Out on a limb: novel morphology and position on appendages of two new genera and three new species of ectoparasitic isopods (Epicaridea: Dajiidae) infesting isopod and decapod hosts

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Akrophryxus milvus n. gen., n. sp., holotype female, MNHN-IU-2014-20314, attached to Ethusa machaera Castro, 2005, macropod images.
Out on a limb: novel morphology and position on appendages of two new genera and three new species of ectoparasitic isopods (Epicaridea: Dajidae) infesting isopod and decapod hosts

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ABSTRACT
Adult female dajid isopods are ectoparasites found on carapaces, within marsupia, or rarely attached to the eyestalks or pereopods of crustacean hosts. We describe two new genera and species whose females exhibit a novel spheroid shape and envelope antennules of hosts:

**Akrophryxus milvus** n. gen., n. sp. parasitizing *Ethusa machaea* Castro, 2005 (Madagascar, c. 900 m) and

**Telephryxus clypeus** n. gen., n. sp. parasitizing *Munidopsis crassa* Smith, 1885 (Caribbean, c. 5000 m). Females of both species differ from other dajid species in their spheroid shape and a plate partially surrounding the host antennule; males are distinguished by reduction of pereopods. Females of *A. milvus* n. gen., n. sp. are distinguished from those of *T. clypeus* n. gen., n. sp. in possessing antennules and a triangular attachment plate with three holes (*T. clypeus* n. gen., n. sp. lacks antennules and the broad attachment plate has two medial holes). Males of *A. milvus* n. gen., n. sp. are distinguished from those of *T. clypeus* n. gen., n. sp. in having only six pairs of pereopods, rudimentary antennules, single segmented antennae, and pleon fused to pereomere 7 (*T. clypeus* n. gen., n. sp. with rudimentary seventh pair of pereopods, large single segmented antennules, two segmented antennae, and pleon distinct from pereomere 7).

Pre-molt epicaridium larvae and cryptoniscus larvae of *T. clypeus* n. gen., n. sp. are described. We also describe *Aegophila cappa* n. sp. found on pereopods of the isopod *Aegiochus symmetricus* (Richardson, 1905) (Bering Sea, c. 650 m), distinguished from the type species of *Aegophila* Bresciani, 1966 by oostegite morphology of the female, form of the antennae, and shape of the pleon of males. Tables with comparative characters for genera of Dajidae G. O. Sars, 1883 are provided. Dajid life cycles and development are reviewed.

**KEY WORDS**
Attachment to the extremities, including appendages such as antennae and legs, would seem a risky strategy for ectoparasites of aquatic hosts. Although some protozoans and other small ectoparasites and epibionts are commonly found on such host structures or their setae (e.g. Lom 2005; Heiner & Kristensen 2005), macroparasites are rarely attached in such positions. Rather, the bodies of most ectoparasites are closely applied to the bodies of their hosts or within protected regions (e.g. branchial chambers) and often exhibit adaptations (e.g. dorsoventral flattening, modified attachment structures) to withstand the hydrodynamic pressures that would otherwise dislodge them from hosts (e.g. Boxshall 2005a, b; Smit et al. 2014; Baillie et al. 2019). Other unusual sites of attachment are on the eye stalks of their crustacean hosts (Shields & Gómez-Gutiérrez 1996). Crustacean parasites that themselves parasitize other crustaceans are likewise usually found attached to the bodies of their hosts, either on the dorsal or ventral surfaces of the cephalon, the pereon or the pleon; however, there are a few highly modified spheroid or ovate macroparasites, such as certain rhizocephalans, tantulocarids, and copepods, that are known from extremities (e.g. antennules, antennae and pereopods) of their crustacean hosts (Boxshall & Hayes 2019).

Rhizocephalans (Rhizocephala Müller, 1862) are mesoparasitic barnacles that include colonial forms, of which some species (e.g. Thomposiia japonica Häfele, 1911; Thylocomplectus porcellana Hiller, Williams & Boyko, 2015) can occur on the pereopods as well as the body of the host. An additional species, Thomposiia chuni Häfele, 1911, is known from the eyestalks of its hermit crab host (Häfele 1911; Hiller et al. 2015). Each mature externa (the reproductive portion of the body) of a colonial rhizocephalan is approximately 1–2 mm in length and is attached by a short stalk to an appendage of its host; however, it does not surround the appendage (Hiller et al. 2015). The spheroid externae of these species, like all rhizocephalans, erupt from the body of the host and are connected to an internal root system; they are not originally attached to the appendages (aside from the larval phase that is responsible for injection of the primordial cells and may settle on an appendage prior to the injection; see life cycles in Høeg & Lützen 1995; Bæza et al. 2018).

Tantulocarids (Tantulocarida Boxshall & Lincoln, 1983) are ectoparasites on a range of small crustacean hosts (copepods, peracarids and ostracods) and their life cycle includes sac-like adult female stages attached to the host (both parthenogenetic females and females in the sexual stage are sac-like; see background and life cycles in Huys et al. 1993; Boxshall 2005c; Bæza et al. 2018). Several species of tantulocarid parasites (e.g. Amphitantulus harpiniacheres Boxshall & Vader, 1993; Microdajus tebesunovi Kolbasov & Savchenko, 2009; M. langi Greve, 1965) attach to the antennules, antennae and/or pereopods of their tanaid or amphipod hosts. However, these species have also been found attached to the main body of their hosts (Grygier & Sieg 1988; Boxshall & Vader 1993; Kolbasov & Savchenko 2009). There are a few tantulocarid species (e.g. Microdajus aporous Grygier & Sieg, 1988) that have only been reported from appendages (pereopods) of tanaids (Grygier & Sieg 1988). Species of Microdajus Greve, 1965 are minute (< 1 mm in length) and are attached by a stalk to the appendage of their hosts (Boxshall & Hayes 2019; Boyko et al. in press).
The only other previously known crustacean parasites that may be appendage specialists are some species of mesoparasitic nicothoid copepods (Nicothoidae Dana, 1852; see review in Kakui 2016). In particular, two species (Nicothiza humesi Lincoln & Boxshall, 1983 and N. rockallensis Lincoln & Boxshall, 1983) are found attached to the bases of pereopods 3-6 of their asellote isopod hosts (Lincoln & Boxshall 1983). Adult females of Nicothiza Lincoln & Boxshall, 1983 and other genera in the “Rhizorhina group” (sensu Boxshall & Halsey 2004) superficially resemble rhizocephalans, including convergently possessing an absorptive rootlet system within the host. These copepods are spheroid, relatively small (400-600 μm in length) and attach to hosts by a modified oral cone. The point of attachment to hosts for some nicothoids (e.g. species of Diecanthema Ritchie, 1975; see Boxshall & Harrison 1988) remains unknown and other species might be found to vary in their position on hosts (sampling has been low for many) but none are known to surround the appendages of their hosts. Among the parasitic isopods (Epiparicidea Latreille, 1825), which likewise exclusively parasitize other crustaceans, there were no species previously found attached to the antennules and only one known to attach to pereopods of their hosts. Epicaridea contains two superfamilies (Bopyroidea Rafinesque, 1815 and Cryptoniscoidea Kossmann, 1880), species of which nearly all externally parasitize calanoid copepods as their intermediate hosts and then parasitize one or more of a wide range of crustaceans (cirripeds, decapods, euphausiids, mysids, ostracods, peracarids) as definitive hosts. The most diverse family within Bopyroidea is Bopyridae Rafinesque, 1815 with over 600 species (Boyko et al. 2008a onwards), which are mostly ectoparasites in the branchial chambers of their definitive hosts, although some are also found attached to the ventral surfaces of host abdomens and a very few occur on other parts of hosts or are endoparasites (Trilles 1999; Williams & Boyko 2012). Females of most bopyrid species have a dorsoventrally flattened form, as do those of species in Ionidae H. Milne Edwards, 1840 which are exclusively branchial chamber parasites (see Boyko et al. 2013), whereas females of species in Entonisicidae Kossmann, 1881 are endoparasitic and vermiform. Among the cryptoniscoids, there are many species in which sexually mature females exhibit a sac-like form (Trilles 1999), but they are irregular in shape, do not form a spheroid, and are typically found in the brood chamber or shell (for the case of barnacles) of hosts as primary parasites or hyperparasites of a wide range of hosts (Williams & Boyko 2012).

Within Cryptoniscoidea the family Dajidae G. O. Sars, 1883 (Boyko et al. 2013) presently contains 56 species that typically possess a cryptoniscus larval stage with an oral sucker (see more in Remarks under Telephryxus clypeus n. gen., n. sp.) used to attach to the definitive host (see Gilson 1909; Coyle & Mueller 1981; Gómez-Gutiérrez et al. 2017). Most species in this group are attached as adults to the dorsal carapace of their hosts, typically on caridean shrimp and euphausiids or occur in the marsupia of mysids (see G. O. Sars 1898; Wässmer 1988; Shimomura et al. 2005; Gómez-Gutiérrez et al. 2017; de Almeida Alves-Júnior et al. 2019). One species (Ocelophryxus bicaulis Shields & Gómez-Gutiérrez 1996) uses modified antennae to attach to the eyestalk peduncle of euphausiid hosts, whereas species of Heterophryxus G. O. Sars, 1885 also attach to eyestalks but do so with their fifth pereopods. However, species of Heterophryxus and Ocelophryxus Shields & Gómez-Gutiérrez 1996 retain the dorsoventrally flattened typical dajid form as adult females and are closely applied to the host body. Aegophila socialis Bresciani, 1966 is the sole dajid as well as epicaridean known to parasitize the pereopods of its host, a species of aegid isopod; the body of females is more flattened than is typical of other dajids but is otherwise quite similar. Notophryxus lateralis G. O. Sars, 1885, is found attached to an appendage, either the endopod of the sixth pereopod or the sixth gill (G. O. Sars 1885; Field 1969; Gómez-Gutiérrez et al. 2017) but this species is in a very protected position on the ventral surface of its host.

Herein, we report on two new species of dajids that exhibit an unusual spheroid morphology and novel attachment position partially surrounding the antennules of their decapod hosts. In contrast to the highly modified female morphology, the males, epicaridium and cryptoniscus larvae of these species are typical of dajids in gross morphological details. One species was collected from the western Indian Ocean off Madagascar in nearly 1000 m depth, whereas the other was obtained in exceptionally deep (c. 5000 m) waters from the southern Caribbean. We also describe a third species of dajid, a new species of the genus Aegophila Bresciani, 1966 from the Bering Sea, found attached to a pereopod of an aegid isopod host. Although the morphology of females of this species is atypical of dajids and apparently specialized for attachment to the legs of hosts, females of this species do not exhibit the spheroid shape found in females of the two new genera attached to host antennules. The present study thus expands our knowledge of the morphological diversity and host attachment strategies within Dajidae, as well as parasitic isopods in general.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Methods of specimen collection are indicated in the “Type Material” sections below; data on collections (e.g. longitude and latitude coordinates, depth) are provided from the original records where possible. Carapace length (CL) of hosts was measured from the anterior end of the rostrum to the posterior edge of the carapace and carapace width (CW) was measured as the maximum width of carapace, using calipers. Isopod parasite size is given as maximal diameter for females of the two new genera (Akrophryxus n. gen. and Telephryxus n. gen.) and maximal length for all males and females of Aegophila (from anterior border of cephalon to terminus of uropods). All measurements were made with a micro-scale tool, ocular micrometer, or from drawing tube sketches.

Line drawings of parasites were made by sketching specimens using drawing tubes attached to Olympus compound and dissecting microscopes and using Adobe Illustrator to trace original sketches and produce final figures. Light micrographs were created with a Macropod Pro kit (MacroscopicSolutions) and resulting pictures were aligned and stacked with the focus.
stacking software Zerene Stacker (10-65 images from bottom to top of specimens). For Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) preparation of epidermid larval specimens, specimens were dehydrated in an ascending ethanol (EtOH) series, starting with 70% EtOH and ending with 100% EtOH. Specimens were then dried in a Samdri 795 Critical Point Dryer, mounted on aluminum stubs, coated with gold using an EMS-550 Sputter coater, and viewed with a FEI Quanta 250 SEM.

All specimens were deposited in the Museum National d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris, (MNHN) and National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C., (USNM). References are provided for taxonomic authorities of parasite taxa but not for those of hosts.

SYSTEMATICS

Family Dajidae G. O. Sars, 1883
Genus Aegophila Bresciani, 1966

TYPE SPECIES. — Aegophila socialis Bresciani, 1966

Aegophila cappa n. sp. (Figs 1; 2)

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“parasite” – Richardson 1909: 125, figs 49, 50.

“eine Form ohne Namen auf dem Isopode Aega symmetrica vom Behring-Meer” – Nierstrasz & Brender à Brandis 1931: 220.


TYPE MATERIAL. — Holotype. Bering Sea • USNM 39524; ovigerous female (3.4 mm W, 2.4 mm L); attached to pereopod of Aegiochus symmetricus (Richardson, 1905) (USNM 39293); Sta. 4772; 54°30’30”N, 179°14’E; “Bowers Bank”; 344-372 fathoms (= 629-680 m); coll. United States Bureau of Fisheries steamer Albatross, taken by 12-foot Tanner beam trawl (Anonymous 1907): 4.VI.1906.

Allotype. Bering Sea • USNM 1616634; mature male (920 μm L), same data as for holotype.


TYPE HOST. — Aegiochus symmetricus (Richardson, 1905) [Crustacea: Isopoda: Aegidae] (originally as Aega symmetrica in Richardson, 1909; see WoRMS 2008b onwards).

ETYMOLOGY. — The species name is derived from the Latin for cloak or cape (cappa), in reference to the fused oostegite 5 and lateral body wall of the female’s resemblance to a cloak drawn around the body. The gender is feminine.

DISTRIBUTION. — Known only from the type locality and type host.

DESCRIPTION

Female

Body (Fig. 1A, B) semicircular, approximately 1.25 times as wide as maximum length, dorsoventrally flattened, with pair of broad lateral lamellae filled with numerous embryos; lateral lamellae not reaching beyond frontal margin of cephalon. Cephalon (Fig. 1A-C) indistinctly dorsally separated from pleon, without eyes. Antennules and antennae apparently absent. Oral cone (Fig. 1B, D) with flaring rounded mandibles, extended, distal surface covered with scale-like structures; posterior margin of oral cone with two finger-like projections. Maxillipeds subquadrate (Fig. 1E). Pereon with few faint transverse and longitudinal folds in cuticle (Fig. 1A). Pereopods 1-5 subequal in size and shape, without setae (Fig. 2F-I, K); dactylus short but highly recurved, propodus and carpus fused, carpus expanded into cup receiving tip of dactylus, basis elongate. Oostegite 1 ovate, expanded, few small setae on posterior margin (Fig. 1H); oostegite 2 slender, rounded at narrowed distal tip, fringe of setae on proximoventral margin (Fig. 1I); oostegite 3 broader than 2, fringe of thick setae on proximoventral margin (Fig. 1J); oostegite 4 subquadrate, fringe of thick setae on proximoventral margin (Fig. 1K); oostegite 5 fused with lateral pleon, medioventral area with region of setae and small, rounded lobe (Fig. 1B, L). Pleon segments fused, minute, veriform, without lateral plates or pleopods (Fig. 1B).

Male

Body not recurved ventrally (Fig. 2A). Cephalon wider than long (Fig. 2A, B), fused with pereomere 1, anterior margin rounded, posterolateral margins (pereomere 1) as small, rounded lobes; lacking eyes, cephalic slits present. Antennules each as single flattened lobe with five or six long setae on medial and distal margins (Fig. 2B, C). Antennae of three segments each with single distal thin flagellum (Fig. 2B, C). Oral cone triangular (Fig. 2B, C). Pereomeres 2-7 distinct, 4-6 subequal in width, others narrower (Fig. 3B); lateral margins of pereomeres 2-7 extended ventrally, with multiple thin setae on margins (Fig. 2B, E). Pereopods with all segments distinct; 1, 2 each with recurved dactylus approximately as long as rounded propodus (Fig. 2B-D), 3-7 with recurved dactylus approximately 25% as long as slender elongate propodus (Fig. 2E); all ischia and bases elongate. Pleon elongate, subtriangular, segments fused but faint indication of pleomere 1 by rounded lobes and presence of lateral setae similar to those on pereomeres 2-7 (Fig. 2A, B); pleon tapering posteriorly with small distal rounded protrusion bearing terminal setae surrounding anal slit (Fig. 2A, B); pleopods lacking.

REMARKS

The new species is clearly conspecific with Aegophila socialis; females of both species show dorsoventral compression of the body, lack of antennules and antennae, expanded, club-like mandibles, the same arrangement of oostegites 1-4, the presence of a rounded knob and fringe of thin papillae on the medioventral margin of oostegite 5, as well as fusion of the fifth oostegites with the ventral body wall, and the pleon being a small, unsegmented protuberance. Males of the two species are similar in having fusion of the cephalon with the first pereomere and presence of rounded posterolateral lobes
corresponding to the side of pereomere 1, the antennules as unsegmented flaps fringed by setae, and the pleon with all segments fused and lacking pleopods.

Diagnostic differences between females of the two species include: oostegite 1 large, ovate in *A. cappa* n. sp. (small, "spoon-like" in *A. socialis*), oostegite 2 narrow in *A. cappa* n. sp. (broad in *A. socialis*), and oostegite 4 subquadrate in *A. cappa* n. sp. (ovate in *A. socialis*). Bresciani (1966) described *A. socialis* as lacking maxillipeds, but they are clearly present in *A. cappa* n. sp. and it is unclear if he overlooked them or if they are truly lacking in *A. socialis*; the latter appears unlikely since maxillipeds are required for oxygenation of the brood (Gilson 1909; Cericola & Williams 2015). Bresciani (1966) described the pereopods of *A. socialis* as “small and badly segmented, and do not show any special characters” but did not illustrate them well. In *A. cappa* n. sp., the pereopods have highly recurved dactyli and show fusion only of the propodus and carpus, with the carpus inner margin being expanded as a cup for insertion of the dactylus.

FIG. 1. — *Aegophila cappa* n. sp., holotype female, USNM 39524: A, dorsal view; B, ventral view (showing mouthparts, Mo; arrow indicates pleon); C, anterior end, en-face (showing mouthparts, Mo); D, mouthparts; E, left maxilliped, outer view; F, left pereopod 3; G, left pereopod 4; H, left oostegite 1 and pereopod 1; I, left oostegite 2 and pereopod 2; J, left oostegite 3; K, left oostegite 4 and pereopod 4; L, left oostegite 5, external view of medial edge and posterior end with rounded lobe (arrow). In figures E and H-K asterisks show site of attachment for structures dissected from body of parasite. Scale bars: A-C, 500 μm; D, F, G, 50 μm; E, H, L, 250 μm; I-K, 125 μm.

The males of the two species differ in the form of the antennae (multisegmented with a single flagellum in *A. cappa* n. sp. vs a single segment with a single flagellum in *A. socialis*) and the shape of the pleon (much longer than wide in *A. cappa* n. sp. vs length and width subequal in *A. socialis*). Bresciani (1966) did not describe the pereopods in detail but did illustrate them. His illustrations appear to show a difference in pereopods 1 and 2 (rounded propodus with typically recurved dactylus) vs 3-7 (elongate propodus and highly recurved dactylus) that is also seen in *A. cappa* n. sp. However, he drew pereopod 1 as having the propodus and carpus fused whereas in *A. cappa* n. sp., they are distinct.

It is not clear which specimen of *Aegiochus symmetricus* was the host of *A. cappa* n. sp. as all the of the potential host ae- gids collected at the parasite’s type locality (Sta. 4772, USNM 39293) have their legs intact and no evidence of damage is visible; however, a label reading “1 sent to W. W. Alpator / Jan 1923” is present in the jar and it is possible that this gifted specimen was the (now lost) host specimen of the holotype of *A. cappa* n. sp.
Genus *Akrophryxus* n. gen.
urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:223FBBB0-B294-4C38-ADEA-37C5E561BCB0

TYPE SPECIES. — *Akrophryxus milvus* n. sp.

ETYMOLOGY. — The genus name is derived from the Greek prefix ἀκρο- (ákro-), meaning “limb” or “extremity” in reference to the specialization of the female of the species on the antennule of the host crab rather than on the host body, in combination with -phryxus, from the Boeotian prince Phryxus (Φρίξος) of Greek mythology, a common ending for dajid, as well as some bopyrid, genera. The gender is masculine.

INCLUDED SPECIES. — *Akrophryxus milvus* n. sp. (type species).

DIAGNOSIS. — Female. Body spheroid; cephalon externally indistinguishable from pereon. Antennules absent, antennae each as oblong flat plate lateral to oral cone. Maxillipeds ovate with recurred digitiform extension. Pereopods 1-5 subequal in size and shape. Oostegite 1 largest, broadly ovate with small posterior accessory lobe; oostegites 2/3, 4, 5 progressively larger; oostegite 2 thin and closely applied to oostegite 3. Pleon apparently modified as oblong, narrow, thickened plate with three circular medial holes: largest surrounding antennule of host, smallest hole at midpoint of plate, intermediate sized hole farthest from mouthparts of parasite.

Male. Cephalon fused with pereomere 1; cephalic slits present. Antennules of three stacked discs, flagella absent; antennae broad elongate lobes lateral to oral cone, flagella absent. Pereomeres 2-6 distinct; pereomere 7 fused with pleon, lateral margins recurred ventrally. Pereopods 1-6 subequal in size and shape; pereopod 7 lacking. Pleon rounded, all segments fused and fused with pereomere 7; pleopods lacking.

REMARKS

See Remarks below under *Akrophryxus milvus* n. gen., n. sp. for comparison of female and male characters of *Akrophryxus* n. gen., *Telephryxus* n. gen., and other dajid genera.
**Akrophryxus milvus** n. sp.  
(Figs 3-5, 11Q, R)  

“sacculinid (? parasite attached to antennular fossa)” – Castro 2013: 443.

**TYPE MATERIAL.** —  
Holotype. Madagascar • MNHN-IU-2014-20314; ovigerous female (3.1 mm diameter), attached to left antennule of male *Ethusa machaera* Castro, 2005 (9.2 mm CL, 9.0 mm CW; MNHN-IU-2010-1997); Sta. CP 3595; 25°35’28.2012”S, 44°15’25.2”E; south of Pointe Barrow; 821-910 m; coll. Bouchet *et al.* on the shrimper *Nosy Be 11*; ATIMO VATAE expedition, collected by trawling; 12.V.2010.  
Allotype. Madagascar • MNHN-IU-2014-20315; mature male (740 μm L); same data as for holotype.

**TYPE LOCALITY.** — 25°35’28.2012”S, 44°15’25.2”E, Madagascar, south of Pointe Barrow, 821-910 m.

**TYPE HOST.** — *Ethusa machaera* Castro, 2005 [Crustacea: Brachyura: Ethusidae].

**ETYMOLOGY.** — The species name is derived from the Latin for “kite” in reference to the plate partially surrounding the host antennule that is reminiscent of the shape of a kite shield, defensive armor used primarily in Western Europe in the 10th-13th centuries. The gender is masculine.

**DISTRIBUTION.** — Known only from the type locality and type host.

**DESCRIPTION**

**Female**

Body spheroid, length and width nearly equal, filled with numerous eggs (Figs 3A, B; 4A, C-G). Cephalon externally indistinguishable from pereon, without eyes. Antennules absent, antennae each as oblong flat plate lateral to oral cone, covered with minute scales (not shown) (Figs 4G; 5G). Oral cone rounded (Fig. 4G); mouthparts indistinct. Maxillipeds ovate with recurved digitiform extension (Fig. 5H). Pereopods 1-5 subequal in size and shape, without setae (Figs 4G; 5E, F); dactylus short, recurved, propodus carpus and merus fused, ischia and bases stout. Oostegite 1 largest (Figs 4G; 5J), broadly ovate with small posterior accessory lobe, broad lobe medially divided in lateral view (Fig. 5K); oostegites 2/3, 4, 5 progressively larger; oostegite 2 present, thin and closely applied to oostegite 3, lobes subequal in size and shape (Fig. 5L); oostegite 3 subtriangular (Fig. 5L), expanded posteriorly, medial and anterior finger-like extensions present with small setae distally, oostegites 4 and 5 subquadrate, small setae on medial and posterior margins (Fig. 5M). Pleon presumably modified (see Discussion) as oblong, narrow, thickened plate (Fig. 4A-G) partially surrounding host antennule with three circular medial holes: largest surrounding antennule of host and closest to mouthparts of parasite, smallest hole at midpoint of plate, intermediate sized hole farthest from mouthparts of parasite.

**Male**

Body not recurved ventrally (Fig. 5A, B). Cephalon fused with pereomere 1 (Fig. 5A, B), anterior margin rounded, posterolateral margins evenly rounded; lacking eyes, cephalic slits present. Antennules reduced, each apparently composed of three flattened disc-shaped segments (Fig. 5C); antennae each as single broad elongate lobes lateral to oral cone, flagella absent (Fig. 5C). Oral cone triangular (Fig. 5B, C). Pereomeres 2-6 distinct, 4-6 subequal in width, others slightly narrower (Fig. 5A, B); pereomere 7 fused with pleon, lateral margins recurved ventrally. Pereopods 1-6 subequal in size and shape, all segments distinct, carpi rounded, ischia short, bases elongate; dactylus, propodus and carpus with isolated marginal setae (Fig. 5B-D); pereopod 7 lacking. Pleon com-
pact, rounded, all segments fused and fused with pereomere 7, rounded posteriorly; anal slit and pleopods lacking (Fig. 5A, B).

REMARKS
The female of *Akrophryxus milvus* n. gen., n. sp. is very different from those in all other dajids, excepting *Telephryxus clypeus* n. gen., n. sp. (Table 1). The spheroid shape of the body and possession of a plate partially surrounding the host antennule are shared only by these two genera. The male of *A. milvus* n. gen., n. sp. is likewise very different from those in all other dajid genera (Table 2), including *T. clypeus* n. gen., n. sp. in having only six pairs of pereopods with no trace of the seventh pair (pereopod 7 of two elongate segments in the sole species of *Oculophryxus* and of one or two stub-like segments in *T. clypeus* n. gen., n. sp.). The male of *A. milvus* n. gen., n. sp. also differs from those in most genera in having the pleon fused with pereomere 7 (distinct from pereomere 7 in males in all other genera except *Holophryxus* Richardson, 1905 and *Oculophryxus*), and from all other genera in having a reduced antennule and an antenna with a single large segment (males of other genera with antennules of at least one well-developed segment and all with antennae segmented and with distal flagella).

The female of *A. milvus* n. gen., n. sp. can be distinguished from that of *T. clypeus* n. gen., n. sp. in lacking antennules and in having three medial holes on the narrow, triangular attachment plate partially surrounding the host antennule with no additional lateral holes (*T. clypeus* n. gen., n. sp. has flattened antennules and a broad, subquadrate attachment plate partially surrounding the host antennule and having two large medial holes, the largest with two additional small lateral holes). The male of *A. milvus* n. gen., n. sp. can be distinguished from that of *T. clypeus* n. gen., n. sp. in having only six pairs of pereopods (six fully-developed pairs plus a rudimentary seventh pair of one
or two small segments in *T. clypeus* n. gen., n. sp.), a reduced antennule and a single segmented antenna (large ovate single segmented antennule and two segmented short antennae in *T. clypeus* n. gen., n. sp.), and the short and rounded pleon fused to pereomere 7 (pleon distinct from pereomere 7, elongate and tapered pleon in *T. clypeus* n. gen., n. sp.).

Genus *Telephryxus* n. gen.

**Type species.** — *Telephryxus clypeus* n. sp.

**Etymology.** — The genus name is derived from the Greek prefix τῆλε- (tele-), meaning “far away” in reference to the specialization of the female of the species on the antennule of the host crab rather than on the host body (as in “far away from the host’s body”) as well as to the occurrence of the sole species in the abyssopelagic zone (far away from the habitat of most dajids), in combination with -phryxus, from the Boeotian prince Phryxus (Φρίξος) of Greek mythology, a common ending for dajid, as well as some bopyrid, genera. The gender is masculine.

**Included Species.** — *Telephryxus clypeus* n. sp. (type species).

**Diagnosis.** — **Female.** Body spheroid; cephalon externally indistinguishable from pereon. Antennules each as flat triangular plate; antennae each as flat rectangular plate lateral to oral cone. Maxillipeds inflated, rectangular, each with recurved maxillipeds digitiform extension (“appendix”) at posterolateral corner. Pereopods 1-5 subequal in size and shape. Oostegite 1 largest, broadly ovate with large triangular posterior accessory lobe; oostegites 2-4 flat, ovate; oostegite 5 flat, tapering. Pleon apparently modified as subquadrate, broad, thickened plate with two circular medial holes, subequal in size; hole surrounding distal portion of host antennular peduncle with one small additional hole on each lateral margin.

![Fig. 5. — Akrophryxus milvus n. gen., n. sp., allotype male (A-D; MNHN-IU-2014-20315) and holotype female (E-M; MNHN-IU-2014-20314): A, dorsal view; B, ventral view; C, ventral view of anterior end showing left antennule (A1), left antenna (A2), mouthparts (Mo) and first pereopods; D, right pereopod 6; E, pereopods 1-5 from left side (1 and 5 labeled with numbers); F, pereopod 3 from left side; G, antenna from left side, covered in scales (not shown); H, left maxilliped, ventral view, arrow shows digitiform extension that is inserted in fold of oostegite 1 in part K (shown by arrowhead); I, left maxilliped, lateral view; J, left oostegite 1, lateral view showing fold where digitiform extension of maxilliped resides (arrowhead); L, left oostegite 3, anterior portion of oostegite 2 shown by arrowhead and in dashed line; M, left oostegite 5. In Figures 2G, H-K, and M asterisks show site of attachment for structures dissected from body of parasite. Scale bars: A, B, G, L, M, 100 μm; C, D, 25 μm; E, H-K, 250 μm; F, 50 μm.](image-url)
**Male.** Cephalon fused with pereonome 1; cephalic slits present. Antennae each as single ovate plate lateral to and extending posterior to oral cone; antennae of two segments each, flagella absent. Pereomeres 2–7 distinct, lateral margins recurved ventrally. Pereopods 1–6 subequal in size and shape; pereopod 7 reduced, single rounded stub on right side, rounded stub plus dactylus on left side. Pleon tapering to rounded tip, all segments fused, distinct from pereomere 7; pleopods lacking. Cryptoniscus larva: Body tear-drop shaped. Cephalon medial region of posterior margin convex, lateral regions concave, posterolateral margins extended posteriorly. Antennules of three articles each, basal article triangular, article 2 quadratic, article 3 digitiform, inserted into article 2 discentrally. Antennae of nine articles each, peduncular articles subequal in size: flagellar articles approximately half width of peduncular articles. Oral cone lacking oral sucker (possible artifact due to loss during collection). Pereomeres 1–7 with entire coxal plates. Pereopod 1 with short, slightly curved dactylus, propodus semi-spherical; pereopods 2–6 with more elongate curved dactyl, propodi progressively more elongate. Pereopod 7 with long, slightly curved dactylus, propodus elongate with two large multifid setae near base of dactylus; carpus with distal large multifid seta; merus triangular with anterodorsal edge extending into spine-like extension, ischium triangular, basis cylindrical. Pleon with five pairs of biramous pleopods, endopods cylindrical, exopods triangular. Pleotelson oval. Uropods biramous, sympod broad, endopod slightly longer than exopod.

**Remarks**

See Remarks above under *Akrophryxus milvus* n. gen., n. sp. for comparison of female and male characters of *Akrophryxus* n. gen., *Telephryxus* n. gen., and other dajid genera.

*Telephryxus elypeus* n. sp.

(Figs 6–10; 11N)

**Description**

**Female**

Body spheroid (Figs 6; 7A, B), length and width nearly equal, filled with numerous pre-molt epicaridium larvae (see description below). Cephalon externally indistinguishable from pereon, without eyes. Antennules (Fig. 7F) each as flat triangular plate covered with minute scales (not shown); antennae each as rectangular flat plate lateral to oral cone (Fig. 7E, G), covered with minute scales (Fig. 7G inset). Oral cone rounded (Fig. 7E); mouthparts indistinct. Maxillipedes inflated, rectangular, each with recurved maxilliped digitiform extension (“appendix”) at posterolateral corner (Figs 6E, 7E, H, K), “appendix” extending into groove of oostegite 1 (Fig. 7K). Pereopods 1–5 subequal in size and shape, without setae (Fig. 7E); dactylus short, recurved, propodus carpus and merus fused (indistinct ventral indication of segmentation on some pereopods), ischia and bases stout. Oostegite 1 largest, broadly ovate with large triangular posterior accessory lobe (Figs 6E; 7I, J, K), broad rounded lobe mediad divided in lateral view, forming groove (Fig. 7F, K); oostegites 2–4 flat, ovate, posterior pairs progressively slightly larger (Fig. 7K); oostegite 5 flat, elongate, tapering, lacking marginal setae (Fig. 5L). Pleon presumably modified (see Discussion) as subquadrate, broad, thickened plate (Figs 6A–D; 7A, B, D) partially surrounding host antennule with two circular medial holes, subequal in size; hole surrounding basal antennular peduncle of host closest to mouthparts of parasite, hole surrounding distal portion of host antennular peduncle with one small additional hole on each lateral margin.

**Male**

Body not recurved ventrally (Fig. 8A, B). Cephalon fused with pereomere 1 (Fig. 8A–C), anterior margin subtriangular, posterolateral margins evenly rounded; faint unpigmented eyes, cephalic slits present. Antennules each as single ovate plate lateral to and extending posterior to oral cone, with minute lateral projection bearing terminal setae (Fig. 8C); antennae lateral to antennules, of two segments each with distal setae (Fig. 8C), flagella absent. Oral cone subtriangular (Fig. 8B, C). Pereomeres 2–7 distinct, 2–6 subequal in width, 7 slightly narrower, lateral margins recurved ventrally (Fig. 8A, B). Pereopods 1–6 subequal in size and shape (Fig. 8B–D), ischia and bases fused, carpi rounded, ischia/bases elongate; dactylus and propodus with isolated marginal setae; pereopod 7 reduced, single rounded stub on right side, rounded stub plus dactylus on left side. Pleon elongate (Fig. 8A, B), tapering to rounded tip, all segments fused, distinct from pereomere 7; anal slit and pleopods lacking.

*Cryptoniscus larva*

Body tear-drop shaped (Fig. 9A, B), length 0.9 mm, maximum width at pereomere 3. Cephalon anterior margin round, medial region of posterior margin convex, lateral regions concave, posterolateral margins extended posteriorly (Fig. 9A); eyes round, unpigmented. Body pigmentation lacking. Antennules of three articles each (Fig. 9C), basal article triangular with five stout distal setae, article 2 quadratic with four stout distal
New parasitic isopod species from the appendages of crustacean hosts

setae and several low, rounded bumps, article 3 digitiform, inserted into article 2 distoventrally, less than half width of article 2, with two distal setae (Fig. 9C). Antennae of nine articles each (four peduncular and five flagellar) (Fig. 9B, D), all articles cylindrical, peduncular articles subequal in size with minute, distal setae (at least on articles 3 and 4); flagellar

Fig. 6. — *Telephryxus clypeus* n. gen., n. sp., holotype female, macropod images, USNM 1163461: A, lateral view, right side showing host antennule extending from top (remains of distal end of host antennule to left, basal end of host antennule to right); B, oblique view of left side, outer membrane of parasite removed, showing brood of eggs; C, top down view, showing lateral openings in parasite body to side of host antennule; D, posterior view, membrane of parasite removed on left side, showing brood of eggs; E, lateral view, left side with eggs removed showing maxillipeds (*Ma*), oostegite 1 (*O1*) and raised keel-like structure (*k*) that extends posteriorly. In figures A-D, the basal antennular peduncle of host (*bA*), distal portion of host antennular peduncle (*dA*), and small additional hole in pleon (*h*) are labeled. Scale bars: A-E, 1 mm.
articles approximately half width of peduncular articles, with minute terminal setae, distalmost article with two long terminal setae (Fig. 9D). Oral cone triangular, anteriorly directed, lacking oral sucker (see Remarks) (Fig. 9B, E). Pereomeres 1-7 with entire (not toothed) coxal plates (Fig. 9B). Pereopod 1 with short, slightly curved dactylus, propodus semi-spherical with distoventral ridge corresponding to dactylus tip position bearing stout, simple setae; carpus with distal seta; merus and ischia rounded, basis cylindrical (Fig. 9D, E). Pereopods 2-6 with more elongate curved dactyli, propodi progressively more elongate with distoventral ridge corresponding to dactylus tip position, with two large multifid setae and one simple seta near base of dactylus; carpus with distal large multifid seta; merus triangular with anterodorsal edge extending into spine-like extension closely applied to propodus dorsal margin, ischiium large, triangular, basis long, cylindrical (Fig. 9G). Pleon with five pairs of biramous pleopods, endopods cylindrical, exopods triangular, both with long terminal setae (Fig. 9H). Pleotelson oval, with rounded distomedial margin (Fig. 9A, I). Uropods biramous, composed of wide sympod with lateral projection and seta, endopod slightly longer than exopod, pair of long distal setae on endopods and exopods, short seta at distolateral margin of endopods and exopods (Fig. 9I).

Pre-Molt Epicaridium Larva
Length 228.1 ± 13.7 μm (n = 30) from anterior margin of cephalon to end of pleotelson. Body ovoid (Fig. 10A), covered in wrinkled cuticle, obscuring segmentation of append-

Fig. 7. — Telephryx clypeus n. gen., n. sp., holotype female, USNM 1163461: A, lateral view, right side showing host antennule extending from top (remains of distal end of host antennule to left, basal end of host antennule to right); B, top down view (remains of distal end of host antennule to top, basal end of host antennule to bottom); C, host antennule showing attachment sight of parasite with two holes created by mouthparts and rows of scars from pereopods; D, posterior view, showing lateral openings in parasite body to side of host antennule; E, ventral view showing showing mouthparts (Mo), antenna (A2), maxillipeds (Ma) and pereopods (1-5 labeled); F, antennule; G, antenna, arrow shows magnified view of scales that cover both antennae; H, right maxilliped, arrow shows position of curved digitiform extension and where it is inserted in fold of oostegite 1 in part K; I, right oostegite 1, showing two lobes (1 and 2); J, right oostegite 1, view showing two lobes (1 and 2) and fold along edge within which digitiform extension of maxilliped resides; K, ventral view of body showing maxillipeds (Ma), oostegite 1 (O1) and pereopods (1-5 labeled) and raised keel-like structure (k) that extends posteriorly; L, left oostegite 5. In figures A, B, and D, the basal antennular peduncle of host (bA), distal portion of host antennular peduncle of host (dA), and small additional hole in pleon (h) are labeled. In figures F-J, and L asterisks show site of attachment for structures dissected from body of parasite. Scale bars: A, B, D, E, K, 1 mm; C, H, I, J, L, 500 μm; F, G, 200 μm.
ages. Cephalon large, rounded anteriorly; in ventral view, broad and extending laterally, appearing fused with antennules (Fig. 10B, D). Antennule triangular with large basal portion, two distal lobes and additional smaller extensions (Fig. 10B, D F). Antenna long, approximately ¾ length of body (Fig. 10A, B, E) with small distal lobes (Fig. 10C, G). Oral region inflated, no distinct oral cone, with pair of lobes (maxillipeds) anterior to pair of smaller lobes (Fig. 10B, D). Six pairs of rounded, broadly hooked pereopods, subequal in size, segmentation not visible (Fig. 10B, D, E). In lateral view, sides of pereomeres and pleomeres with thin extensions; anterior pleomeres 3–5 with crenulate margins (Fig. 10E, G). Pleon with 5 pairs of pleopods (Fig. 10B, C, G); pleopods 1–4 biramous, bearing three long terminal setae on each exopod and two long terminal setae on each endopod; pleopod 5 reduced, uniramous, lacking long terminal setae. Uropods biramous, endopods slightly shorter than exopods, both ending in two short lobes, terminal setae lacking (Fig. 10D, G).

REMARKS

See Remarks under *Akrophryxus milvus* n. gen., n. sp. for comparison with *Telephryxus clypeus* n. gen., n. sp. and other dajids. The maxilliped digitiform extension (“appendix” of Rustad 1935) appears homologous with the lateral lobes of the barbula found in bopyrids (Markham 1985). As in bopyrids, the maxillipeds are used to pump water through the brood chamber, oxygenating the eggs or larvae (Gilson 1909; Cericola & Williams 2015). However, in the case of females of species in the two new genera, the digitiform extension of the maxilliped also fits into the groove of oostegite 1, thus further aiding in oxygenation by moving the whole first oostegite. It may also aid in maintaining larvae in the brood chamber prior to release (Cericola & Williams 2015).
FIG. 9. — Telephryxus clypeus n. gen., n. sp., paratype cryptoniscus larva, USNM 1616636: A, dorsal view; B, ventral view; C, left antennule; D, left antenna and pereopod 1; E, ventral view of mouthparts (Mo), right pereopod 1 (P1), right pereopod 2 (P2); F, left pereopod 6; G, left pereopod 7; H, left pleopod 1 and part of left pereopod 7; I, pleotelson and left uropod, dorsal view. Scale bars: A, B, 100 μm; C, E-I, 10 μm; D, 50 μm.
The epicaridium larvae of *Telephryxus clypeus* n. gen., n. sp. were in pre-molt, having a wrinkled cuticle (particularly evident surrounding the cephalon, antennae and pereopods) similar to that shown in larvae of other dajid species (G. O. Sars 1898: pl. 94; Gilson 1909: figs 10, 11; Shimomura et al. 2005: fig. 12). As discussed by Gilson (1909), there are two stages of epicaridium larvae: the first is maintained within the brood chamber of the female and the second is released from the female as the planktonic phase prior to attachment to a copepod intermediate host (Fig. 11A-G). In addition to the yolk provisioned endogenously to the epicaridium larvae, they may also be provisioned with exogenous sources of nutrition taken up across the embryonic epithelial layer (as discussed by Strömberg [1971] and shown to occur in cryptoniscoids by Goudeau [1977]) that fuel their final development prior to release into the water column. After molting, the second stage (mature) epicaridium larvae of dajids show distinct segmentation of appendages (e.g. G. O. Sars 1898; Gilson 1909; Tattersal 1911; Taberly 1957a). The pleopods of the epicaridium larva of *T. clypeus* n. gen., n. sp. all appear biramous (as they do in other pre-molt larvae previously described; e.g. Stephensen [1913], Shimomura et al. [2005]). However, it is not clear if any or all of these will remain biramous or become uniramous in the mature epicaridium larva. Pleopods of mature epicaridium larvae of dajids have been described with both uniramous and biramous states: pleopods 1-5 uniramous (Gilson 1909) or pleopods 1-4 biramous and 5 uniramous (Taberly 1957a; Coyle & Mueller 1981).

The uropods of the pre-molt epicaridium larvae of *T. clypeus* n. gen., n. sp. are biramous, as are those of the mature epicaridium larvae described by Taberly (1957a). However, the orientation of the endopod and exopod of the uropods is ninety degrees rotated (“superposées” of Trilles 1999) from
Fig. 11. — Life-cycle diagram of the dajid isopod Prodajus ostendensis Gilson, 1909 parasitizing the opossum shrimp Gastroscus spinifer (Goës, 1864): A, ovigerous female, ventral view. Eggs (shown in dashed circles) develop into early epicardium larvae and then molt once; B, mature epicardium larvae released into the water column; C, mature epicardium larvae find copepod intermediate host, attach and metamorphose into an ectoparasitic microniscus larva. Microniscus larva transforms into a cryptoniscus larva that detaches and is free-swimming; D, cryptoniscus larva settles on host mysid and invades marsupium; E, within the host marsupium the cryptoniscus larva transforms into a juvenile female; F, juvenile female, ventral view; G, another cryptoniscus larva (or larvae) settles and transforms into a dwarf male; H, host G. spinifer with ovigerous female P. ostendensis (in grey) occupying the marsupium; I, ovigerous female, lateral view with one dwarf male partially visible and eggs shown in dashed circles; J-M, developmental series of females of P. ostendensis, all in lateral view: J, cryptoniscus larva with oral sucker (OS); K, early juvenile female (second phase fide Gilson 1909); L, later juvenile female (third phase fide Gilson 1909); M, ovigerous female; N-R, proposed developmental series of females of Akrophryxus milvus n. gen., n. sp. and Telephryxus clypeus n. gen., n. sp.; N, cryptoniscus larva of T. clypeus n. gen., n. sp., dorsal view; O, hypothetical early juvenile female, lateral view; P, hypothetical later juvenile female of A. milvus n. gen., n. sp. attached to antennule of host (shown in grey), lateral view; Q, ovigerous female of A. milvus n. gen., n. sp. attached to antennule of host (shown in grey), lateral view; R, ovigerous female of A. milvus n. gen., n. sp. dissected to show attachment to antennule of host (shown in grey) with mouth (Mo) of parasite noted, lateral view (A, B, D-M, modified from figures in Gilson (1909); C, from G. O. Sars (1898)). Scale bars: A-Q, R, 1 mm; E, 3 mm; N, 100 μm; rest not to scale.
the lateral orientation that is typical for other epicarideans ("côte à côte" of Trilles 1999). The two segments can only be distinguished in lateral view (Taberly 1957a: fig. 1; Coyle & Mueller 1981: fig. 1E). Some mature dajid larvae have been illustrated with what appear to be uniramous uropods (G. O. Sars 1898; Gilson 1909) but, as suggested by Taberly (1957a), these larvae may not have been observed in the proper orientation. Tattersall (1911) considered uniramous pleopods and uniramous uropods a defining characteristic for dajids; however, the key of Bourdon in Trilles (1999) is probably more accurate for dajid characters (pleopods and uropods both biramous).

The cryptoniscus larva of _T. clypeus_ n. gen., n. sp. lacks an oral sucker, a characteristic found in most dajid species for which larvae have been examined (Fig. 11J). However, we think this represents a case where the attachment structure fell off prior to or during collection. As noted by Taberly (1957b), the oral sucker of dajids is easily detached. Other records of dajid cryptoniscus larvae lacking an oral sucker (e.g. _Holophryxus alaskensis_ Richardson, 1905, _Zonophryxus quinquidens_ Barnard, 1914) should be considered as possible instances where this structure was detached. Although Coyle & Mueller (1981) collected several cryptoniscus larvae of _H. alaskensis_ and reported they lacked an oral sucker, we suggest collection of new material of all such species is needed to confirm absence or presence of the oral sucker in cryptoniscus larvae across dajid taxa.

**TABLE 1.** — Comparative characters of females in the 20 genera of Dajidae G. O. Sars, 1883. Higher level host taxon and the position on hosts or attachment site of the parasites, if known, is indicated in the first column. Two genera have no described females. Species of _Dolichophryxus_ Schultz, 1977 and _Paraspidophryxus_ Schultz, 1977 described from cryptoniscus larva only, hosts are unknown.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genus</th>
<th>Host taxon (position on host)</th>
<th>Distinct cephalon</th>
<th>Pereon Segmented</th>
<th>Number of pleopod pairs</th>
<th>Number of oostegite pairs</th>
<th>Number of pleomeres</th>
<th>Uropods</th>
</tr>
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<td>Aegophilinae</td>
<td>Isopoda (pereopod)</td>
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<td>Rudimentary</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
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<td>5 or 6</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Antephyra Schultz, 1978</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
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<td>?</td>
<td>1 (fused)</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
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<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Female epicaridean parasites exhibit an amazing degree of morphological diversity that has likely evolved as varied adaptations to their highly specialized parasitic lifestyle, from forms that are not widely divergent from the typical isopod bauplan (i.e., with seven clearly identifiable pereomeres and segmented pereopods) to those that are nearly unrecognizable as isopods to the untrained eye (i.e., exhibit a sac-like body lacking any segmentation) (e.g. Trilles 1999; Williams & Boyko 2012; Buhl-Mortensen et al. 2020). The present study adds two new genera and three new species to the family Dajidae, increasing the total number of genera from 18 to 20 and bringing the total number of species in the family to 59. The findings expand the morphological boundaries of dajids – a group of parasites historically known primarily from the carapaces of multiple hosts) but this has not been definitively demonstrated. 

The similarity of the females’ spheroid morphology could either be due to a shared common ancestor or to convergent adaptations for parasitizing antennules of their hosts. More specimens and, ideally, molecular data would be needed to address these possibilities. 

Dajid life cycles, such as that of Prodajus ostendensis Gilson, 1909 from the opossum shrimp host Gastroscus spinifer (Goës, 1864), show that the female parasites reach sexual maturity and release epiceridium larvae that seek out a calanoid copepod, pass through a microniscus larval stage that feeds on copepod hemolymph, and ultimately transform into a cryptoniscus larva that seeks out and settles on a definitive host (Fig. 11-A-G). The cryptoniscus larva likely settles on the host (possibly in the branchial chamber) and then moves to its final destination (see Coyle & Mueller 1981). Unlike in other epicaridean parasites that exhibit protandric hermaphroditism (Williams & Boyko 2012), the cryptoniscus larvae of dajids are supposedly of separate sexes and males do not turn into females (Gilson 1909); larvae either become juvenile females (Fig. 11-F) or males (Fig. 11-G); this, however, needs more study for confirmation. Males move onto females, eventually entering the brood chamber and fertilizing the eggs of sexually mature females (Fig. 11-A, H, I). Some researchers (Gómez-Gutiérrez et al. 2010; 2017) have suggested the cryptoniscus larvae of dajids can act as micropredators (feeding transiently on multiple hosts) but this has not been definitively demonstrated.

### DISCUSSION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genus</th>
<th>Antennule (= antenna 1)</th>
<th>Antennae (= antenna 2)</th>
<th>Terminal pereomere fused with first pleomere</th>
<th>Number of pereopod pairs</th>
<th>Number of pleomeres</th>
<th>Uropods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aegophila Bresciani, 1966</td>
<td>Single lobe</td>
<td>2 or 4 segments</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 (fused)</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akrophryxus n. gen.</td>
<td>Single lobe?</td>
<td>5 segments</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1 (fused)</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allophryxus Koehler, 1911</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthocephryxus Richardson, 1908</td>
<td>1 or 2 segments</td>
<td>8 or 9 segments</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 (fused)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aspidophryxus G. O. Sars, 1883</td>
<td>Rudimentary</td>
<td>9 segments</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 (fused)</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branchiophryxus Caullery, 1897</td>
<td>(1 segment?)</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5 or 6</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colophryxus Richardson, 1908</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>9 segments</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 (fused)</td>
<td>Rudimentary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dajus Kroyer, [1842]</td>
<td>Rudimentary</td>
<td>9 segments</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heterophryxus G. O. Sars, 1885</td>
<td>1-3 segments</td>
<td>5 segments</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 (fused)</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holophryxus Richardson, 1905</td>
<td>1-3 segments</td>
<td>Longer, 1-3 segments?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notophryxus G. O. Sars, 1883</td>
<td>1 or 2 segments</td>
<td>5 or 6 segments</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oculophryxus Shields &amp; Gómez–Gutiérrez, 1996</td>
<td>2 segments</td>
<td>5 segments</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 or 2</td>
<td>Yes (biramous)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prodajus Bonnier, 1903</td>
<td>2 segments</td>
<td>5 or 6 segments</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephryxus n. gen.</td>
<td>1 large segment</td>
<td>2 segments</td>
<td>6 + reduced pair</td>
<td>1 (fused)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zonophryxus Richardson, 1904</td>
<td>1 segment</td>
<td>6 segments</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 (fused)</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additionally, Gómez-Gutiérrez et al. (2017) stated that one of the three main feeding strategies for dajids was “eating the eggs from the crustacean’s oviogenous sacs, which so far is only observed in Dajidae infesting mysids (Shimomura et al. 2005; Shimomura & Ohtsuka 2008).” No such observation was reported by either Shimomura et al. (2005) or Shimomura & Ohtsuka (2008). However, Ohtsuka et al. (2007) reported on a copepod (Neomyxidion rahnhotus Ohtsuka, Boxshall & Harada, 2005) that competed with a dajid (Prodajus curviabdominalis Shimomura, Ohtsuka & Saito, 2005) for space in a mysid marsupium. This copepod was indeed observed to consume mysid eggs and Ohtsuka et al. (2007) stated “both of these parasites [dajid and copepod] utilise the lumen of the mysid marsupium as a microhabitat and its eggs (and embryos) as food” (Ohtsuka et al. 2005; Shimomura et al. 2005) but, once again, there is no data given in Ohtsuka et al. (2007) or either of the papers cited therein to show that dajids actually consume eggs. The sentence in Ohtsuka et al. (2007) “No host eggs remained when a fully mature female isopod was present within the marsupium, suggesting that all eggs in a brood were consumed by the isopod” indicates that these authors were speculating on the reason for the lack of host eggs and did not actually observe any predation by the dajids and that the copepod is the only egg predator in this relationship. We are unaware of any published data showing that dajids consume host eggs, although some cryptoniscoids are known to do so (reviewed in Buhl-Mortensen et al. 2020).

We propose the hypothetical life cycle and developmental transformation as the pathway by which females of Akrophryxus milvus n. gen., n. sp. and Telephryxus clypeus n. gen., n. sp. come to exhibit their spheroid morphology. In both new taxa, the life cycle is similar to that described above for dajids in general (Fig. 11A-G). However, the cryptoniscus larvae (Fig. 11N) either settle in the branchial chamber and then move onto the antennule or they may settle directly on an antennule. After attachment using their pereopods (and possibly the oral sucker) to the antennule, the body of a cryptoniscus larva that is transitioning to a juvenile female begins to dorsally flex and the sides of the body expand (Fig. 11O). Eventually the pleon meets the anterior end and the two coalesce, as do the sides of the body (Fig. 11P). Thus, the plate (or “shield”) partially surrounding the host antennule appears to be a highly modified pleon which gradually surrounds the host antennule during development of the parasite (Fig. 11P-R). Alternatively, the plate could be an anterior extension of the cephalon or sides of the body. These appear less likely scenarios considering the shape and orientation of the features. The holes in the plate (Figs 4; 7) represent areas where complete fusion between the cephalon, pleon, and sides of the body has not occurred yet and it is through these openings that the epicaridium larvae of the dajids are likely released. The males reside in the brood chamber of females (as seen in many other dajids although, as mentioned, they are trapped by the fusion of the female body) and fertilize the brood (Gilson 1909). The feeding biology and nutrition of males remains unknown; they may be non-feeding and derive nutrition from stores remaining from the cryptoniscus larval stage.

The male and larval characters (epicaridium and cryptoniscus larvae) display characteristic dajid features. However, the males are unique in their degree of posterior pereopod reduction: lacking a seventh pereopod (Akrophryxus milvus n. gen., n. sp.) or seventh pereopod reduced to one or two stub-like segments (Telephryxus clypeus n. gen., n. sp.), a feature previously recorded in only one other dajid (Oculophryxus hicaulis, with the seventh pereopod reduced to two elongate segments). Finally, the cryptoniscus larval specimen of T. clypeus n. gen., n. sp. did not possess an oral sucker, but we suggest this is likely an artifact due to loss of the structure during handling as the suckers are fragile and break off easily (see Taberly 1957b).

Future research should examine the life history of these species to document the changes in form of the female through development to sexual maturity and verify the ontogenetic origin of the plate partially surrounding the host antennule (see Fig. 11N-R), as well as clear up remaining questions on larval characters, such as the presence or absence of a sucker in the cryptoniscus stage and the characters of molted (second stage) epicaridium larvae.

The abyssopelagic specimens of T. clypeus n. gen., n. sp., being found on a host collected from 4956-4997 m, are the deepest known of any dajid species; the prior record was the type specimens of Arthrophryxus beringanus Richardson, 1908, found at 2700 fathoms (4938 m) in the Bering Sea parasitizing Eucopia australis Dana, 1852 [Peracarida: Lophogastrida] (Richardson, 1908a). In fact, there is only one record of any epicaridean from deeper waters, that of Pleurocrystella altilis Williams, Boyko & Marin, 2020 found on a Munidopsis petalorhyncha Baba, 2005 (originally as M. subsquamosa Birstein & Zarenkov, 1970) [Anomura: Munidopidae] from the Kurile-Kamchatka Trench at 5025-5210 m depth (Birstein & Zarenkov 1970; Williams et al. 2020).

Due to the fact that these are parasites of deep-water hosts, it is unlikely that any questions regarding ontogeny can be tested experimentally (i.e., via rearing). Instead, these questions will most likely need to be addressed with newly fixed material of these dajids in their various larval and developmental stages as obtained from other studies. We therefore urge researchers to retain decapods with unidentified parasites, particularly those found on antennules, properly fix them for morphological and molecular studies and, most critically, deposit them in museums for later analysis.

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