

The identity of two morphotypes of *Alella macrotrachelus* (Brian, 1906) (Copepoda: Siphonostomatoida: Lernaeopodidae) from white seabream, *Diplodus sargus* (Actinopterygii: Sparidae)

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During a parasitological survey of white seabream, *Diplodus sargus*, off the Portugal coast, near the city of Porto in 2012–2013 and 2015, we found two morphotypes of *Alella macrotrachelus* (Brian, 1906). The first one was distinctly globular, while the other was decisively elongate. The original description of Brian (1906) was based on elongate specimen. The “globular” form was described and illustrated by Ben Hassine et al. (1978) and has never appeared in the subsequent literature. In the meantime the species has been recorded from distant locations and different sparid hosts. We formulated a working hypothesis that the globular form might be a different, hitherto undescribed species. According to Ben Hassine et al. (1978) the two morphotypes do not differ in the morphology of their appendages. Our hypothesis challenges recent decision of Dippenaar (2016) to move *A. macrotrachelus* to synonymies of *Alella pagelli* (Krøyer, 1863).

The commonly used morphological procedures are not helpful in explicit distinguishing very host specific and closely related lernaeopodids. New molecular tools may be needed for a comprehensive revision of the family. Our study may constitute a step towards designing appropriate technique needed for more explicit identification of copepods of the family Lernaeopodidae.

The specimens of *A. macrotrachelus* were fixed and preserved in ethanol. A standard column-based method with a standard kit for soft tissues (Roche) was used for DNA extraction. It is expected that amplification of a short sequence of mtDNA cytochrome c oxidase subunit gene (*COI*) will produce a sequence sufficient for comparisons using bioinformatics tool BLAST.