# A new species of *Schizopera* Sars, 1906 (Copepoda: Harpacticoida) from Israel

**by Süphan Karaytuğ and Serdar Sak**

**Abstract.** Both sexes of *Schizopera samchunensis* n. sp. (Copepoda: Harpacticoida: Diosaccidae) are described from the Hula valley in Israel with the aid of light and electron (SEM) microscopes. The differences between the new species and the morphologically similar species *S. compacta* and *S. taricheana* are discussed.

**Kurzfassung.** Aus dem Hula-Tal in Israel werden beide Geschlechter von *Schizopera samchunensis* n. sp. (Copepoda: Harpacticoida: Diosaccidae) mit Hilfe von Licht- und Elektronenmikroskopie beschrieben. Die Unterschiede zwischen der neu gefundenen Art und den morphologisch sehr ähnlichen Arten *S. compacta* und *S. taricheana* werden diskutiert.

**Key words**: Copepoda, taxonomy, Hula Valley, *Schizopera samchunensis* n. sp.

## Introduction

The family Diosaccidae contains about 389 species and subspecies distributed among 44 genera (KARANOVIC & RANGA REDDY 2004). *Schizopera* Sars, 1905 is one of the most speciose genera within the family and comprises over 80 species and subspecies (MIELKE 1995, BODIN 1997, KARANOVIC 2004). APOSTOLOV (1982) divided the genus *Schizopera* into three genera: *Schizopera* (with two subgenera: *Schizopera* s. str. and *Neoschizopera*); *Eoschizopera* Wells & Rao, 1976 (with two subgenera: *Eoschizopera* s. str. and *Praeoschizopera*); and *Schizoperopsis* Apostolov, 1982 (with two subgenera: *Schizoperopsis* s. str. and *Psammoschizoperopsis*). These groupings have been rejected by some authors (MIELKE 1992, BODIN 1997, KARANOVIC 2004).

The most important autapomorphy for *Schizopera* is the presence of a hyaline spine on the distal segment of P3 exopod (male). However, the position of many species within the genus and its subgenera is doubtful (HUYS 1995, KARANOVIC 2004) since the descriptions of many species are inadequate for evaluating the monophyletic status of these groupings and this autapomorphic character is not given or mentioned in the descriptions. The monophyly of the genus must be established by a complete systematic revision. Many recent taxonomic studies of harpacticoid copepods have confirmed that a detailed description of the species is essential for discriminating between closely related species (CLEMENT & MOORE 1995, HUYS & CONROY-DALTON 1996) and this is also indispensable for the definition of generic boundaries (HUYS 1992, KARAYTUĞ & HUYS 2004).

## Material and methods

Specimens were dissected in lactic acid and the dissected parts were mounted on slides in lactophenol mounting medium. Supporting broken glass-fibres were added to prevent the animal and

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