

Short communications

MENIGRATOPSIS SVENNILSSONI (AMPHIPODA, LYSIANASSOIDEA) FOUND IN NORTHERN NORWAY

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Menigratopsis svennilssoni Dahl, 1945 is a little-known and rarely recorded lysianassoid amphipod. Since its original description on the base of 5 specimens from the Öresund between Denmark and Sweden, the species has only been reported twice: Just (1976) redescribed *M. svennilssoni* on the basis of the original specimens, two further animals from the type-locality area, and seven specimens from Bylot Sound and Wolstenholme Fjord in N.W. Greenland, while Vader & Johannessen (1978) reported on a single specimen from near Stavanger in western Norway (Fig. 1). The present note records the presence of *M. svennilssoni* in the Tromsø area of northern Norway (Fig. 1), where 7 specimens were found in four grab samples from mixed bottoms at depths of

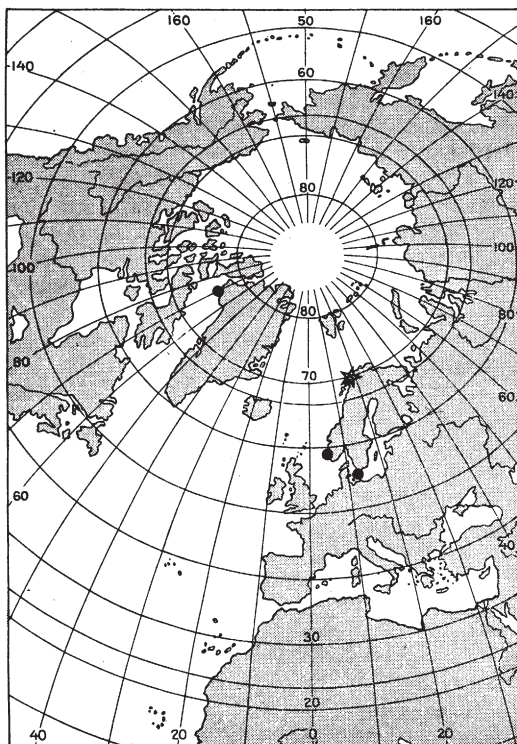


Fig. 1. Known distribution of *Menigratopsis svennilssoni*. The dots represent published records, the star the new record from the Tromsø area in northern Norway.

20–50 m in the sounds around the island of Tromsøya, during a study of urban pollution in the area (Oug & Holte 1985). The material is kept in the collection of Tromsø Museum. This occurrence shows once more that *M. svennilssoni* is widespread in the northern Atlantic, and that the paucity of records probably is the results of a somewhat specialized habitat.

I predict that *Menigratopsis svennilssoni* will be found to be a burrowing species, that tolerates low oxygen tensions in the substrate. This would explain the fact that this shallow-water species is eye-less, and that the adult males are very little modified for swimming. It also is in agreement with the curious circumstance that all European records of *M. svennilssoni* are from somewhat polluted areas.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to Børge Holte and Eivind Oug for giving me this interesting material for identification.

References

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