

*Miracetyma etimaruya* gen. et sp. n. (COPEPODA, POECILOSTOMATOIDA, ERGASILIDAE) FROM FRESHWATER FISHES OF THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON.

José Celso O. MALTA<sup>1</sup>

**ABSTRACT** — *Miracetyma etimaruya* gen. et sp. n. is proposed from the gills filaments of *Curimata cyprinoides* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Potamorhina latior* (Spix, 1829) and *Psectrogaster essequibensis* (Gunther, 1864). The species of the new genus is characterized by having a more complex latching antenna. The claw is greatly reduced and has a groove; the third segment has one or two grooves; the first, second and third segments have one or two cuticular extensions. The legs have pectinate setae and the first endopod is greatly modified, very long, and without setae. The first segment of the first endopod is large, strong and elongate and the second segment is subcylindrical, slender and elongate. These modifications imply in a loss of swimming capacity which is linked to secure fixation on the gill filament. As a result, the leg morphology has evolved other functions.

**Key words:** Copepoda, Ergasilidae, new genus, *Miracetyma*, Amazônia.

*Miracetyma etimaruya* gen. et sp. N. (Copepoda, Poecilostomatoida, Ergasilidae) dos Peixes de Água Doce da Amazônia Brasileira.

**RESUMO** — *Miracetyma etimaruya* gen. et sp. n. é proposto. Os espécimens foram coletados dos filamentos branquiais de *Curimata cyprinoides* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Potamorhina latior* (Spix, 1829) e *Psectrogaster essequibensis* (Gunther, 1864). A espécie deste gênero caracteriza-se por apresentar um sistema de encaixe das antenas mais complexo e eficiente. A garra é muito reduzida e possui uma ranhura; o terceiro segmento tem uma ou duas ranhuras; o primeiro, o segundo e o terceiro segmentos têm uma ou duas extensões cuticulares. As pernas apresentam setas pectinadas e o primeiro endopodito é extremamente modificado, muito longo e sem setas. O primeiro segmento do primeiro endopodito é largo, forte e alongado e o segundo segmento é subcilíndrico, fino e alongado. Estas modificações implicam na perda da capacidade natatória a qual esta ligada a uma segura fixação no filamento branquial. Como resultado da morfologia, as pernas desenvolveram outras funções.

**Palavras-chave:** Copepoda, Ergasilidae, gênero novo, *Miracetyma*, Amazônia.

## INTRODUCTION

The South American species of parasitic copepods of freshwater fishes are included in 4 families and 13 genera. Ergasilidae with 6 genera: *Ergasilus* Nordmann, 1832; *Acusicola* Cressey, 1970; *Brasergasilus* Thatcher & Boeger,

1983; *Amplexibranchius* Thatcher & Paredes, 1985; *Rhinergasilus* Boeger & Thatcher, 1988 and *Prehendorastrus* Boeger & Thatcher, 1990. Vaigamidae with 4 genera: *Vaigamus* Thatcher & Robertson, 1984; *Gamidactylus* Thatcher & Boeger, 1984; *Gamispinus* Thatcher & Boeger, 1984 and

<sup>1</sup> Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, Coordenação de Pesquisas em Biologia Aquática, Caixa Postal 478, 69011-970 - Manaus, Amazonas, Brasil.

*Gamispatulus* Thatcher & Boeger, 1984. Lernaecidae with 2 genera *Taurocheros* Brian, 1924 and *Perulernaecia* Thatcher & Paredes, 1985. Amazonicopeidae with 1 genus *Amazonicopeus* Thatcher, 1986.

There are 6 attachment sites on fishes used by copepods, namely: gills filaments, gills rakers, nasal fossae, skin, fins and muscles. The present paper includes the description of a new species that attaches to gills filaments and proposes a new genus to include this form.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The fishes were captured during 4 expeditions in Rondônia state. The first was from November 7 to December 1 1983, during high water, in the Jiparaná River (Machado) and Urupá, near Jiparaná; Jamari River, near Ariquemes; Guaporé River, near Costa Marques and Pacaás Novos River, near Guajará-Mirim. The second expedition was from 15 April to 10 May 1984, during high water. The same River localities were collected except Guaporé River near Surpresa. The third collecting trip was from November 23 to December 9 1984, during high water and was to the Guaporé River near Pimenteiras and the Jamari River near the site of the Samuel reservoir. The fourth trip was from September 15 to October 4 1985, during low water, to the Guaporé River and Mamoré River near Surpresa, Pacaás Novos River near Guajará-Mirim and Jiparaná River (Machado) near Jiparaná (Fig. 1).

Samples of fishes were obtained by gill-netting with length range of 15

to 40m, and height ranges of 1 to 3m and mesh ranges of 30 and 140 mm. Each station was sampled during 24 hours and a sample was taken each 6 hours. Fishes were identified and the fork length and weight were recorded. Gills and viscera were removed and were fixed in formalin 10%.

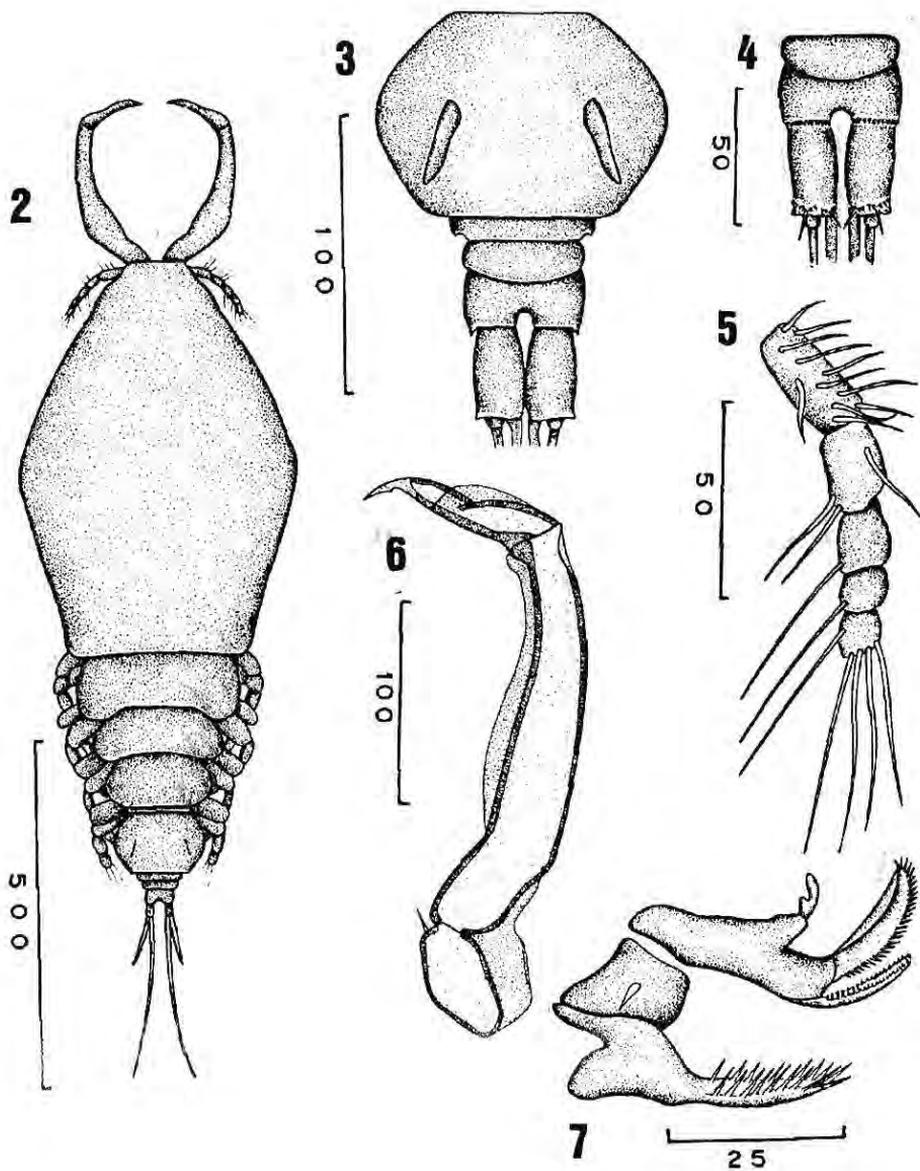
The copepods were removed from the gills of fish using fine needles and a dissecting microscope. Ergasiloids were transferred to formalin at 5%. Specimens were stained with a mixture of eosin and orange G in 95% ethanol. Permanent preparations were made by dehydrating in phenol, clearing in methyl salicylate, and mounting in balsam. Drawings were made with the aid of a camera lucida. Measurements were obtained with a measuring ocular and are given in micrometers. The range is given followed by the average in parentheses.

Types were deposited in the collections of the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, (INPA-CR), Manaus and Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, (MZUSP), São Paulo.

### *Miracetyma* gen. nov.

Generic diagnosis: Ergasilidae, Acusicolinae, Female: cephalothorax inflated, or not. Abdomen 3-segmented. Antennule 5-segmented. Antenna 3-segmented, claw greatly reduced and with a groove; third segment with one or two grooves; segment two long; first, second and third segments with one or two cuticular extensions.





Figures *Miracetyma etimaruya* gen. et sp. nov. (female). 2 - dorsal view. 3 - genital double somite, abdomen and caudal rami. 4 - caudal rami (ventral view). 5 - antennule. 6 - antenna. 7 - mouthparts.

Jiparaná River, Jiparaná; 4 specimens of *Potamorhina lator* (10 examined), from Guaporé and Mamoré River, Surpresa, 24-ix-1985; 2 specimens of *Psectrogaster essequibensis* (4 examined) from Pacaás Novos River, Guajará-Mirim, 27-ix-1985. All collected by J. C. O. Malta.

**Description:** (based on 20 specimens and 10 measured Tab. 1 and 2). Cephalothorax (Fig. 2) hexagonal, trunk little developed, median region wide; 5.5 times wider than anterior region; head totally fused with first two thoracic somites.

**Thorax** (Fig. 2) of four free somites.

**Abdomen** (Figs. 2, 3 and 4) with the genital double somite hexagonal (Figs. 2 and 3) and three somites, last somite with one row of spinules on the posterior ventral margin and one lateral spine. Caudal rami (Figs. 2, 3 and 4), with one long and one short seta, one row of spinules on the posterior ven-

**Table 1.** Measurements ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) of 10 adult females of *Miracetyma etimaruya* gen. et sp. nov.

	Length	Width
Body	802 - 936 (875)	286 - 357 (303)
Cephalothorax	454 - 596 (538)	286 - 357 (303)
Free thoracic somites		
III	60 - 75 (68)	130 - 200 (178)
IV	52 - 72 (63)	112 - 150 (138)
V	42 - 55 (47)	85 - 105 (98)
VI	10 - 22 (18)	55 - 67 (58)
Abdominal somites		
Genital double somite	52 - 75 (65)	80 - 100 (91)
I	10 - 15 (12)	45 - 57 (53)
II	10 - 12 (11)	42 - 57 (47)
III	20 - 25 (23)	40 - 60 (47)
Caudal rami	30 - 50 (33)	35 - 50 (40)
Caudal Setae	—	—
Egg sac	318 - 535 (383)	60 - 97 (75)

tral margin and two terminal reduced setae.

**Antennule** (Fig. 5 and Tab. 2) 5-segmented, setae simple, setal formula: 11 - 3 - 1 - 1 - 5. **Antenna** (Fig. 6 and table II) 3-segmented, first segment short, narrow, with a distal spinule and a cuticular extension on the external margin. This extension is almost of same width as the segment extends anteriorly one-fifth of external margin of next segment. Second segment very long and with a cuticular extension on three-fourths of internal margin distally; third segment with a deep groove mid-way on its length and a cuticular extension on the external margin; claw, small, with a groove on internal margin. Ratio of segmental lengths 2.3 : 7.2 : 2.2 : 1.0.

**Mouthparts** (Fig. 7): mandible, long with one distal falciform blade, long denticulated along posterior margin; on posterior margin of appendage long narrow palp with two rows of denticles on anterior margins; maxillule very small, with narrow basal part and tapering, medial region with one seta; maxilla with a robust base and tapering, falciform distal process with two rows of spiniform setae on anterior margin.

**Legs** (Figs. 8, 9, 10, 11 and Tab. 3). Setae on legs 1 - 4 pectinate. Leg I (Fig. 8) endopod 2-segmented and exopod 3-segmented. Endopod modified, very long, first segment strong, long, sub-rectangular with spines on external distal region, 1.2 times longer and 2.0 times wider than exopod; second segment long, slender 1.5 times

**Table 2.** Antennal measurements ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) of 10 adult females of *Miracetyma etimaruya* gen. et sp. nov.

	Length	Width
Antennule	100 - 117 (109)	17 - 30 (21)
Antenna		
Segment 1	57 - 95 (72)	27 - 55 (41)
2	187 - 230 (225)	30 - 47 (38)
3	76 - 87 (81)	17 - 25 (19)
claw	31 - 36 (31)	12 - 15 (14)

longer and 2.4 times narrower than exopod. Exopod, all segments with spinules on external margins. First exopodal segment with a postero-lateral row of spinules; second segment with one seta medially; terminal segment with five setae and one spine postero-laterally. Leg II and III (Fig. 9) closely similar, all rami 3-segmented. All endopodal segments with spinules on external margins. First endopodal segment with one seta medially; second segment with two setae laterally; terminal segment with four setae laterally, one terminal spine and distal margin forming a straight line. First exopodal segment strong and wide, second segment with one lateral seta; terminal segment with six terminal setae. Leg IV (Fig. 10) endopod 3-segmented and exopod 2-segmented. All endopodal segments with spinules on external margins. First endopodal

**Table 3.** Relationship of spines (Roman) to setae (Arabic) on the legs of *Miracetyma etimaruya* gen. et sp. nov.

	Exopod	Endopod
Leg I	0-0, 0-1, I-5	0-0, 0-0
Leg II	0-0, 0-1, 0-6	0-1, 0-2, I-4
Leg III	0-0, 0-1, 0-6	0-1, 0-2, I-4
Leg IV	0-0, 0-5	0-1, 0-2, II-2

segment with one medial seta; second segment with two medial setae, terminal segment with two setae and two spines. First exopodal segment without ornaments; second segment with five lateral setae. Leg V (Fig. 11) vestigial, consisting of two simple setae arising from small papilla.

Egg sac (Fig. 12) with two rows, 13 - 25 eggs.

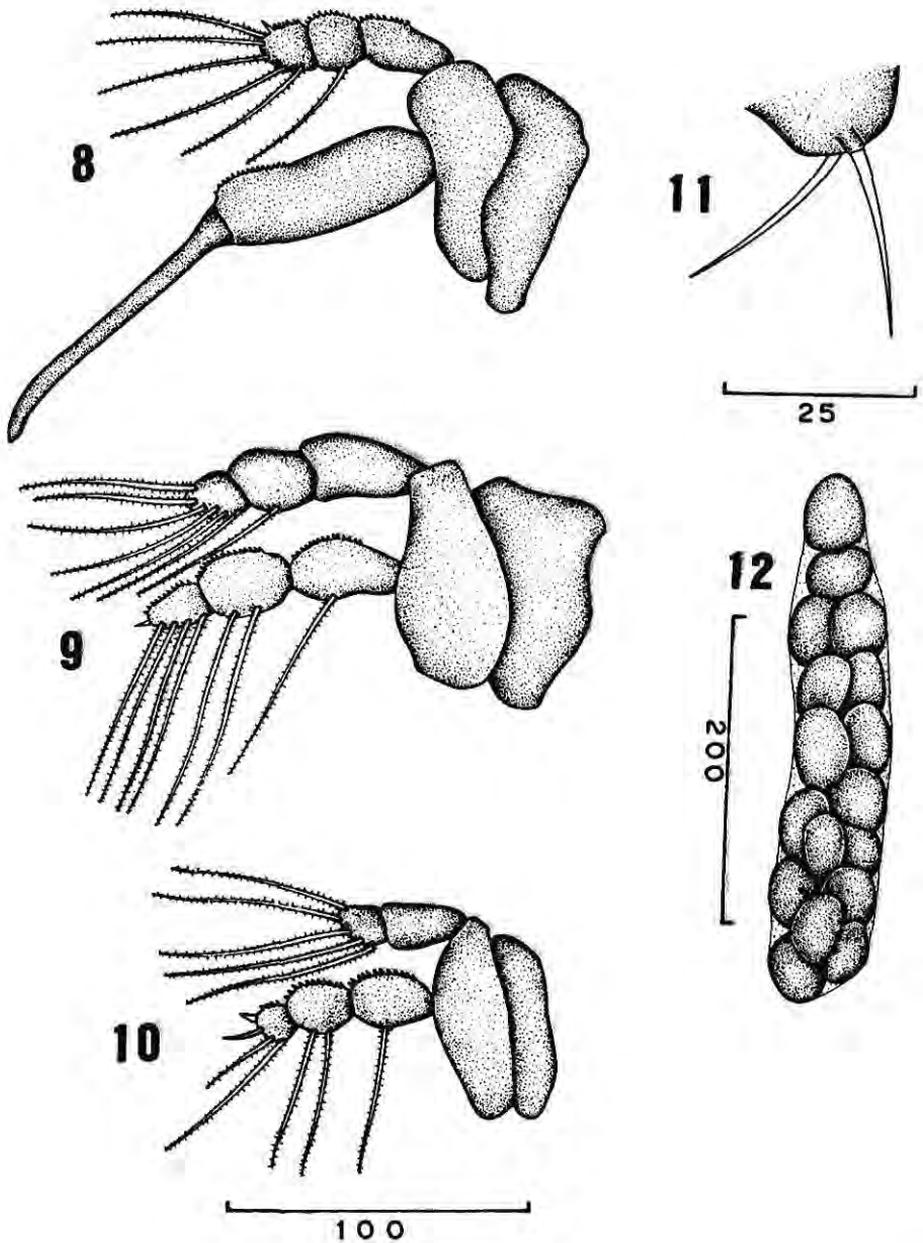
Male: Unkonwn.

Etymology: The specific name comes from Tupi-Guarani (amerind name): "etima" leg; "ru" with and "yu" spine; legs with spines (in reference to the presence of spines on all the legs).

## DISCUSSION

JOHNSON & ROGERS (1972) and KABATA (1979) rejected the genus *Acusicola* Cressey, 1970. THATCHER (1984) retained the genus *Acusicola*, proposed the subfamily Acusicolinae (Ergasilidae) and included three more species: *A. lycengraulidis* Thatcher & Boeger, 1983; *A. pellonidis* Thatcher & Boeger, 1983, and *A. tucunarensis* Thatcher, 1984. Thatcher & Paredes, 1985, included the genus *Amplexibranchius* in this subfamily.

Acusicolinae is defined as those ergasilids in which the females have 4 pairs of swimming legs (5th pair vestigial), antennule 5-segmented, antenna 3-segmented with a groove in the third segment for the reception of the opposite claw when the antennae are latched. Acusicolinae differ from other ergasilids in having evolved antennae which encircle the gill filament and



**Figures** *Miracetyma etimaruya* gen. et sp. nov. (female). 8 - leg I. 9 - leg II (= leg III). 10 - leg IV. 11 - leg V. 12 - egg sac.

latch in place. The latching device is composed of the grooved third segment and the claw. When the antennae are latched, each claw fits into a groove on the third segment of the opposite antenna (THATCHER & PAREDES, 1985).

*Acusicola pelloneidis* is an example of the simplest latch and in this type, the point of the claws are completely exposed, in *A. cunula* Cressey, 1970 and *A. lycengraulis* there is a small cuticular flap from the distal end of the second segment which partially covers the tip of the claw. In *Amplexibranchius bryconis* there is a more complex antennal latch, with a sleeve-like extension of the second segment which covers most of the third so that when the antennae are latched, the claws are completely covered (THATCHER & PAREDES, *op. cit.*).

*Miracetyma* gen. nov., is included in the subfamily Acusicolinae, because the antennae have the same device, but the antennal latch is more complex. Sleeve-like extensions cover the external margin of first and the anterior fifth of the second segment, three-fourth of internal margin of second segment and external margin of third segment in *M. etimaruya*. *M. etimaruya* has one groove on the external margin of the third antennal segment and a groove on the posterior margin of the claw. When the antennae are latched, each groove of the claw fits into a groove on the third segment of the opposite antennae. In this genus the claws are smaller than in

*Amplexibranchius* and may serve as a sort of safety catch.

THATCHER & PAREDES, (*op. cit.*) suggested that the legs of most ergasiloids are not modified for parasitism but are tied to a swimming function. Some species of *Ergasilus* detach readily from the hosts gills and swim actively. Specimens of *Ergasilus* and Vaigamidae are found in plankton samples. *Ga.nispinus* (Vaigamidae) has also been observed to swim rapidly when dissected from the nasal mucous. It is possible that ergasiloids use this swimming ability to move from one gill filament to another, or to change hosts. After the latching antennae of Acusicolinae evolved, the necessity of moving was eliminated and the legs were freed from their swimming function. As result, the legs have evolved other functions related to the parasitic way of life and have modified their morphology accordingly.

In *Miracetyma* gen. nov. the hypothesis above is corroborated. The antennae are seen to have a more efficient latching device, the legs are free from their swimming function. As a result, the first endopod has become greatly modified. The first segment is stout and long and the second is slender and elongated. These animals may use these structures like long tweezers to conduct food to the mouth. It would appear that this may be a more efficient feeding strategy than that used by other poecilomatoids. Leg morphology is used to define a genus, for the second time.

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