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# ENDEIS CHARYBDAEA (ARTHROPODA, PYCNOGONIDA): A SEA SPIDER NEW FOR THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

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SEA SPIDER  
PYCNOGONIDA  
ENDEIDAE  
ENDEIS CHARYBDAEA  
MEDITERRANEAN SEA

**ABSTRACT.** – A male specimen of *Endeis charybdaea* (Dohrn, 1881) was recorded from the Ildırı Bay, Turkish Aegean Sea. Morphological characteristics and some information on its ecology are given. *Endeis charybdaea* is a new record for the eastern Mediterranean.

Previous records of *Endeis charybdaea* (Dohrn, 1881) in the Mediterranean Sea were made from the western and central Mediterranean (Dohrn 1881, Stock & Soyer 1965, Soyer 1966, Stock 1966, 1968, Krapp 1975, Arnaud 1987). This species is herein reported from the eastern Mediterranean for the first time.

The material was collected with a dredge and deposited in the ESFM (Museum of the Faculty of Fisheries, Ege University, Izmir). Stock & Soyer (1965) and Krapp (1975) were used for the species identification.

**Material examined:** 1 ♂ (EFSM-PYC/02-1), Ildırı Bay, Turkish Aegean Sea, 38°23'25"N - 26°27'12"E, *Posidonia oceanica* (L.) + sand bottom, 20 m, 26.9.2002. Measurements (mm): Trunk length (from frontal margin of

cephalic segment to tip of 4<sup>th</sup> lateral process), 4.01; Proboscis length (dorsal), 1.5; Abdomen length, 0.5.

**Distribution.** E North Atlantic, Mediterranean; shelf to slope (URMO, 2005).

**Remarks.** Trunk slender-cylindrical, fully segmented. Proboscis long, cylindrical, stout, swollen medially (Fig. 1A). Oviger with 7 segments, the last one very small with a curved spine (Fig. 1E). Legs slender, long, with scattered spines, all segments nearly straight and unequal in length. Tarsus very short, with three spiniform setae on the inner margin (Fig. 1C). Propodus slightly curved, with 5 heel spines, sole with 5 spines, main claw about as long as the sole, auxiliary claws slightly longer than half length of the main claw (Fig. 1D).

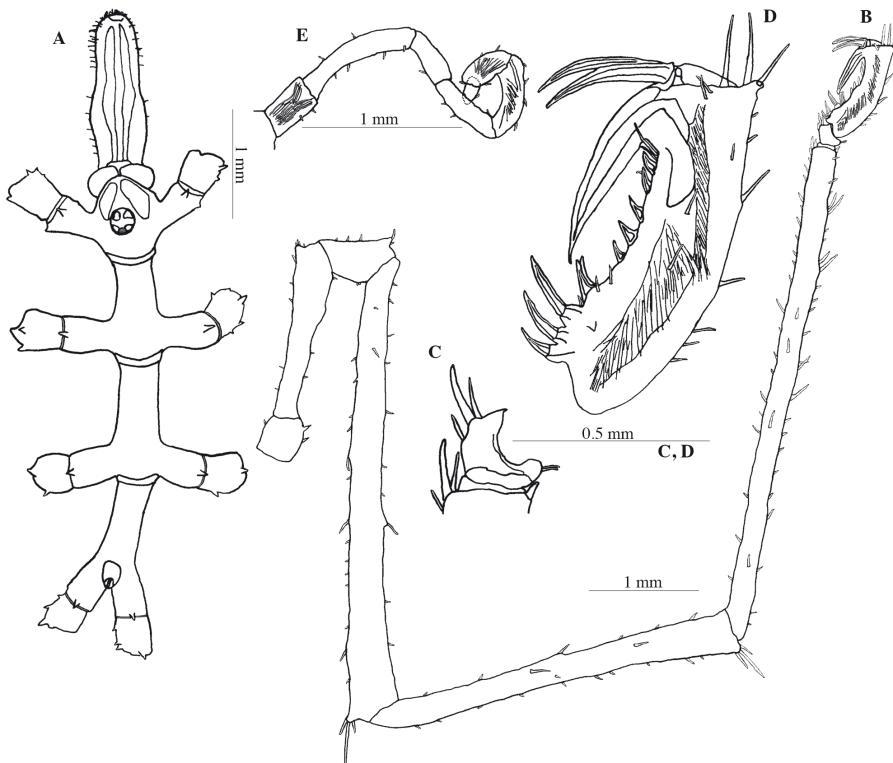


Fig. 1. – *Endeis charybdaea* (Dohrn, 1881), ♂ from Ildırı Bay (Turkish Aegean Sea). A, Dorsal view, B, Left leg 4, C, Tarsus of the left leg 4, D, Propodus of the left leg 4, E, Right oviger.

The present specimen shows features identical with those given by Krapp (1975) and Stock & Soyer (1965), with some minor differences (such as the absence of a short subterminal spine on each side of the abdomen). The presence of the spine was shown by Krapp (1975). The ratio between auxiliary claws and main claw given in a  $\sigma$  specimen (0.66:1) by Stock & Soyer (1965) is slightly larger than those in the present specimen (0.55:1). The ratio in the present specimen is comparable to the value observed in the  $\sigma$  specimen (0.54:1) described by Krapp (1975).

The trunk length of the present specimen (4.01 mm) is larger than those in Krapp's (1975) sample (2.56 mm in  $\sigma$ ) and slightly smaller than those in Stock & Soyer's (1965) sample (4.27 mm in  $\sigma$ ).

The physico-chemical measurements made *in situ* were: Temperature: 26.0 °C, pH: 8.04, dissolved oxygen: 7.33 mg/l, salinity: 37.6‰.

All previous records of the species in the Mediterranean Sea were made in western and central areas: Strait of Messina and Gulf of Naples, Italy (Dohrn, 1881); SE France and NE Spain (Stock & Soyer 1965); SE France (Stock 1966, 1968); Gulf of Genoa, Italy (Soyer 1966); north Adriatic coast of Croatia (Krapp 1975); SE France, central Italia and Gulf of Tunisia (Arnaud 1987).

The new record of *E. charybdaea* reported in this study further extends the known distribution of this species to the east in the Mediterranean.

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