

**FOUR NEW SPECIES OF SPHAEROMATIDAE
(CRUSTACEA: ISOPODA) IN ALEXANDRIA MEDITERRANEAN
WATERS.**

MANAL ATTA

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In recent years, the number of species of crustaceans known to occur in Eastern Mediterranean, has increased significantly. New collections made at rocky beaches; rock crevices; under stones; amongst algae; barnacles and the intertidal rocky area of Alexandria waters provided a considerable amount of new information to the general knowledge of the isopods fauna of this area.

Many genera of Sphaeromatidae are not well defined because workers often put a new species into a genus which is not appropriate for the characters found (e. g., Hurley and Jansen, 1977 and Bruce, 1980), and others describe new species and define new genera on subadult specimens or females which belong to already described species based on males (e. g., Menzies and Glynn, 1968 and Pires, 1980 a). This is particularly so with the eubranchiata sphaeromatids included here.

The present work presents significant extensions for 4 species of marine sphaeromatids all of which are reported for the first time for Alexandria Mediterranean waters.

Order : Isopoda
Family : Sphaeromatidae
Sub family : Dynameninae
Genus : *Ischyromene* Racovitz, 1908
Ischyromene lacazei Racovitz, 1908

Previously known distribution: As mentioned by Harrison and Holdich (1982) that the Western Mediterranean may well be the Old World northern distribution limit of this genus, it is a predominantly temperate genus centred in the southern hemisphere.

New records : *Ischyromene lacazei* was collected in Miami and El-Montazah (Fig. 1) 3 species in June 1986 at the intertidal rocky area between algae.

Genus : *Paradella* Harrison and Holdich
Paradella diana (Menzies, 1962)

Previously known distribution: *Paradella diana* has a wide geographical distribution from both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of South America in both exposed and sheltered shores in Brazil (Pires, 1980 b), Puerto Rico (Glynn, 1968; Menzies and Glynn, 1968); Fred Island, Marshall Islands (Glynn, 1970).

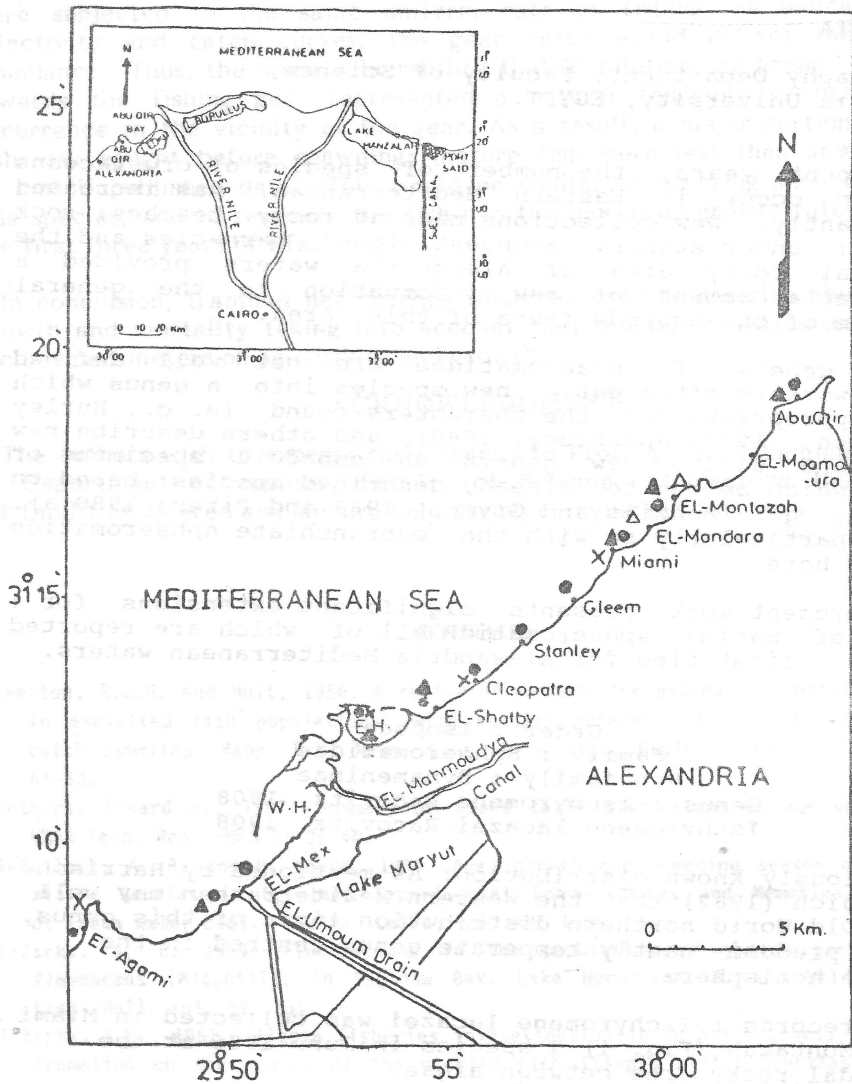


FIG. 1

The distribution of *Ischyromene lacazei* (Δ),
Paradella diana (\bullet), *Dynamene torelliae* (\times),
Dynamene edwardsi (\blacktriangle) along the coast of Alexandria.

New records: The species is widely distributed with great abundance in Alexandria waters (Fig. 1) it can withstand low salinity (5-25‰ at El-Mex) and polluted areas. The species inhabits rocky shores in moderately sheltered localities (salinity range 15-37‰), it was found amongst algae, barnacles and bryozoans.

Genus : *Dynamene*
Dynamene edwardsi (Lucas, 1849)

Previously known distribution: *Dynamene edwardsi* is widely distribution in various parts of the west and north Mediterranean (Holdich, 1969).

New records: A total of 49 specimens were captured along the shore during June 1986 (2 at El-Mex area, 22 at the Eastern Harbour, 6 at El-Shatby, 8 at Miami, 6 at El-Montazha and 5 at Abu-Qir, Figure 1). *Dynamene edwardsi* was found mainly among algae (*Ulva lactuca*, and *Corallina mediterranea*).

Dynamene torelliae (Holdich, 1963)

Previously known distribution: *Dynamene torelliae* was recorded from Mediterranean, Aegean and probably the Black Seas (Holdich, 1969).

New records: In Alexandria (Fig. 1), the species distribution is limited 12 specimens were collected during June 1986 (2 at Agami, 4 from the Eastern Harbour, 2 at Cleopatra and 4 at Miami). *Dynamene torelliae* was found at the intertidal rocky area between algae such as *Ulva* and *Pterocladia*.

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