

**NOTES ON NORWEGIAN MARINE
AMPHIPODA 11. *CERADOCUS TORELLI*
(GOES, 1866), A NEW AMPHIPOD FOR
NORWAY**

WIM VADER & NIELS KRARUP LETH

Several specimens of the circumpolar melitid amphipod *Ceradocus torelli* (Goes, 1866) were found in stomachs of cod *Gadus morhua* in Stålvikbotn, N. Norway. These are the first records of this large and spectacular amphipod from Norwegian waters.

Wim Vader, Zoologisk Avdeling, Tromsø Museum, Univ. of Tromsø, 9000 Tromsø Norway.
Niels Krarup Leth, Norwegian Fisheries College, Univ. of Tromsø 9000 Tromsø, Norway.

Ceradocus torelli (Goës, 1866) is a large (up to 55 mm) and spectacular, but little-known and rarely recorded melitid amphipod. Since its original description from cod *Gadus morhua* L. stomachs from an unspecified Icelandic locality, the species has been collected sparingly from scattered localities in Greenland (Stephensen 1944 a, b), Iceland (Stephensen 1935—42, Oldevig 1959), northern Russia (cf. Gurjanova 1951), and Siberia (Brüggen 1909, Derjavin 1930, Gurjanova 1951). The best descriptions are still those of Goës (1866) and Brüggen (1909); very few ecological data are available.

Ceradocus torelli was recently found for the first time in Norwegian waters, once again in cod stomachs, in the course of a cod diet study by NKL in Stålvikbotn (c. 69 18' N, 18 52' E) near Tromsø in northern Norway. Stålvikbotn is a protected bay in the Malangen fiord system, with depths up to 70 m, a muddy bottom and a yearly range in temperature and salinity (below 10 m) of $-0.9 + 7^{\circ}\text{C}$ and 32—33 o/oo S. respectively. Remnants of *Ceradocus torelli* were found in 10 cods taken at depths of 6—63 m between 27 March and 18 June 1988, with 1—4 specimens per cod. The biggest measurable specimen of *C. torelli* had a total length of 48 mm. Other amphipod remnants in the stomach contents were all of common and widespread species in the Tromsø area (cf. Schneider 1926).

It is surprising that such a large and conspicuous amphipod, although obviously of regular occurrence in this area, has escaped discovery in a well researched area for such a long period. This, coupled with the scarceness of foreign records and the fact that several of these also are from cod stomachs, gives rise to the speculation that this species may normally live in deep galleries in the clayey substrate, and only venture forth sporadically.

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