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A new species of *Anchistrotos* (Copepoda: Taeniacanthidae) from hilsa shad, *Tenualosa ilisha* (Actinopterygii: Clupeidae), off Iraq

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Abstract: A new species of parasitic copepod *Anchistrotos tangi* sp. n. (Cyclopoida: Taeniacanthidae) is described based on adult female specimens collected from the gills of hilsa shad, *Tenualosa ilisha* (Hamilton, 1822) (Actinopterygii: Clupeidae) captured off Iraq. The new species differs from its congeners by having the following combination of characters in the adult female: 1) the rostral area sclerotised; 2) the presence of row of spinules on the proximal and distal margins of the anal somite; 3) the maxilliped claw with 2 long whip-like setae just crossing the distal edge of claw with serrated terminal margin; and 4) the leg 5 ornamented with patched spinules distally. This is the ninth nominal species of *Anchistrotos* Brian, 1906.

Keywords: taxonomy, fish, parasite, gills, *Anchistrotos*, maxilliped, whip-like setae

The genus *Anchistrotos* Brian, 1906 (Copepoda: Cyclopoida) was established by Wilson (1911) to accommodate the type species *Anchistrotos gobii* (Brian, 1906) in the family Taeniacanthidae Wilson, 1911 based on the presence of maxillipedes made up of a large basal joint and a curved terminal claw, sometimes bearing long setae. Dojiri and Cressey (1987) recognised the validity of the genus *Anchistrotos* during the revision of the family Taeniacanthidae. The genus *Anchistrotos* was differentiated from its close congener *Taeniacanthus* Sumpff, 1981 based on the characteristic features of maxilliped claw with two long whip-like setae extending to or beyond distal limit of claw and the segmentation in leg 1 (Dojiri and Cressey 1987, Boxshall and Halsey 2004). But, Kabata (1992) questioned its validity and proposed to synonymise the new genus with *Taeniacanthus*. The difference between the two nominal genera *Taeniacanthus* and *Anchistrotos* is very indistinct and blurred (Kabata 2003). However, Tang (2006) confirmed that his phylogenetic finding supports Dojiri and Cressey's (1987) premise that *Anchistrotos* is a valid genus and, accordingly, this taxon cannot be synonymised with *Taeniacanthus* as proposed by Kabata (1992).

According to the revision of Dojiri and Cressey (1987), *Anchistrotos* has 6 setae on the maxillule, only 2 blades distally on the mandible (without accessory seta), and 6 setae on the distal segment of leg 1 endopod. In this study, by following the above-mentioned features, a new species of *Anchistrotos* is described based on the material

collected from the hilsa shad, *Tenualosa ilisha* (Hamilton, 1822) (Actinopterygii: Clupeidae), off Iraq waters in continuation to our recent work (Venmathi Maran et al. 2014).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Copepod specimens were carefully removed from the gills of the host fish *Tenualosa ilisha* using fine forceps and observed under a dissecting microscope. The collected copepods were preserved in 70% ethanol. Preserved copepods were cleared in a drop of 85% lactic acid or lactophenol prior to examination using an Olympus BX51 differential phase contrast microscope. Selected specimens were measured intact using an ocular micrometre and/or dissected and examined according to the wooden slide procedure (Humes and Gooding 1964). Measurements given are the range followed by the mean in parentheses. Drawings were made with the aid of a drawing tube. Morphological terminology follows Dojiri and Cressey (1987) and Huys and Boxshall (1991); fish names conform to FishBase (Froese and Pauly 2014). Type specimens are deposited at the National Institute of Biological Resources (NIBR), Incheon, Korea.

RESULTS

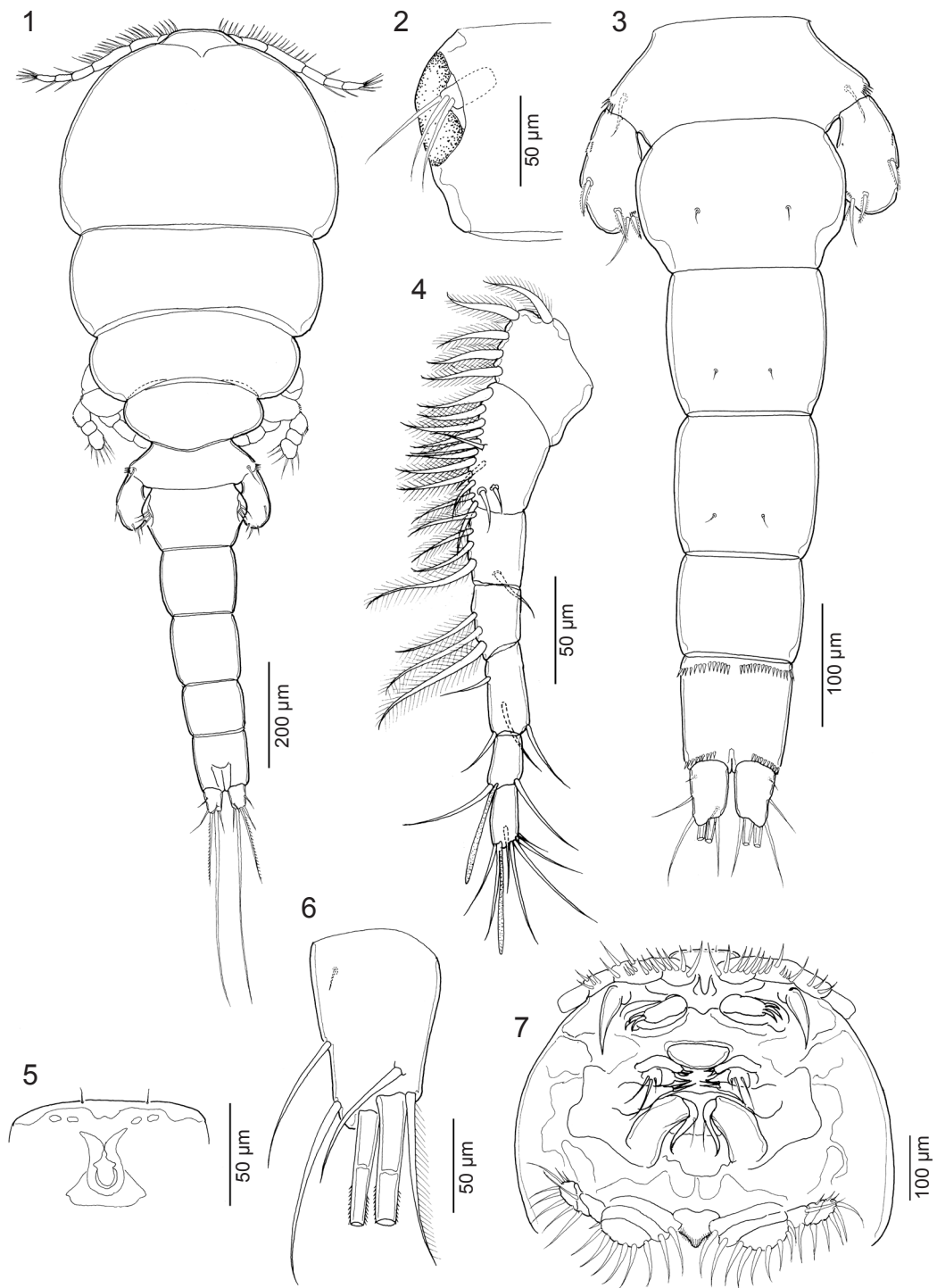
Family **Taeniacanthidae** Wilson, 1911

Genus *Anchistrotos* Brian, 1906

Anchistrotos tangi sp. n.

Figs. 1–22

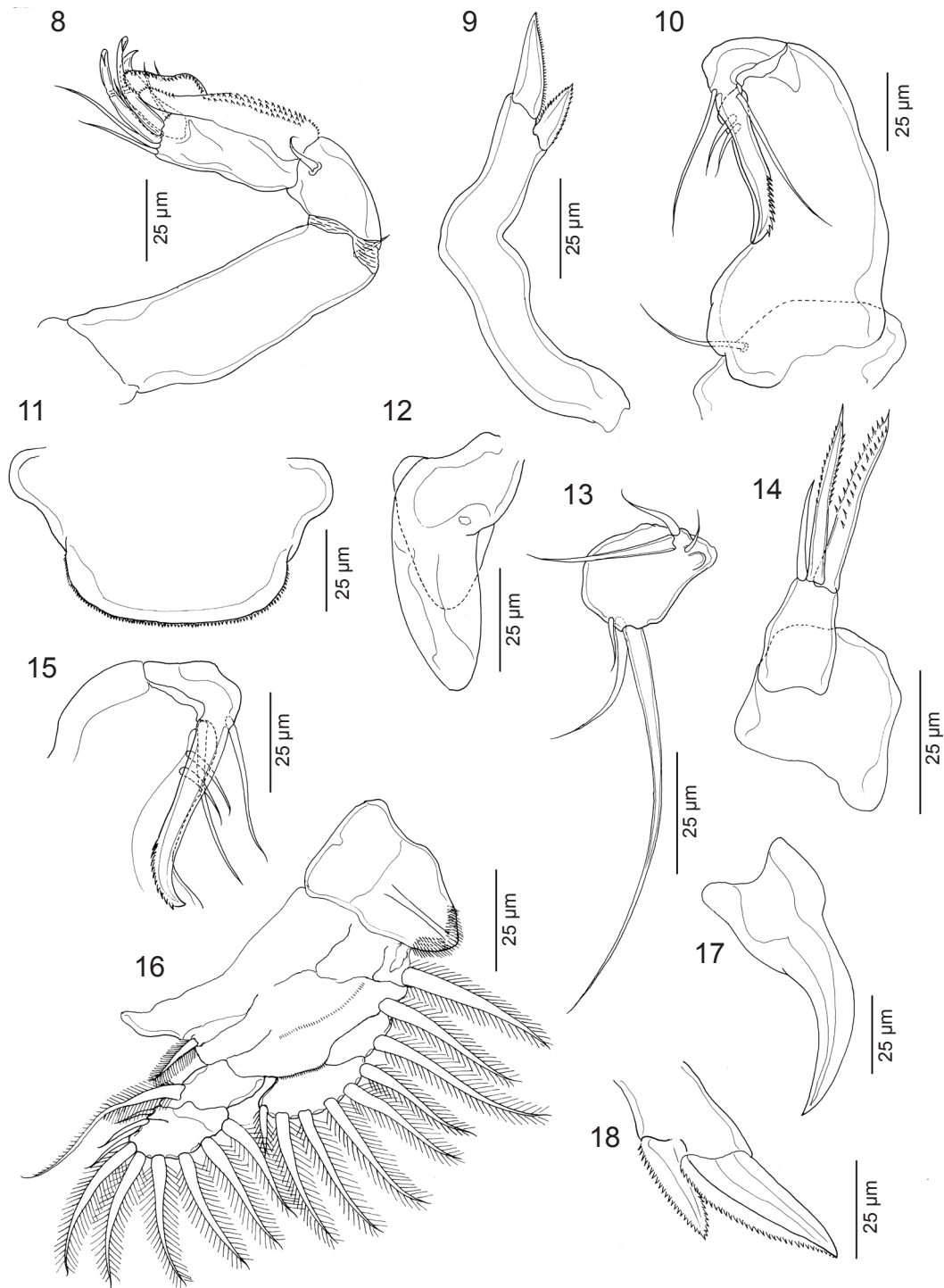
Female (based on one specimen). Body (Fig. 1) 1.36–1.53 mm (1.45 ± 0.78 mm, $n = 4$) long (excluding caudal seta) and 0.49–0.54 mm wide (0.52 ± 0.02 mm,



Figs. 1–7. *Anchistrotos tangi* sp. n. from *Tenualosa ilisha*, female. **Fig. 1.** Habitus, dorsal. **Fig. 2.** Genital somite with leg 6 at the genital opening, dorsal. **Fig. 3.** Urosome, dorsal. **Fig. 4.** Antennule, ventral. **Fig. 5.** Rostral area, ventral. **Fig. 6.** Caudal ramus, dorsal. **Fig. 7.** Cephalothorax, ventral.

n = 4). Prosome composed of broad cephalothorax (first pedigerous somite fused with cephalosome) (Fig. 7) and progressively narrower second to fourth pedigerous somite. Urosome (Fig. 3) comprised of fifth pedigerous somite, genital somite and 4 free abdominal somites. Genital somite (Fig. 2) 1.35 times wider (191 µm) than

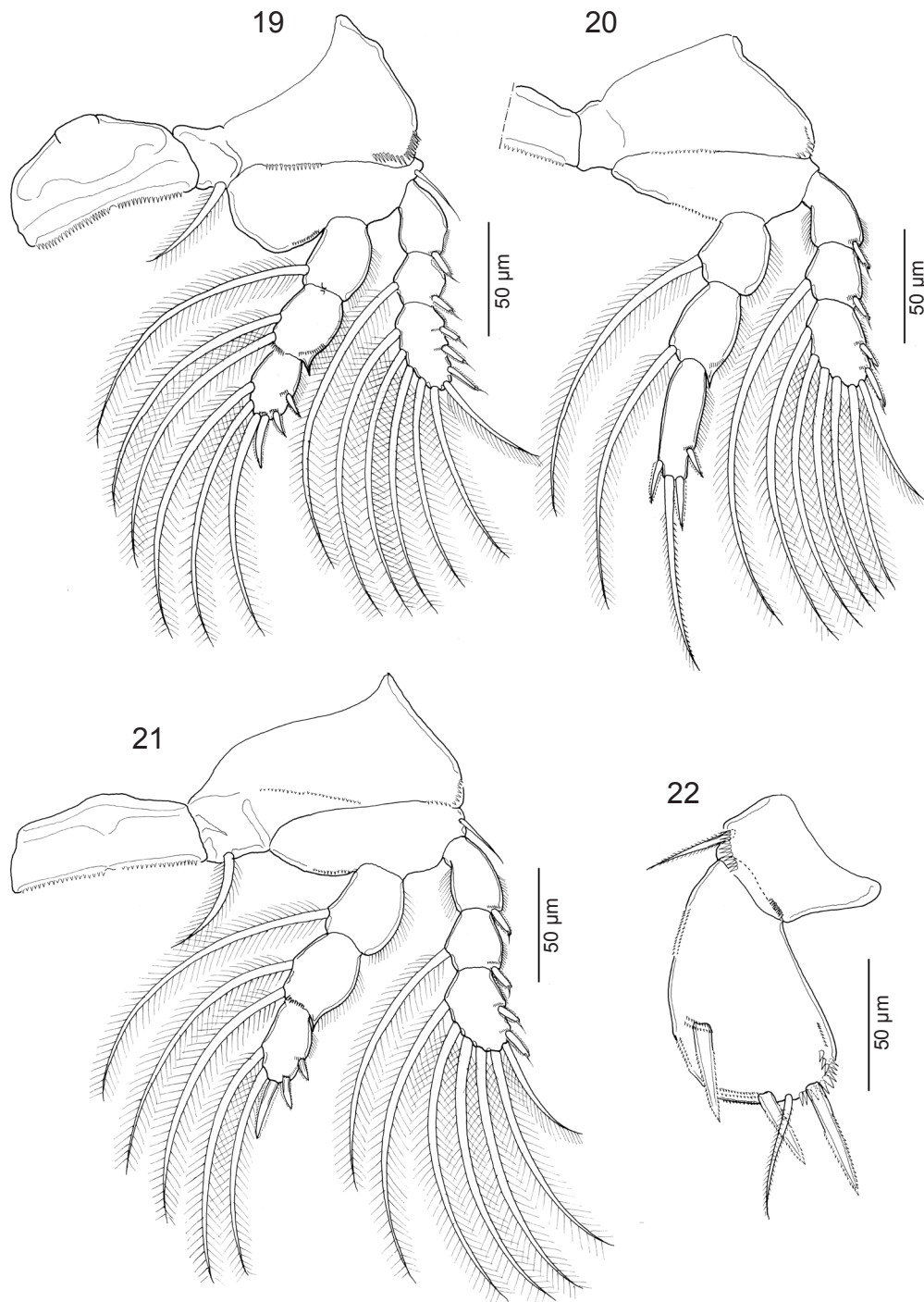
long (141 µm). Proportional length (%) of first to fourth abdominal somites 29.4 : 28.4 : 20.2 : 22.0 = 100; first to third abdominal somites naked; distal abdominal somite with transverse rows of stout spinules anteriorly and curved row of stout spinules near insertion of each caudal ramus. Rostral area (Fig. 5) horseshoe-shaped, with scler-



Figs. 8–18. *Anchistrotos tangi* sp. n. from *Tenualosa ilisha*, female. **Fig. 8.** Antenna, dorsal. **Fig. 9.** Mandible, ventral. **Fig. 10.** Maxilliped, ventral. **Fig. 11.** Labrum, ventral. **Fig. 12.** Paragnath, ventral. **Fig. 13.** Maxillule, ventral. **Fig. 14.** Maxilla, ventral. **Fig. 15.** Distal portion of maxilliped, ventral. **Fig. 16.** Leg 1, ventral. **Fig. 17.** Postantennal process, dorsal. **Fig. 18.** Tip of mandible, ventral.

otised plate. Antennule (Fig. 4) 6-segmented (articulation between ancestral segments a XIV–XVII and XVIII–XX not expressed); armature formula: 5, 15, 8, 4, 2 + 1 aesthetasc and 7 + 1 aesthetasc. Caudal ramus (Fig. 6) 1.46 times longer (57 µm) than wide (39 µm), bearing 7 setae (seta I smallest located anteroventrally); setae II and III

with row of minute spinules at base; setae IV and V ornamented with medial row of bristles and lateral row of spinules; seta VI (57 µm) about 1.32 times as long as seta VII (43 µm); seta V longest (481 µm), at least 2.42 times as long as seta IV (198 µm).



Figs. 19–22. *Anchistrotos tangi* sp. n. from *Tenualosa ilisha*, female. **Fig. 19.** Leg 2, ventral. **Fig. 20.** Leg 4, ventral. **Fig. 21.** Leg 3, ventral. **Fig. 22.** Leg 5, ventral.

Antenna (Fig. 8) composed of coxobasis and 2 endopodal segments; coxobasis with distal seta; proximal endopodal segment with inner seta; second endopodal segment bears 2 unequal pectinate process, 3 claw-like spines and 4 unequal setae; large pectinate process with seta and several rows of spinules; short pectinate process with minute blunt seta and row of spinules. Postantennal process (Fig. 17) relatively elongate, curved distally. La-

brum (Fig. 11) with row of tiny spinules along posterior margin. Mandible (Fig. 9) armed with 2 apical blades; both blades spinulate along inner margin (Fig. 18). Paragnath (Fig. 12) robust, blunt with proximal patch of setules. Maxillule (Fig. 13) lobate, small knob-like process anteriorly, bearing 2 long (outer 98 µm, inner 21 µm) and 4 short naked setae. Maxilla (Fig. 14) 2-segmented; syncoxa unarmed; basis armed with 2 long spinulate spines

Table 1. Hosts and localities of collections of all nine species of the genus *Anchistrotos* (Copepoda: Taeniacanthidae).

Copepod	Host	Host order: family	Locality	Reference
<i>Anchistrotos caligiformis</i> (Gurney, 1927)	Sea weed	-	Port Said, Egypt	Gurney (1927)
<i>Anchistrotos gobii</i> (Brian, 1906)	<i>Gobius cobitis</i> Pallas <i>G. paganellus</i> Linnaeus	Perciformes: Gobiidae Perciformes: Gobiidae	Lebanon Naples, Italy	Brian (1906)
<i>Anchistrotos kojimensis</i> Do et Ho, 1983	<i>Acanthogobius flavimanus</i> (Temminck et Schlegel)	Perciformes: Gobiidae	Kojima Bay, Japan	Do and Ho (1983)
<i>Anchistrotos laqueus</i> Leigh-Sharpe, 1935	<i>Serranus scriba</i> (Linnaeus) <i>S. cabrilla</i> (Linnaeus) <i>Ciliata mustela</i> (Linnaeus)	Perciformes: Serranidae Perciformes: Serranidae Gadiformes: Lotidae	Livarno, Italy Haifa Bay, Israel, Tunisia Baltic Sea, England	Leigh-Sharpe (1935) Kabata (1979)
<i>Anchistrotos lucipetus</i> Holmes, 1985	Underwater light trap	-	Lough Ine, Ireland	Holmes (1985)
<i>Anchistrotos onosi</i> (Scott, 1902)	<i>C. mustela</i> <i>Enchelyopus cimbrius</i> (Linnaeus)	Gadiformes: Lotidae Gadiformes: Lotidae	Plymouth, UK	Scott (1902), Stock (1953), Yamaguti (1963), Kabata (1979),
<i>Anchistrotos tangi</i> sp. n.	<i>Tenualosa ilisha</i> (Hamilton)	Clupeiformes: Clupeidae	Iraq	Present study
<i>Anchistrotos wilsoni</i> (Scott, 1929)	<i>Leucoraja fullonica</i> (Linnaeus)	Rajiformes: Rajidae	Irish Sea, Ireland	Scott (1929), Kabata (1979)
<i>Anchistrotos zeugopteri</i> Scott, 1902	<i>Zeugopterus punctatus</i> (Bloch)	Pleuronectiformes: Scophthalmidae	Clyde Estuary Roscoff, France	Scott (1902), Leigh-Sharpe (1939), Yamaguti (1963), Kabata (1979),

and naked seta. Maxilliped (Figs. 10) 3-segmented; first segment with usual seta; second segment (corpus) with 2 proximal naked setae and distomedial protrusion; terminal segment elongate, curved distally, bearing 2 equal naked, long setae (Fig. 15), with minute spinules medially to apically and well-developed inner basal protrusion ornamented with hyaline membrane.

Legs 1–4 biramous (Figs. 16, 19–21); leg 1 (Fig. 16) with 2-segmented rami; remaining legs with 3-segmented rami. Armature on rami of legs 1–4 as follows (Roman numerals – spines; Arabic numerals – setae):

	Coxa	Basis	Exopod	Endopod
Leg 1	0–1	1–1	1–0; I–1; 7	0–1; 6
Leg 2	0–1	1–0	I–0; I–1; III, I, 5	0–1; 0–2; II, I, 3
Leg 3	0–1	1–0	I–0; I–1; II, I, 5	0–1; 0–2; II, I, 2
Leg 4	0–0	1–0	I–0; I–1; II, I, 5	0–1; 0–1; IV

Leg 1 (Fig. 16) coxa, basis and rami flattened. Intercoxal sclerite subtriangular, ornamented with fine spinules on anterodistal surface. Coxa with patch of setules on outer border; coxa and basis ornamented with rows of minute spinules. Outer margin of second endopodal segment with patch of setules. Leg 2 (Fig. 19) intercoxal sclerite triangular, ornamented with rows of spinules along posterior margin. Coxa with large spinules along distolateral side on anterior surface. Leg 2 exopodal spine spinulate along outer margin, each with accessory terminal flagellum; outer margin of exopod segment ornamented with row of spinules. Leg 2 endopodal segment with row of spinules along lateral margin; second endopodal segment also protruded slightly at distolaterally and with row of setules along outer border; spine on terminal segment spinulate along outer margin.

Intercoxal sclerite of legs 3 (Fig. 21) and 4 (Fig. 20) wider than long, spinulate along posterior margin. Coxa and basis of legs 3 and 4 similar to those of leg 2, except without inner row of spinules on basis. Structure of spines and ornamentation on rami of legs 3 and 4 as in leg 2, except terminal segment of leg 4 endopod with additional outer row of setules. Second endopodal segments of legs 3 and 4 with distolateral protrusion and spinules along outer margin.

Leg 5 (Fig. 22) well developed, 2-segmented. Propodal segment unornamented, armed with dorsolateral pinnate seta. Free exopodal segment 2.7 times longer (186 µm) than wide (69 µm), ornamented with patch of spinules on distomedial surface and row of spinules at base of each spine and armed with 3 spinulate spines and seta. Leg 6 (Fig. 2) vestigial, represented by opercular plate armed with 3 naked setae at genital opening.

Male. Unknown.

Type host: *Tenualosa ilisha* (Hamilton) (Actinopterygii: Clupeidae) (21 July 2011).

Site of infection: Gills.

Type locality: Off Iraq waters (29°46'N; 48°51'E).

Material examined: Holotype female (NIBRIV00-00287187) and 1 paratype female (NIBRIV0000287188) deposited in the collections of NIBR, Incheon, Korea.

Etymology: The species named in honour of Dr. Danny Tang (USA) for his contribution to the knowledge of parasitic copepods, especially the family Taeniacanthidae.

Remarks. The new species closely resembles *A. onosi* (Scott, 1902) and *A. kojimensis* Do et Ho, 1983 but differs in the following features: 1) the rostral area sclerotised (*vs* not sclerotised in both species); 2) the presence of row of spinules on the proximal and distal margins of the anal

somite (*vs* absence of spinules in *A. onosi*; present, but in different format in *A. kojimensis*); 3) the leg 5 ornamented with patched spinules distally (*vs* absence of spinules in both species). The new species differs from all other congeners in the length of 2 setae in the maxilliped. All species have been found with 2 long whip-like setae of 0.5–1 time longer than maxilliped *ie*: beyond the distal edge of the maxilliped, however, in the new species those 2 long setae are just crossing the distal edge of claw, not as long as like its other congeners. The new species shares this feature with *A. kojimensis*, but differs in the setal numbers of the terminal exopodal segment of leg 2. It is provided with III, I, 5 setae, but II, I, 5 in *A. kojimensis*.

According to Do and Ho (1983), there are 17 nominal species of the genus *Anchistrotos*. However, Dojiri and Cressey (1987) transferred 11 species to the genus *Taeniacanthus* and retained six species under *Anchistrotos*. Further, Tang (2006) transferred *Taeniacanthus wilsoni* Scott, 1929 to *Anchistrotos* based on the redescription of Kabata (1992) and phylogenetic analysis. Likewise, Huys et al. (2012) have transferred recently *Taeniacanthus zeugopteri* (Scott, 1902) back to *Anchistrotos* based on a phylogenetic analysis using complete 18s ssrDNA

sequences. Hence, *Anchistrotos* currently comprised nine species including the new species. These are *A. caligiformis* (Gurney, 1927), *A. gobii* Brian, 1906, *A. kojimensis*, *A. laqueus* Leigh-Sharpe, 1935, *A. lucipetus* Holmes, 1985, *A. onosi*, *A. wilsoni* (Scott, 1929), *A. zeugopteri* Scott, 1902 and *A. tangi* sp. n. Most species parasitise teleost fishes (Table 1).

Species of *Anchistrotos* have so far been reported from British waters, the Mediterranean Sea and the western North Pacific (Dojiri and Cressey 1987, Suh et al. 1992, Boxshall and Halsey 2004, Tang 2006) and for the first time off Iraq waters. Out of nine species, seven are reported from fishes, but two, *A. caligiformis* and *A. lucipetus*, were collected from seaweed at Port Said, Egypt (Gurney 1927) and with an underwater light trap at Lough Ine, Ireland (Holmes 1985), respectively (Table 1). Since all other species are recorded as parasites of fishes, these two are likewise expected to be parasites of fish (Dojiri and Cressey 1987, Tang 2006).

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