

# An amphipod species new for the Turkish fauna: *Pontogammarus aestuarius* (Derzhavin, 1924)

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**Abstract.** *Pontogammarus aestuarius* (Derzhavin, 1924), a Ponto-Caspian amphipod species, was found in 2002 in Taşkısığı Lake, situated on the NW coast of Anatolia. Its morphological characteristics are described and the extremities of the male illustrated. Ecological notes on the habitat of the species are given.

**Kurzfassung.** *Pontogammarus aestuarius* (Derzhavin, 1924), ein Ponto-Kaspischer Amphipode, wurde im Jahr 2002 am Taşkısığı-See an der Nordwestküste Anatoliens gefunden. Die morphologischen Eigenschaften werden beschrieben und die Extremitäten des Männchens illustriert. Zum Habitat werden ökologische Beobachtungen mitgeteilt.

**Key words.** Freshwater, *Pontogammarus*, Amphipoda, Black Sea, Anatolia, Turkey, fauna.

## Introduction

The amphipod *Pontogammarus aestuarius* (Derzhavin, 1924) has a Ponto-Caspian distribution, extending from the Caspian Sea, via the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea to the Caucasus (BARNARD & BARNARD 1983). The genus is represented by six species worldwide and all of them are distributed in the Ponto-Caspian area (CARAUŞU et al. 1955). In earlier studies (CARAUŞU 1943, CARAUŞU et al. 1955), *P. aestuarius* was listed as a subspecies of *Pontogammarus robustoides*, but is now classified as an independent species of *Pontogammarus* (BARNARD & BARNARD 1983).

Three studies deal with the genus *Pontogammarus* in Turkey: MORDUKHAI-BOLTOVSKOI (1964) documented the distribution of *P. robustoides* in the lakes situated on the southern and eastern coasts of the Sea of Marmara (Apolyont, İznik, Sapanca and Manyas). KOCATAŞ & KATAĞAN (1980) have studied the benthic amphipods of the Black Sea coast of Turkey, and collected *Pontogammarus* specimens from İğneada-Demirköy, near Kırklareli, recording them at the generic level. Later, KOCATAŞ et al. (2003) reinvestigated that material and found a new Ponto-Caspian amphipod, *P. maeoticus*, as new to the Turkish fauna. In this paper, we report *P. aestuarius* (Derzhavin, 1924) as a species new for the Turkish fauna.

## Material and methods

*P. aestuarius* specimens were sampled using a hand-net with a mesh size of 180 µm from the littoral zone of Taşkısığı Lake (40°52'N, 30°24'E), on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2002. Hand-net materials were fixed with 4% formalin solution in the field, then the amphipod specimens were placed in 70% ethanol in the laboratory. In order to obtain data about the ecological requirements of *P.*