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:Subject Terms

Bass (/eds?search=y&query=%22Bass%22&type=MM)/parasitology (/eds?search=y&query=%22Bass+parasitology%22&type=MM) ; Copepoda (/eds?search=y&query=%22Copepoda%22&type=MM) /*classification (/eds?search=y&query=%22Copepoda+classification%22&type=MM); Animals (/eds?search=y&query=%22Animals%22&type=MH) ; Copepoda (/eds?search=y&query=%22Copepoda%22&type=MH)/anatomy & histology (/eds?search=y&query=%22Copepoda+anatomy+%26+histology%22&type=MH) ; Female (/eds?search=y&query=%22Female%22&type=MH) ; Gills (/eds?search=y&query=%22Gills%22&type=MH)/parasitology (/eds?search=y&query=%22Gills+parasitology%22&type=MH) ; Mediterranean Sea (/eds?search=y&query=%22Mediterranean+Sea%22&type=MH) ; Species Specificity (/eds?search=y&query=%22Species+Specificity%22&type=MH)

:Abstract

A new species of parasitic copepod, *Caligus tunisiensis* n. sp. (Caligidae), is described based on two female specimens collected from the gills of the painted comber, *Serranus scriba* (L.), caught in the Mediterranean Sea, off the Tunisian coasts. The new species belongs to the *Caligus productus*-species group established by Boxshall & Gurney (1980) as it shares the following set of character states: (i) antenna with well-developed posterior process on proximal segment; (ii) posterior margin of distal exopodal segment of leg 1 lacking typical plumose setae, or retaining single vestigial seta; and (iii) 2-segmented exopod of leg 4 armed with IV spines on compound distal exopodal segment. Detailed morphological comparisons between the new species and the core members of the *C. productus*-species group revealed that the new species closely resembles with *C. productus* Dana, 1852 and *C. temnodontis* Brian, 1924. However, the new species can be distinguished from its congeners in having: (i) a female maxilliped bearing a prominent bi-lobate myxal process, opposing tip of the claw; (ii) leg 4 protopod ornamented with a patch of spinules on the posterolateral surface; and (iii) an abdomen ornamented with two rows of minute spinules at the .posterolateral corners

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