

TWO NEW SPECIES OF PHREATIC HARPACTICOIDS FROM IRAN (CRUSTACEA: COPEPODA)

by

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ABSTRACT

Two new species of the genus *Nitocrella* Chappuis (s. str.) are described from subterranean, phreatic waters of Iran. These two species, *N. petkovski* and *N. paceae*, belong according to the recent revision of Petkovski (1976) to the *chappuisi* and *vasconica* groups of the genus, respectively.

RÉSUMÉ

Deux espèces nouvelles du genre *Nitocrella* Chappuis (s. str.) sont décrites des eaux souterraines phréatiques d'Iran. Ces deux nouvelles espèces, *N. petkovski* et *N. paceae* appartiennent, d'après la révision récente de Petkovski (1976), respectivement aux groupes *chappuisi* et *vasconica* du genre.

INTRODUCTION

In the course of recent researches on the biology of the underground phreatic waters of Iran, carried out by the Zoological Institute of the University of L'Aquila (Pesce, in press), numerous samples of interstitial harpacticoid copepods were obtained from freshwater wells in the highland of Isfahan.

Among the materials entrusted to me for study, two undescribed species of the genus *Nitocrella* Chappuis (s. str.) were found: these species are described and illustrated below as *Nitocrella petkovskii* n. sp. and *Nitocrella paceae* n. sp.

Many thanks are due to Professor T. K. Petkovski (Skopje) for verifying my identifications and for helpful suggestions.

Nitocrella petkovskii n. sp. Fig. 1

Material. Two ♀♀ and three juv. (copepodids III, IV), freshwater well (IR. 34) at Shahr-e-Kord, Hafes street, Isfahan, 2,200 m above sea-level (water level at 4.1 m, water depth 2.5 m; temperature 16.2 °C; pH 7.5; bottom sediment composed of small vegetable and limestone detritus); May 23, 1978; coll. Pace & Rahim.

One ♀ and one ♂, freshwater well at Farrochà, Isfahan, 2,200 m above sea-level (water level at 30.5 m, water depth

5.2 m; temperature 16.5 °C; bottom sediment composed of sandstone detritus and clay); May 24, 1978; coll. Pace & Rahim.

In the above localities the new species lives in association with other harpacticoid copepods as *Nitocrella paceae* (described below) and *Attheyella crassa* (Sars), and with the following other organisms: *Bryocyclops* cf. *neuter* Kiefer and *Diacyclops bisetosus* (Rehberg) (both cyclopoid copepods), Candoninae (Ostracoda), *Nais elinguis* (Müller) (Oligochaeta), water mites, collemboles and some mosquito larvae.

Types. One ♀ (holotype) and one ♂ (allotype), completely dissected and mounted in Faure's medium on microscope slides, deposited in the Zoologisch Museum, Amsterdam; remainder (paratypes) in the Zoological Institute of the University of L'Aquila (author's collections).

Description. — Female: General shape as usual in the genus; body elongate and slender; unpigmented and blind; length well over 0.55 mm, including furcal rami but excluding furcal setae, antennae and antennulae. Genital segment short, receptaculum seminis as in fig. 1. Antennula 8-segmented, aesthete on the 4th article much longer than the following articles together. Antenna, exopod triangular, 1-segmented and armed with 3 apical setae, the inner one plumose. Mouthparts without particular characteristics as compared to those of the other species in the genus.

P_1 : endopod 3-segmented; article 1 as long as the first and second articles of the exopod together, and armed with a long inner seta which reaches the tip of the 2nd article; article 2 without well-developed spines or setae; article 3 with 2 long apical setae and a short setula. Exopod shorter than the endopod and 3-segmented; articles 1 and 2 with 1 outer spine only, article 3 with 2 outer spines and 2 long apical setae.

$P_2 - P_4$: endopod 2-segmented, reaching about the middle of article 2 of the exopod; article 1 without spines or setae; article 2 with 1 (P_2 and P_4) and 2 (P_3) long apical setae overreaching the tip of article 3 of the exopod. Exopods of P_2 and

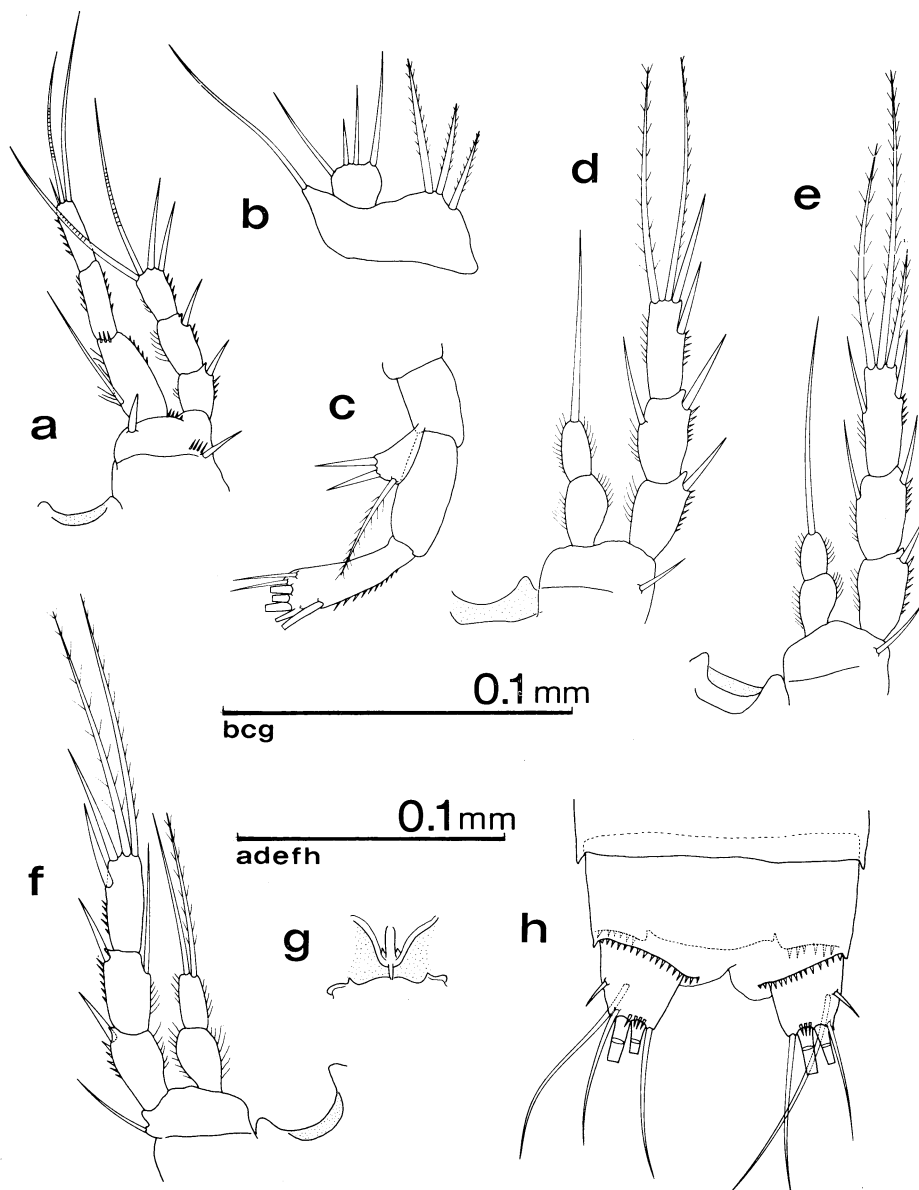


Fig. 1. *Nitocrella petkovskii* n. sp., ♀. a, P₁; b, P₅; c, antenna, exopod; d, P₂; e, P₄; f, P₃; g, genital field; h, furcal rami and anal operculum, ventral view.

P₃ 3-segmented; article 1 with 1 outer spine, article 2 with 1 outer spine and 1 long inner seta, article 3 with 2 subapical spines and 2 long apical setae; exopod of P₄, articles 1 and 2 as those of P₂ and P₃, article 3 armed with 5 setae or spines (3 apically implanted, 1 on the inner and 1 on the outer margin).

Setal formula P₁ - P₄ as follows:

	exopod	endopod
P ₁	0 0 022	1 0 120
P ₂	0 1 022	- 0 010
P ₃	0 1 022	- 0 020
P ₄	0 1 122	- 0 010

P₅: basidendopod with 3 inner barbed spines;

exopod about as long as wide, bearing 4 setae of different sizes.

Furcal rami conical, slightly longer than wide; outer margin with a small seta; dorsal surface with a long seta, about 3.5 times longer than each furcal ramus; apically there are 4 setae: the outer is the shorter (about twice the length of the furcal ramus), the inner is about 1.3 times longer than the outer one, the mediobasal ones are the longest and of different size (the inner about 1.85 times as long as the outer one).

Anal operculum with naked distal margin and 6 - 7 small spinules on each side.

Male: Construction and armature of the thoracic and abdominal appendages, as well as its other characteristics, with the exception of the antennulae, are comparable to those of the female.

Etymology. — I take great pleasure in naming this species after Prof. T. K. Petkovski, in recognition of his valuable contributions to the systematics of the genus *Nitocrella*.

Affinities. — Petkovski (1976) recently reviewed the systematics of the genus *Nitocrella* Chappuis s.l. In that review three species groups within *Nitocrella* s. str. were recognized, viz. the *vasconica* group (characterized by 6 spines or setae on article 3 of the P_4 exopod), the *chappuisi* group (characterized by 5 spines or setae on the distal article of the P_4 exopod), and the *hirta* group (with 3 to 4 spines or setae on that article).

According to this revision, *Nitocrella petkovskii* n. sp. fits well in the *chappuisi* group, since the 3rd article of the P_4 exopod is armed with 3 spines and 2 setae.

Among the species of this group, *N. petkovskii* n. sp. is close to *N. neutra* Kiefer and *N. hypogaea* Shen & Tai. Particularly to the former the new species resembles by the armature of the basidendopod of P_5 and the number of setae on the distal article of the endopod of P_2 and P_4 . To the latter species, it resembles by the armature of the distal article of the endopods of P_2 to P_4 .

N. petkovskii n. sp. differs from the above species as follows:

— from *N. neutra* in having 4 (instead of 5) elements (setae or spines) on article 3 of the P_1 exo-

pod, in having longer setae on article 3 of the exopods of P_2 to P_4 , in the shorter exopod of P_5 , and in the unarmed anal operculum (versus armed with 6-8 small spines);

— from *N. hypogaea* by the quite different shape and length of the furcal rami, by the presence of 3 spines on the inner margin of the basidendopod of P_5 (versus a vestigial basidendopod with 1 outer spine only), by the shape of the exopod of P_5 , and by the long inner seta on article 1 of the P_1 endopod (versus an unarmed article).

***Nitocrella paceae* n. sp. Fig. 2**

Material. One ♀ and one juv. (copepodid IV), freshwater well at Shar-e-Kord, (former) Palavi road, Isfahan, 2,200 m above sea-level (water level at 5.2 m, water depth 2.2 m; temperature 17.0 °C; pH 7.5; bottom sediment composed of small vegetable and sandstone detritus); May 21, 1978; coll. Pace & Rahim. Accompanying fauna: *Diacyclops bisetosus* (Rehberg) and *Eucyclops serrulatus* (Fischer) (both cyclopoid copepods), Candoninae (Ostracoda), *Nais elinguis* (Müller) and *Peloscolex velutinus* (Grube) (both Oligochaeta), and water mites.

One ♀ and two juv. (copepodid IV) from sample IR.34 (see for details about this locality under *Nitocrella petkovskii*).

Types. One ♀ (holotype), completely dissected and mounted in Faure's medium on microscope slides, deposited in the Zoologisch Museum, Amsterdam; other materials (paratypes) in the Zoological Institute of the University of L'Aquila (author's collections).

Description. — Female: Body slender and elongate; unpigmented and blind; length between 0.38 and 0.41 mm, including furcal rami but excluding furcal setae, antennae and antennulae. Antennula 8-segmented, aesthete on the 4th article slightly longer than the following articles together. Antenna, exopod 1-segmented, subtriangular, and armed with 3 apical setae, the inner clearly plumose. Mouthparts without particular characteristics. Distal margin of the thoracic segments without hyaline lamellae or spines.

P_1 : endopod and exopod 3-segmented; endopod, article 1 short (reaching about the middle of the 2nd exopod article) and with a long inner seta, article 2 without setae or spines, article 3 with 2 long setae; exopod shorter than endopod, slightly overreaching the 2nd article of the endopod; articles 1 and 2 each with a spine on the outer sub-

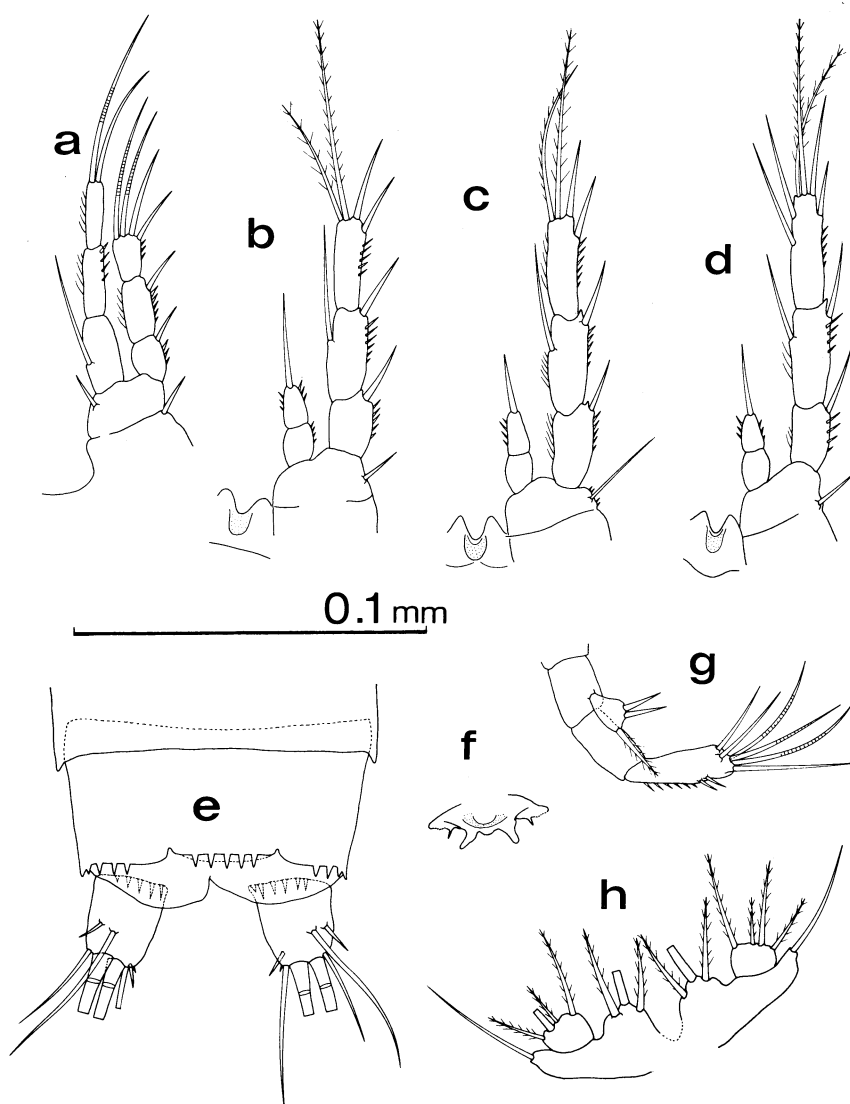


Fig. 2. *Nitocrella paceae* n. sp., ♀. a, P₅; b, c, d, P₂-P₄; e, furcal rami and anal operculum, dorsal view; f, genital field; g, antenna, exopod; h, P₅.

distal margin, article 3 with 2 apical setae and 2 subapical setiform spines.

P₂ - P₄: endopod 2-segmented, clearly overreaching the first article of the exopod; articles 1 and 2 about of the same length, article 2 with a short apical seta. Exopods of P₂ and P₃ very similar, 3-segmented; article 1 with a subdistal outer spine, article 2 with an outer subdistal spine and a long inner seta; exopod of P₄ 3-segmented, articles 1 and 2 as in P₂ and P₃, article 3 armed with 6 spines and setae (2 inner + 2 apical setae, and 2 outer, subdistal spines).

Coxal plates of P₂ - P₄ with markedly prominent lobes.

Setal formula of P₁ - P₄ as follows:

	exopod	endopod
P ₁	0 0 022	1 0 020
P ₂	0 1 022	- 0 010
P ₃	0 1 022	- 0 010
P ₄	0 1 222	- 0 010

P₅: basiendopod with 3 stout setae (one damaged in all specimens) on the inner margin and 1 slender seta on the distal corner; exopod slightly wider than long and armed with 4 plumose setae.

Anal operculum with slightly convex medial margin, armed with 5 - 6 spines; lateral margins each with 3 - 4 spines.

Furcal rami subparallel, slightly longer than wide ($L/l = 1.22 - 1.24$), armed with a short lateral seta, a long dorsal seta (about twice longer than each ramus) and 4 distal setae, the inner longer than the outer and about as long as the dorsal one; medial setae both damaged; a small setula is implanted on the inner subdistal margin of each ramus.

Male: Unknown.

E t y m o l o g y. — This species is named after Miss Raffaella Pace who collected it.

A f f i n i t i e s. — *Nitocrella paceae* n. sp. quite clearly belongs to the *vasconica* group of species within *Nitocrella* s. str., as described by Petkovski (1976). Within this group, *N. paceae* n. sp. is

closely related to *N. vasconica* Chappuis, mainly through the armature of the basiendopod of P_5 . From this species, as well as from the others in the same group, *N. paceae* is most readily distinguished by numerous characteristics such as the construction and armature of P_1 , the armature of the anal operculum, the morphology of the P_5 exopod, the length and armature of the furcal rami, etc.

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