

## A New Species of *Thalestris* (Crustacea: Copepoda: Harpacticoida: Thalestridae) from Japan, Infesting the Red Alga *Palmaria palmata*

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*Thalestris hokkaidoensis* sp. nov. (Crustacea: Copepoda: Harpacticoida: Thalestridae) is described from Uchiura Bay, Hokkaido, Japan. The species infests the red alga *Palmaria palmata* (Linnaeus) Kuntze, living in galleries it makes in thalli. *Thalestris hokkaidoensis* is distinguished from congeneric species by the structure of P1 and P5.

**Key Words:** Crustacea, Copepoda, Harpacticoida, *Thalestris*, red alga, *Palmaria*, infestation, Japan.

### Introduction

Although many harpacticoid copepods are associated with seaweeds and sea grasses, only eight species of the family Thalestridae are known to live in thalli of seaweeds. Among them are six species, *Thalestris rhodymeniae* (Brady, 1894), *Dactylopusioides macrolabris* (Claus, 1866), *D. fodiens* Shimono, Iwasaki, and Kawai, 2004, *D. malleus* Shimono, Iwasaki, and Kawai, 2007, *Diarthrodes feldmanni* Bocquet, 1953, and *D. cystoecus* Fahrenbach, 1954, that live in galleries between the two epidermal layers of seaweeds of the orders Palmariales and Dictyotales (Brady 1894; Bocquet 1953; Harding 1954; Fahrenbach 1954, 1962; Green 1958; Shimono *et al.* 2004, 2007). Additionally, *Diarthrodes cystoecus* produces dome-shaped capsules on the thalli of *Halosaccion glandiforme* (Gmelin) Ruprecht (Palmariaceae) for reproduction, while the nauplii live in the tunnels they produce by feeding on the tissues of the thalli (Fahrenbach 1962). On the other hand, *Amenophia orientalis* Ho and Hong, 1988 and *Parathalestris infestus* Ho and Hong, 1988 make pinholes in thalli of a brown alga, *Undaria pinnatifida* (Harvey) Suringar, and live there (Ho and Hong 1988).

In the present paper we describe a new species of *Thalestris* from Uchiura Bay, Hokkaido, northern Japan. This species infests a red alga, *Palmaria palmata* (Linnaeus) Kuntze, living similarly to the congeneric species *Thalestris rhodymeniae*, in galleries made in thalli.

### Materials and Methods

Copepods infesting the red alga *Palmaria palmata* were collected in the intertidal zone at Charatsunai beach, Uchiura Bay, Hokkaido, northern Japan, from