.0 mm, holotype (ICMD-20110120_01).

Etymology. The name *ariadne*, in the Greek mythology, refers to the daughter of the king Minos of Crete and his queen, Pasiphaë.

Description. Carapace: 1.4 times longer than broad; dorsal surface moderately convex from side to side, smooth, with some short striae, and few short uniramous setae; unarmed except for paired well-developed epigastric spines. Regions well delineated by furrows including distinct anterior and posterior cervical grooves. Posterior cardiac region weakly triangular, preceded by deep transverse depression. Posterior margin preceded by elevated ridge. Rostrum narrowly triangular, nearly horizontal in lateral view, terminating in acute tip, length 1 quarter that of remaining carapace; dorsal surface with longitudinal ridge; lateral margins carinated and straight. Frontal margin slightly oblique behind ocular peduncle, leading to antennal spine, then convex toward anterolateral corner of carapace. Antennal spine directed straight forward; distinct spine ventral to frontal margin between ocular and antennal peduncles. Lateral margins weakly convex and subparallel; anterolateral spine well developed but smaller than antennal spine; anterior end of anterior branch of cervical groove with distinct notch followed by distinct spine situated at anterior end of branchial margin; anterior end of posterior cervical groove without notch, followed by small spine distantly posterior to it. Pterygostomial flap smooth, with small striae, anteriorly unarmed.

Sternum: Slightly longer than broad, maximum width at sternites 6 and 7. Sternite 3 moderately broad, 3 times wider than long, anterior margin with shallow median notch flanked by 2 low lobes, lateral margin somewhat angular. Sternite 4 narrowly elongate anteriorly; surface depressed in midline, smooth; greatest width twice that of sternite 3, and twice wider than long.

Abdomen: Smooth, unarmed; tergites 2-3 each with 2 elevated transverse ridges, but tergites 4-6 lacking such ridges; tergite 6 with weakly produced posterolateral lobes and nearly transverse posteromedian margin. Telson composed of 10 plates; posterior plates combined 1.8 times as wide as long.

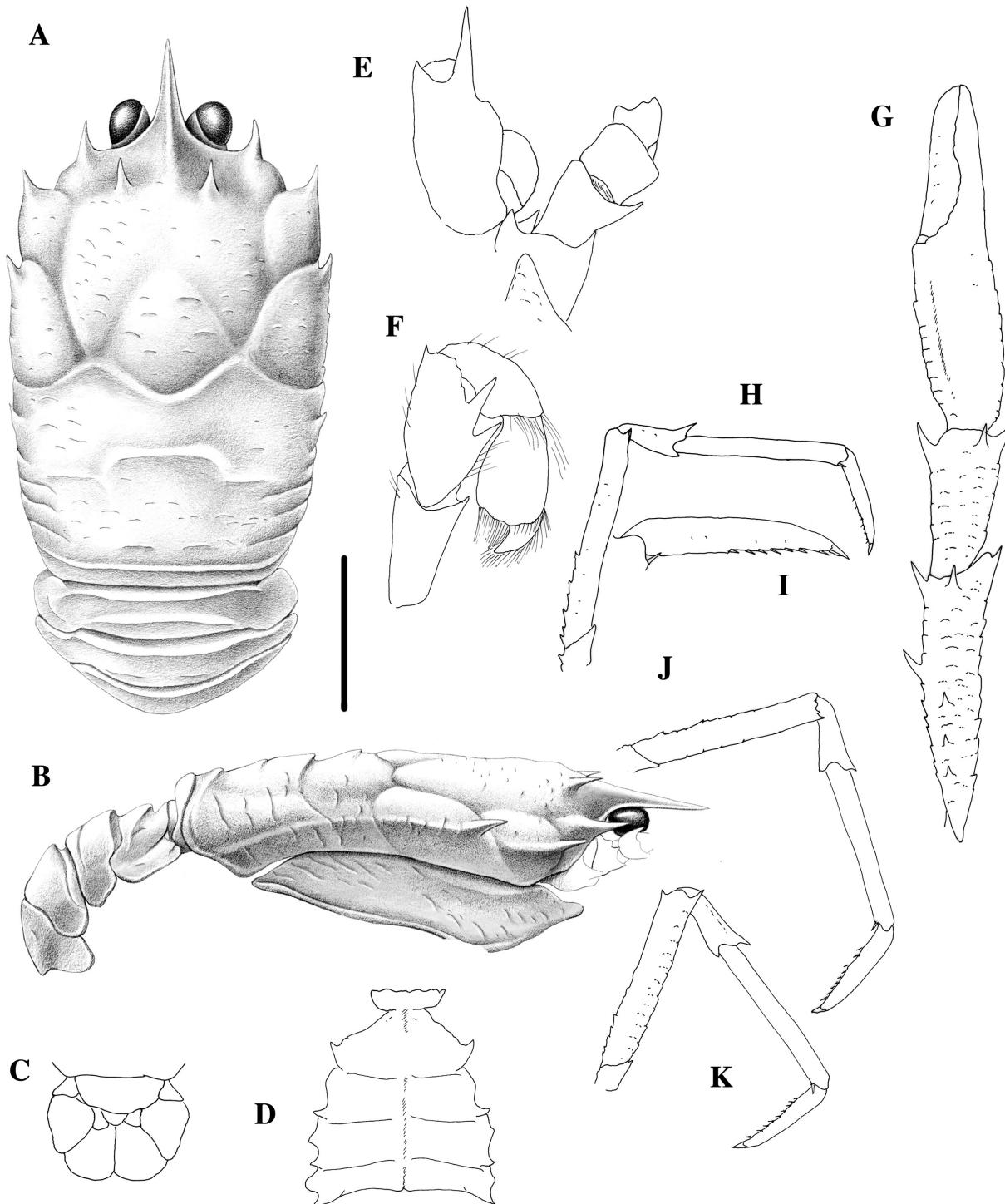


FIG. 1. – *Munidopsis ariadne* n. sp. Holotype, male 6.0 mm (ICMD-20110120_01). A, carapace and abdomen, dorsal view. B, carapace and abdomen, right lateral view. C, telson. D, sternal plastron. E, left antenna and antennula, ventral view. F, right maxilliped 3. G, right P1. H, Right P2. I, Right P2 dactylus. J, Right P3. K, Right P4. Scale: A-D, 2.0 mm; G, H, J, K, 1 m; E-F, I, 0.5 mm.

Eye: Ocular peduncle immobile. Cornea subglobular, non-pigmented, unarmed, as wide as eyestalk.

Antennule: Basal article of antennular peduncle with strong distolateral spine, distomesial spine small; lateral margin swollen, with minute tubercle.

Antenna: Antennal peduncle reaching end of rostrum; article 1 with distomesial and distolateral spines, both short, not reaching mid-length of article 2; article 2 armed with short distolateral spine, unarmed on distomesial angle; articles 3 and 4 unarmed.

Maxilliped 3: Ischium as long as merus measured on extensor margin; flexor margin sharply ridged, terminating in small spine; extensor margin unarmed; 20 corneous denticles on crista dentata; merus having flexor margin with 2 distinct subequal spines, extensor margin with small distal spine; carpus, propodus and dactylus unarmed.

Pereopod 1 (cheliped): Left and right appendages subequal, 3 times longer than carapace, with short striae and some small granules; uniramous setae scattered on merus to dactylus. Merus with 3 distal spines (lateral, mesial, and dorsal) and row of mesial and dorsal spines. Carpus twice longer than high, with 3 distal spines (lateral, mesial and dorsal). Palm slender, nearly 1.3 length of carpus, 2.3 times as long as high, and 1.2 times as long as fingers. Fingers not gaping; prehensile edges each with row of subtriangular teeth, proximal teeth obsolete; fixed finger without denticulate carina on distolateral margin.

Pereopods 2-4 (walking legs): moderately slender, with few small granules and short striae on dorsal surface, somewhat compressed laterally, P2 slightly longer than P3 and P4, overreaching end of P1 carpus; ischium to propodus with few uniramous setae; dactylus with tufts of short simple setae. P2 merus elongate, slightly shorter than carapace, 3.5 times length of P2 carpus and 1.4 times length of P2 propodus, 1.1 times length of P4 merus. P2-4 meri with distal spine on dorsal and ventral margin; carpi with prominent, blunt distal spine, lateral side with longitudinal crest; propodi 7.4 times as long as high, unarmed except for 2 corneous distal spines on ventral margin; dactyli 0.7 length of propodi; distal claw short, moderately curved; flexor margin nearly straight, with 8 (on P2) or 9 (on P3-4) small teeth decreasing in size proximally, each with slender corneous spine, ultimate tooth equidistant between dactylar tip and penultimate tooth. Epipods absent from P1-4.

Colour: whitish.

Remarks. *Munidopsis ariadne* belongs to the group of species with the carapace unarmed (except pair of epigastric spines), abdomen smooth, rostrum short and narrowly triangular, P1 longer than P2, eye with immobile ocular peduncle, and cornea subglobular and unarmed. The closest species is *M. maunga* Schnabel and Bruce, 2006, from the caldera of Macauley volcano within the Kermadec volcanic arc (north of New Zealand), at 636-751 m (Schnabel and Bruce, 2006). *Munidopsis ariadne* is also closely related to *M. polymorpha* from a shallow anchialine system in Lanzarote, Canary Islands (Figs. 2-3) and *M. talismani* from the NW Africa (between 830-1113 m) (Fig. 4).

Munidopsis ariadne is distinguished from *M. maunga* by the following: the rostrum is dorsally carinated instead of smooth; the P2 merus is slightly shorter than instead of half as long as the carapace; and the epigastric spines are clearly larger.

Munidopsis ariadne can be easily distinguished from *M. polymorpha* by the shape of the rostrum and

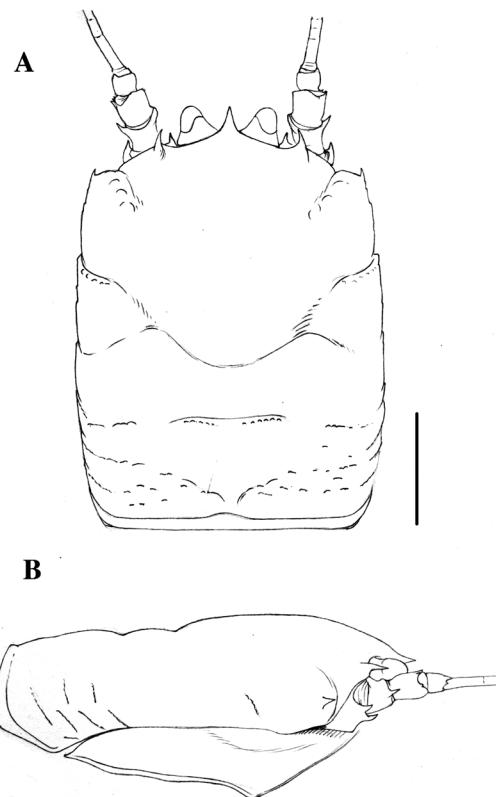


FIG. 2. — *Munidopsis polymorpha* Koelbel, 1892, male 7.2 mm (MNHN-Ga185), carapace. A, dorsal view. B, lateral view. Scale: 3.5 mm.

the spinulation of the carapace. In *M. polymorpha* the rostrum is clearly shorter and not carinated, and the carapace is unarmed, without epigastric and lateral spines, whereas in the new species the rostrum is narrowly triangular, and the carapace is armed with epigastric and lateral spines.

Munidopsis ariadne differs from *M. talismani* in the following features: the carapace bears 2 epigastric, 1 antennal and 1 laterobranchial spine, instead of being unarmed; the rostrum is horizontal and dorsally carinated rather than being directed upwards, without dorsal carina; the flexor margin of the P2-4 dactyli are nearly straight instead of distinctly concave; and the ultimate of the flexor teeth is closer to rather than remote from the dactylar tip.

Distribution. Known only from the Mediterranean Sea, south of Crete, at 2046-2104 m.

Munidopsis polymorpha Koelbel, 1892 (Figs. 2-3)

Munidopsis polymorpha Koelbel, 1892: 109, pl. 10, Figs. 3-16.
Baba et al., 2008: 155 (compilation).

Material examined. Canary Islands. Lanzarote. Jameos del Agua cave, 2-8 m. 16.12.1933, L. Fage and Th. Monod coll.: 18 males 6.0-9.0 mm, 6 ovigerous females 7.0-9.0 mm, 9 females 4.0-6.8 mm (MNHN-Ga185). — 05.02.1971, Rubio leg.: 1 male 6.2 mm (MNHN-Ga 289). — 30.12.1997: 2 males 6.1-6.5 mm (ICM).

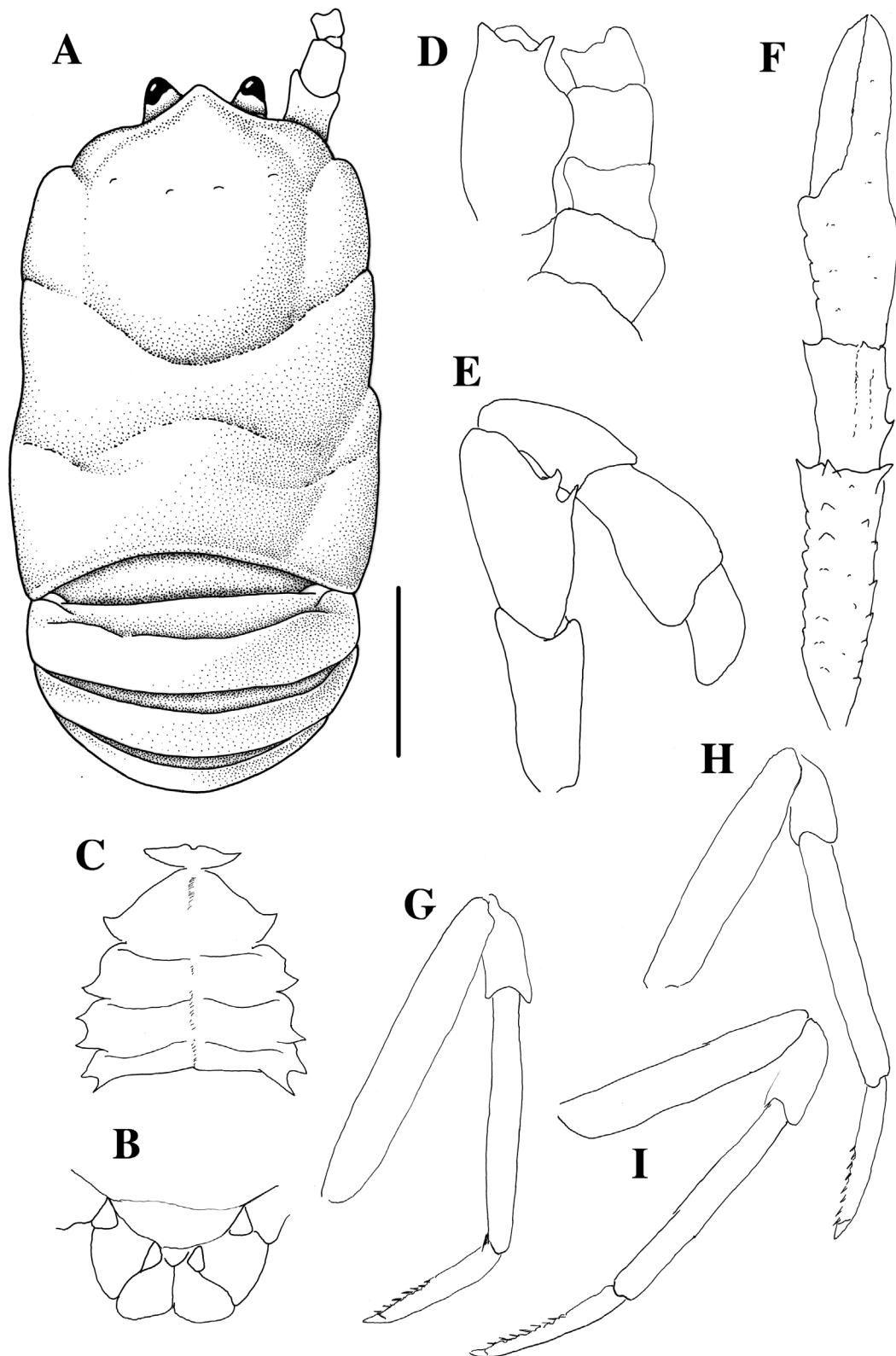


FIG. 3. — *Munidopsis polymorpha* Koelbel, 1892, male 6.1 mm (ICM). A, carapace and abdomen, dorsal view. B, telson. C, sternal plastron. D, left antenna and antennula, ventral view. E, right maxilliped 3. F, right P1. G, Right P2. H, Right P3. I, Right P4. Scale: A-C, F-I, 2.0 mm; D-E, 1.0 mm.

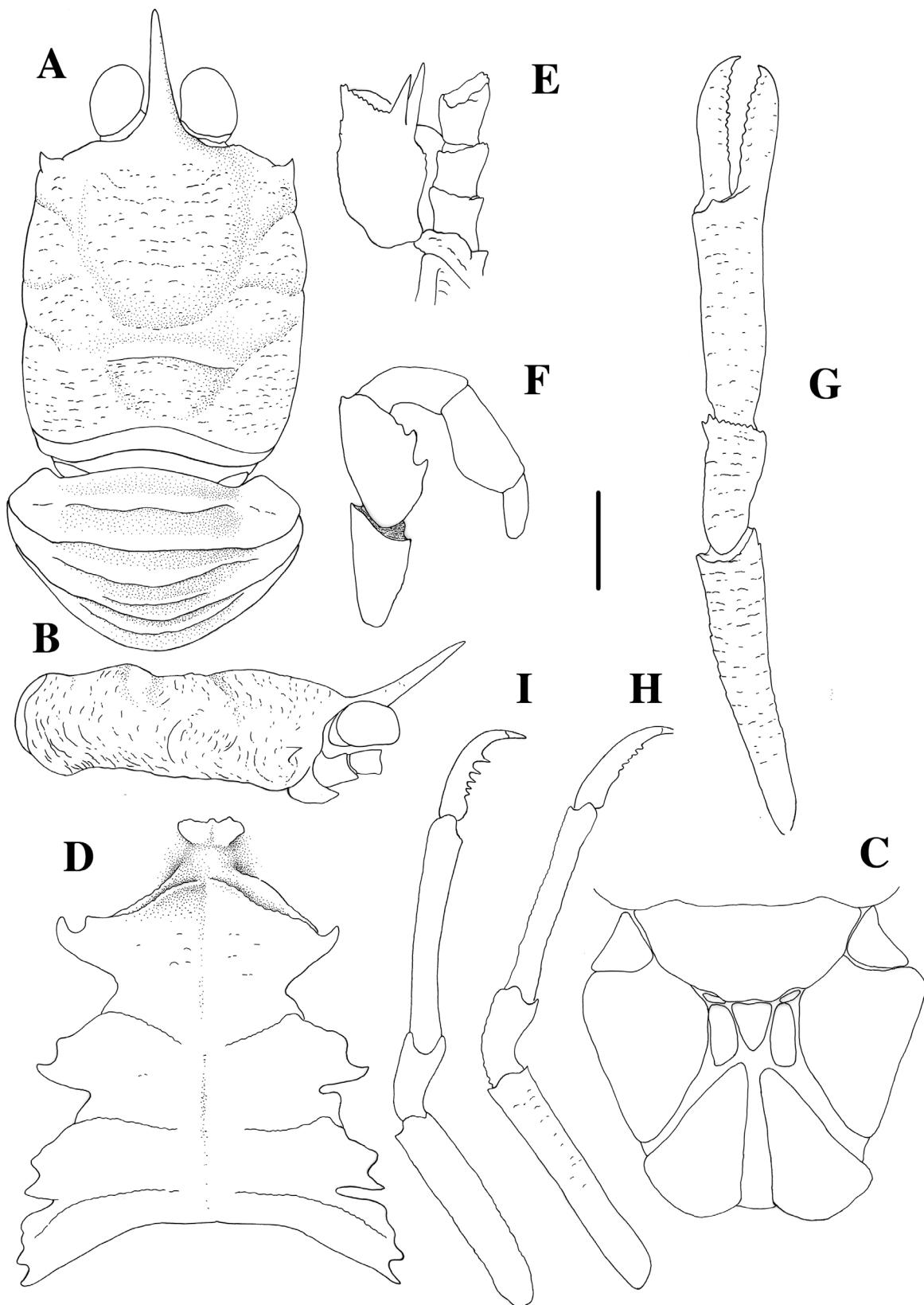


FIG. 4. – *Munidopsis talismani* A. Milne Edwards and Bouvier, 1894, female 7.0 mm (SM). A, carapace and abdomen, dorsal view. B, carapace, right lateral view. C, telson. D, sternal plastron. E, left antenna and antennula, ventral view. F, right maxilliped 3. G, right P1. H, Right P2. I, Right P4. Scale: A-B, 3.0 mm; G-I, 2.0 mm; C-F, 1.0 mm.

Diagnosis. Carapace smooth, unarmed. Anterolateral angle of carapace rounded, lateral margins unarmed. Rostrum very short, spiniform, sometimes reduced to bluntly produced process, nearly horizontal, dorsally smooth. No spines on abdominal tergites; tergite 6 with weakly produced posterolateral lobes and nearly transverse posteromedian margin. Telson composed of 10 plates; posterior plates combined 2.1 times as wide as long. Cornea subglobular, non-pigmented, shorter than remaining peduncle; eyespine absent. P1 less than 3 times carapace length; fixed finger without denticulate carina on distolateral margin. P2 not reaching end of P1. P2-4 propodi of uniform width, more than 3 times longer than high; dactyli having flexor margin nearly straight, with distinct serration. Epipods absent from P1-4.

Remarks. This species is collected in the lava tubes of Lanzarote. These tubes were formed by eruptions of the volcano Monte Corona during the Holocene. There are some studies on its occurrence and population biology (Wilkens *et al.*, 1990 and references cited therein). Koelbel (1892) described the species based on numerous specimens collected in the tube Jameos del Agua, emphasizing the variability of the rostrum shape (see Figs. 2A and 3A). Calman (1904) also mentioned this variability.

Distribution. Lanzarote (Canary Islands), at 2-8 m.

Munidopsis talismani A. Milne Edwards
and Bouvier, 1894 (Fig. 4)

Munidopsis Talismani A. Milne Edwards and Bouvier, 1894: 198, 230, 275. A. Milne Edwards and Bouvier, 1900: 316, pl. 30, Figs. 10-14. Baba *et al.*, 2008: 168 (compilation).

Material examined. NW Africa. Cape Barbas. 22°52'N, 19°43'W, 830-850 m, 12 July 1883: 1 male 6.1 mm, 3 ovigerous females 5.5-7.8 mm, syntypes (MNHN-Ga293, 294, 295). NW Africa. Ras-al-Abiad Cape. FS Meteor. Cruise Auftrieb 75. Stn M36-103AT154. 21°24.6'N, 17°53.6'W, 27 February 1975, 1023-1040 m: 2 males 5.3-5.6 mm, 4 ovigerous females 5.8-7.2 mm, 1 female 7.0 mm (SMF).

Diagnosis. Dorsal surface of carapace smooth, without epigastric spines; antennal spine absent, anterolateral angle with short spine, lateral margins unarmed. Rostrum narrowly triangular, not dorsally carinated, strongly upcurved. Anterior end of branchial lateral margin unarmed. No spines on abdominal tergites; tergite 6 with weakly produced posterolateral lobes and nearly transverse posteromedian margin. Telson composed of 12 plates; posterior plates combined 1.5 times as wide as long. Cornea semi-oval, not pigmented, longer than remaining eyestalk; eyespine absent. P1 less than 3 times carapace length; fixed finger without denticulate carina on distolateral margin. P2 not reaching end of P1. P2-4 propodi of uniform width; dactyli having flexor margin curved, with distinct serration, ultimate tooth much more remote from dactylar

tip than from penultimate tooth. Epipods absent from pereopods.

Remarks. This species was described from the material collected by the Talisman in 1883. The description by A. Milne Edwards and Bouvier (1894, 1900) is well detailed. However, the illustration of the carapace has several errors. For instance, the rostrum is dorsally carinated and the anterolateral spines are strong in the 1900s figure. Examination of the type material and additional specimens shows that the rostrum is dorsally convex, and the anterolateral spines are distinct but not strong.

Distribution. The species was only known from the type localities (Cape Barbas and Arguin Bank). The collection site made by the R/V *Meteor* is situated slightly north of the type localities. The species occurred between 830 and 1040 m.

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