

## On the homology of the frontal head pore in Cladocera (Crustacea: Branchiopoda)

Alexey A. Kotov

*A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Leninsky Prospect 33, Moscow 119071, Russia.  
e-mail: alexey-a-kotov@yandex.ru*

**ABSTRACT:** A frontal head pore is found in all representatives of the order Anomopoda (Cladocera) except for three genera: *Daphnia* O.F. Müller, 1785 (Daphniidae), *Moinodaphnia* Herrick, 1884 and *Moina* Baird, 1850 (Moinidae). It is also found in a representative of the order Onychopoda in the genus *Polyphemus* O.F. Müller, 1785. Earlier, this structure was detected in a few representatives of the orders Ctenopoda (*Penilia* Dana, 1852) and Haplopoda (*Leptodora* Lilljeborg, 1861). The presence of such a pore is a plesiomorphy of the Cladocera. The frontal head pore in the Cladocera and the Cyclotherida (Cladoceraomorpha) is homologous to a pore in “Conchostraca” and Notostraca, which is the opening of a duct connecting the eye chamber with the environment, although its connection with the eye capsule in the Cladocera is not confirmed. The function of this pore is unknown, however a duct running into the head from the former, in the cladocerans and “conchostracans” obviously involves the ocellus and the frontal organ. Though poorly studied, the latter has a sensory function, which could suggest a participation of the frontal head pore in these functions.

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**KEY WORDS:** Cladocera, Cladoceraomorpha, functional morphology, morphological evolution, homology, frontal head pore.

## О гомологии фронтальной головной поры у Cladocera (Crustacea: Branchiopoda)

А. А. Котов

*Институт проблем экологии и эволюции им. А. Н. Северцова РАН, Ленинский проспект, 33, Москва, 119071, Россия.  
e-mail: alexey-a-kotov@yandex.ru*

**РЕЗЮМЕ:** Фронтальная головная пора найдена у всех представителей отряда Аномопода (Cladocera) за исключением только трех родов: *Daphnia* O.F. Müller, 1785 (Daphniidae), *Moinodaphnia* Herrick, 1884 и *Moina* Baird, 1850 (Moinidae). Также она присутствует у *Polyphemus* O.F. Müller, 1785 (Onychopoda). Ранее она была отмечена у представителей отрядов Стенопода (*Penilia* Dana, 1852) и Наплопода (*Leptodora* Lilljeborg, 1861). Присутствие данной поры является синапоморфией Cladocera. Фронтальная головная пора у Cladocera и Cyclotherida (Cladoceraomorpha) гомологична поре “Conchostraca” и Notostraca, являющейся протоком канала, соединяющего глазную камеру с окружающей средой, хотя связь этой поры с глазной капсулой

у кладоцер не подтверждена. Функция данной поры неизвестна, однако, канал от нее, идущий вглубь головы у кладоцер и “конхострак”, явно касается глазка и фронтального органа с плохо изученной сенсорной функцией, что может свидетельствовать об участии поры в последней путем обеспечения контакта с окружающей средой. Как цитировать эту статью: Kotov A.A. 2013. On the homology of the frontal head pore in Cladocera (Crustacea: Branchiopoda) // *Invert. Zool.* Vol.10. No.2. P.281–290.

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: Cladocera, Cladoceramorpha, морфология, морфологическая эволюция, гомология.

## Introduction

The Cladocera (Crustacea: Branchiopoda) is a compact group of small-sized branchiopods containing four recent (Anomopoda Sars, 1865, Ctenopoda Sars, 1865, Onychopoda Sars, 1865 and Haplopoda Sars, 1865) orders and a single extinct (Cryptopoda Kotov, 2007) order. Each textbook on zoology or ecology contains basic information about the cladocerans, and it seems for a reader that this group is well-studied. But a non-specialist would be surprised to know that their morphology is studied quite poorly, first of all, because most efforts of the investigators have concentrated mostly on a single genus, *Daphnia* O.F. Müller, 1785. For some organs, no new information has been obtained since detailed observations of the 18th–19th centuries. Due to this fact, any recent attempts to reconstruct a phylogeny of the Cladocera based on morphological characters (Olesen, 1998, 2000) are vulnerable to criticism (Fryer, 1999, 2002). There are some anatomical and morphological structures in the cladocerans with unknown function and even the presence-absence in different groups of the cladocerans of such structures is not confirmed. Specially interesting are dorsal head pores, which are intensively used in taxonomy, although their function is still unknown (Frey, 1959; Berner, 1987; Kotov, 1998; Dumont, Negrea, 2002). In the anomopod cladocerans some other types of pores are known: on the labrum and the limbs, connected to underlying glands that lubricate the limbs, and, in some genera, cuticular pores on the valves (Berner, 1987; Dumont, Silva-Briano, 1997; Dumont, Negrea, 2002).

Schödler (1846) was the first investigator who found a pore ventrally in the frontal portion of the head, near the bases of the antennae I, in the anomopod *Acanthocercus rigidus* Schödler, 1846 (now known as *Acantholeberis curvirostris* (O.F. Müller, 1776) — a member of the special family Acantholeberidae Smirnov sensu Dumont & Silva-Briano, 1998). Subsequently, this “frontal head pore” was found in other families of the Anomopoda: in the bosminid *Bosmina* Baird, 1845 (Goulden, Frey, 1963; Kořínek, 1971; Paggi, 1979), the daphniid *Scapholeberis* Schödler, 1858 and in *Megafenestra* Dumont & Pensaert, 1983 (Dumont, Pensaert, 1983), *Ceriodaphnia* Dana, 1853 (Berner, 1987) and *Simocephalus* Schödler, 1858 (Alonso, 1996). Recently, scanning electron microscopy (SEM) became a very useful method to find and describe such structures. Using SEM, I found this structure in representatives of the two additional anomopod families (Kotov, 1996), the macrothricid *Macrothrix laticornis* (Jurine, 1820) and the eurycercid *Eurycercus lamellatus* (O.F. Müller, 1776). Subsequently, I reported the frontal head pore in many other anomopods, i.e., in many ilyocryptids (Kotov & Štifter, 2006), bosminid *Bosminopsis* Richard, 1895 (Kotov, 1997), macrothricid *Macrothrix elegans* Sars, 1901 (Kotov et al., 2004), and chydorid *Pleuroxus smirnovi* Kotov, 2008 (Kotov, 1998, 2008), etc. It was also shown on SEM and discussed in alonine *Leydigiopsis curvirostris* Sars, 1901 by Van Damme (1998).

The frontal head pore was also detected in some representatives of the non-anomopod cladoceran orders, i.e. in the ctenopod *Penilia avirostris* Dana, 1852 (Meurice, 1981). The

same pore was described in the adult haplopod *Leptodora kindtii* (Focke, 1844) by Akeret (1995), but the author erroneously considered this structure as the mouth. Subsequently, Korovchinsky and Boikova (2008) described this pore in *L. kindtii*, although the opinion of the authors about a bilobed structure seems hard to defend: it could be an artifact of fixation and preparation of the sample for SEM. Olesen et al. (2003) found the same pore in the embryo of *Leptodora*.

But until recently, there were no clear ideas on the presence-absence of the frontal head pore in the anomopods and other cladocerans. My aim was to make inventory of the presence of this structure in different anomopod cladocerans using SEM and to try to homologize it in the cladocerans and the large branchiopods.

## Material and methods

SEM study of different species was the main source of information on determining presence-absence of the frontal head pore. Specimens of different species were extracted from the samples that were preserved mainly in 4% formaldehyde. We apply lyophilisation for the preparation of specimens for SEM, but critical point drying can also be used (see Duigan, 1992). After the lyophilisation, the specimens were mounted on aluminum stubs, sputter coated with a thin layer (200Å) of gold or gold/palladium and viewed at 10 or 15 kV using scanning electron microscope JEOL-840A or CAMSCAN MB 2300.

## Results

The frontal head pore is found in all studied anomopods except for three genera: *Daphnia* O.F. Müller, 1785 (Daphniidae) (Fig. 1A), *Moinodaphnia* Herrick, 1884 and *Moina* Baird, 1850 (Moinidae). No pore was detected in *Daphnia* by researchers dealing with detailed anatomy of the eye and ocellus (Weismann, 1876–1879; Weiss et al., 2012). In *Moina*, only few representatives were investigated, therefore we are not sure about the absence of the pore in all species. In all other anomopods, the frontal head pore is located somewhat anteriorly near the bases of antenna I (Figs 1–3), which could suggest that it belongs to the preantennal head segment (Kotov, 1996).

The frontal head pore in different anomopods is represented by a ringed or non-ringed simple opening, or by a short longitudinal or (more frequently) transverse split. Sometimes (and even in different representatives of a single family) it has a different shape and a different position on the rostrum (if the latter is expressed). For example, in different species of the subgenus *Bosmina* (*Liederbosmina*) Brtek, 1997 it could be circular or semi-lunar and located on the frontal surface of the head, far from the antero-ventral margin, or on the ventral surface between the bases of antennae I (Paggi, 1979). Dumont & Pensaert (1983) demonstrated that two genera of the subfamily Scapholeberinae Dumont & Pensaert, 1983 (family Daphniidae) differ in the position of the frontal head pore.

We found that the position of the pore on the rostrum (if the latter is present) is variable, not only in the daphniids (Fig. 1C–D) and the bosminids, but also in the macrothricids (Fig. 1G–H, 2A–H) and their relatives, the Acantholeberidae (Fig. 1E) and Ophryoxidae (Fig. 1F) (now separated into special families, see Dumont & Silva-Briano, 1998). In the genera *Macrothrix* Baird, 1843, *Streblocerus* Sars, 1862, *Drepanothrix* Sars, 1862, *Bunops* Birge, 1893, *Grimaldina* Richard, 1892, the frontal head pore is located on the dorsal side of the rostrum. In *Streblocerus*, the pore is located also on the dorsal surface of the head, very far from the bases of antennae I as compared with other genera. In contrast, in *Guernella* Richard, 1892 it is situated exactly on the ridge of the rostrum. In *Acantholeberis* Lilljeborg, 1853, *Ophryoxus* Sars, 1862, *Neothrix* Gurney, 1927, *Lathonura* Lilljeborg, 1853 and *Wlassiscia* Daday, 1903, the pore is located on the ventral surface of the head. In *Neothrix*, the rostrum is of “chydorid” appearance, and the pore is located anteriorly to the antenna I, being covered by the rostrum in frontal view. Therefore the position of the head pore could be used as a diagnostic character of macrothricid genera.

All eurycercids, bosminids and ilyocryptids have the frontal head pore (Fig. 3A–C).

In the chydorids, the anterior portion of the head shield is projected forward or ventral as a rostrum, and the frontal head pore is located in the region covered by the head shield from the top, and by antennae I and labrum from the bottom (Fig. 3D–H). Just due to this uncomfort-

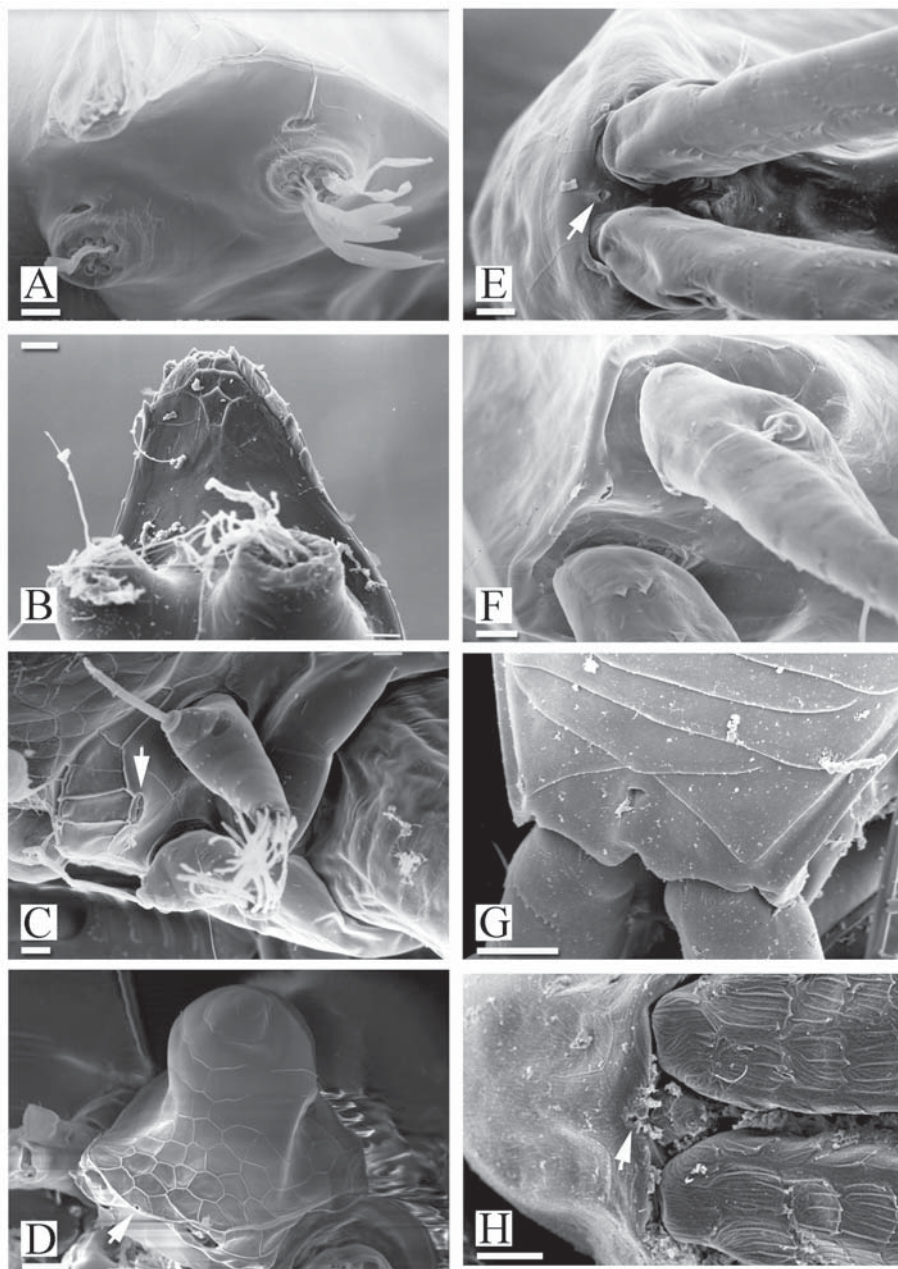


Fig. 1. Postero-ventral portion of head without frontal head pore in Daphniidae (A–B), and with one in other Daphniidae (C–D), Acantholeberidae (E), Ophryoxidae (F) and Macrothricidae (G–H) (marked by arrow). A — *Daphnia pulex*; B — *D. magna*; C — *Simocephalus vetulus*; D — *Scapholeberis microcephala*; E — *Acantholeberis curvirostris*; F — *Ophryoxus gracilis*; G — *Grimaldina brazzai*; H — *Guernella raphaelis*. Scale bar 0.01 mm.

Рис. 1. Задне-нижняя часть головы без фронтальной головной поры у Daphniidae (A–B), и с фронтальной головной порой у других Daphniidae (C–D), Acantholeberidae (E), Ophryoxidae (F) and Macrothricidae (G–H) (пора указана стрелкой).

A — *Daphnia pulex*; B — *D. magna*; C — *Simocephalus vetulus*; D — *Scapholeberis microcephala*; E — *Acantholeberis curvirostris*; F — *Ophryoxus gracilis*; G — *Grimaldina brazzai*; H — *Guernella raphaelis*. Масштаб 0,01 мм.

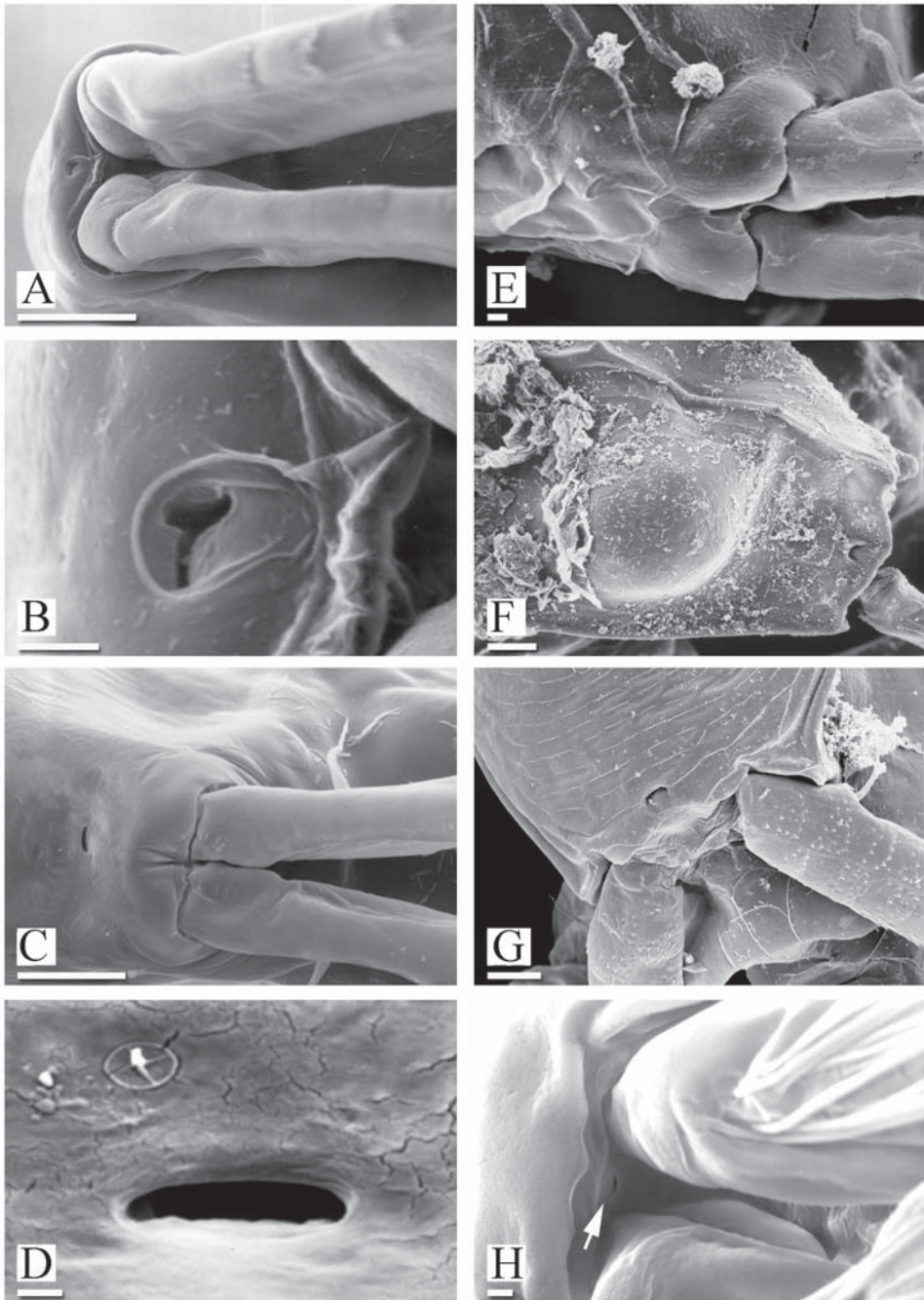


Fig. 2. Frontal head pore in different genera of Macrothricidae.

A–B — *Drepanothrix dentata*; C–D — *Streblocerus serricaudatus*; E — *Streblocerus pygmaeus*; F — *Onchobunops tuberculatus*; G — *Wlassicsia pannonica*; H — *Neothrix armata*. Scale bars: A, C, F–G — 0.01 mm; B, D–E, H — 0.001 mm.

Рис. 2. Фронтальная головная пора у разных родов Macrothricidae.

A–B — *Drepanothrix dentata*; C–D — *Streblocerus serricaudatus*; E — *Streblocerus pygmaeus*; F — *Onchobunops tuberculatus*; G — *Wlassicsia pannonica*; H — *Neothrix armata*. Масштаб: A, C, F–G — 0,01 мм; B, D–E, H — 0,001 мм.

able position, the structure was rarely seen in many well-studied representatives of this family. I found that the frontal head pore is located in the chydorids somewhat anterior to the bases of antennae I and represented by a small transverse split.

I also found the frontal head pore in the onychopod *Polyphemus pediculus* (Linnaeus, 1761), but confirmed its absence in the large ctenopod *Sida crystallina* (O. F. Müller, 1776).

It is necessary to underline that I studied mainly females, and possible differences in the position of the frontal head pore between sexes need to be analyzed specially.

## Discussion

To date, the frontal head pore is found in representatives of all four recent orders of the Cladocera. Among all cladocerans, especially examined for its presence, the pore is absent only in a few daphniids, moinids (order Anomopoda) and one sidid (order Ctenopoda). Definitely, the presence of this pore is a synplesiomorphy of the Cladocera, and its absence seems to be a result of secondary reduction.

To date, the existence of a monophyletic group Cladoceromorpha (Ax, 1999) is widely accepted, containing four recent cladoceran orders plus the order Cyclestherida (Olesen, 1998; Kotov, 2007). The Cyclestherida was earlier regarded as a member of the “Conchostraca”, but the latter is accepted by all recent investigators as a paraphyletic group (Dumont, Negrea, 2002; Olesen, 2009). Two other former “conchostracan” orders, Spinicaudata and Laevicaudata, group together with the Cladoceromorpha into a monophyletic group Diplostraca Gers-taecker, 1868 = *Onychura* Erikson, 1934 = “conchostracan line” in Negrea et al., 1999). Below we will try to reconstruct the evolution of the frontal head pore in the conchostracans-cladocerans.

It is widely accepted that in the evolutionary history of the Phyllozoa (Notostraca + “Conchostraca” + Cladocera), the paired stalked eyes first lost the stalks, became sedentary on the head surface, and then plunged to a special chamber within the head (Calman, 1909; Löppman, 1937). Such internalized eyes are regarded as an important synapomorphy of the Phyllozoa (Olesen, 2009). In Notostraca and Spinicaudata

there is a wide pore, or special narrow duct connecting the chamber with a pair of sedentary eyes with the environment (Nowikoff, 1905a–b; Wagler, 1927; Martin, 1992) (Fig. 5A–B). Cyclestherids have already a single, fused eye, similar to the situation in the Cladocerans (Olesen et al., 1996). They bear a pore in the anterodorsal portion of the head, which is to my opinion a homologue of the frontal head pore in the cladocerans. Sars (1887, Pl. III, Fig. 5) illustrated a duct passing from this pore to the region of the compound eye (Fig. 5C). Reimann and Richter (2007) wrote that this canal “connects the ‘compound eye chamber’ with the surface of the head via the eye pore”. Earlier it was demonstrated that there is a similar duct in the anomopods, going from the frontal pore to the ocellus, brain ganglion or its vicinity (Kofínek, 1971; Dumont, Pensaert, 1983) (Fig. 5D). A hyalin secretory tissue was detected in this area on TEM photos in *Bosmina* (Havel, 1978), but no physiological explanations were suggested.

Although the connection of the eye capsule with the environment is not confirmed in the cladocerans, a homology of the frontal head pore and the pore connecting the eye cavity with the environment in the “conchostracans” is obvious. A remarkable fact is that in the notostracans and “conchostracans” (but not in Cyclestherids!) a duct going from the head pore to eye capsule touches the naupliar eye and frontal organ (Nowikoff, 1905a–b; Calman, 1909; Martin, 1992). Similarly, in the cladocerans, the duct from the frontal head pore touches the ocellus (Dumont, Pensaert, 1983) — a derivate of the naupliar eye, although probably there is no connection with the eye chamber (in the cladocerans called “eye capsule”).

Although the naupliar eye and the frontal organ in the Branchiopoda are intensively studied (Reimann, Richter, 2007; Fritsch, Richter, 2010; Fritsch et al., 2013), their function still is “not well known” (Dumont, Negrea, 2002), in particular there are problems in the homologization of such a functional complex in the Branchiopoda and other Crustacea (Elofsson, 1966, 2006). The function of the head pore and the aforementioned duct is also unknown, but their association with the eye chamber or/and frontal organ may suggest a participation in sensory function, i.e. providing a connection with the outside environment.

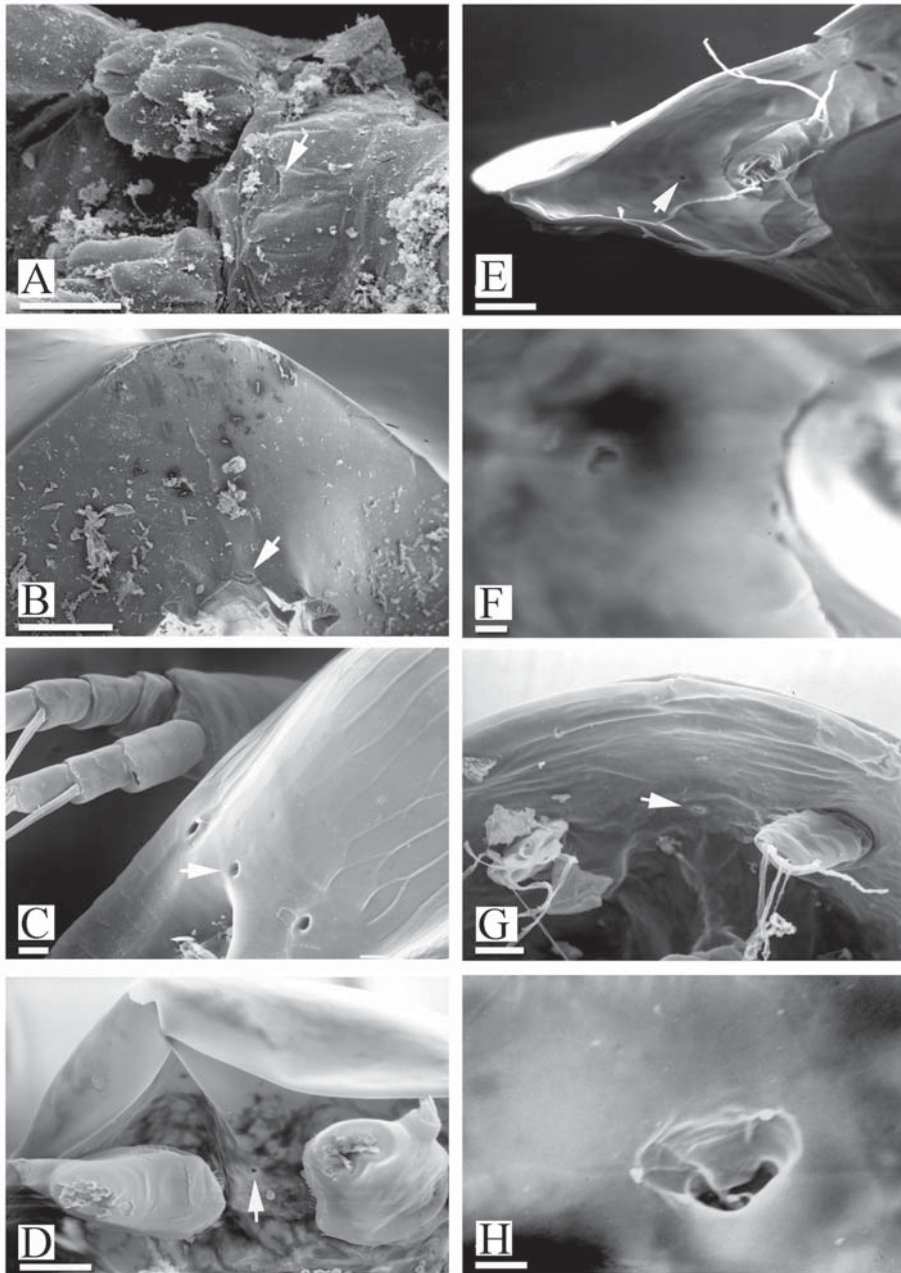


Fig. 3. Frontal head pore in Ilyocryptidae (A), Euryercidae (B), Bosminidae (C) and Chydoridae (D–H) (marked by arrow).

A — *Ilyocryptus gouldeni*; B — *Euryercus lamellatus*; C — *Bosmina longispina*; D — *Euryalona orientalis*; E–F — *Acroperus harpae*; G–H — *Graptoleberis testudinaria*. Scale bars: B–E, G — 0.01 mm; A, F, H — 0.001 mm.

Рис. 3. Фронтальная головная пора у Илюкриптиды (А), Еуриерциды (В), Босминиды (С) и Чидориды (D–H) (пора указана стрелкой).

A — *Ilyocryptus gouldeni*; B — *Euryercus lamellatus*; C — *Bosmina longispina*; D — *Euryalona orientalis*; E–F — *Acroperus harpae*; G–H — *Graptoleberis testudinaria*. Масштаб: B–E, G — 0,01 мм; A, F, H — 0,001 мм.

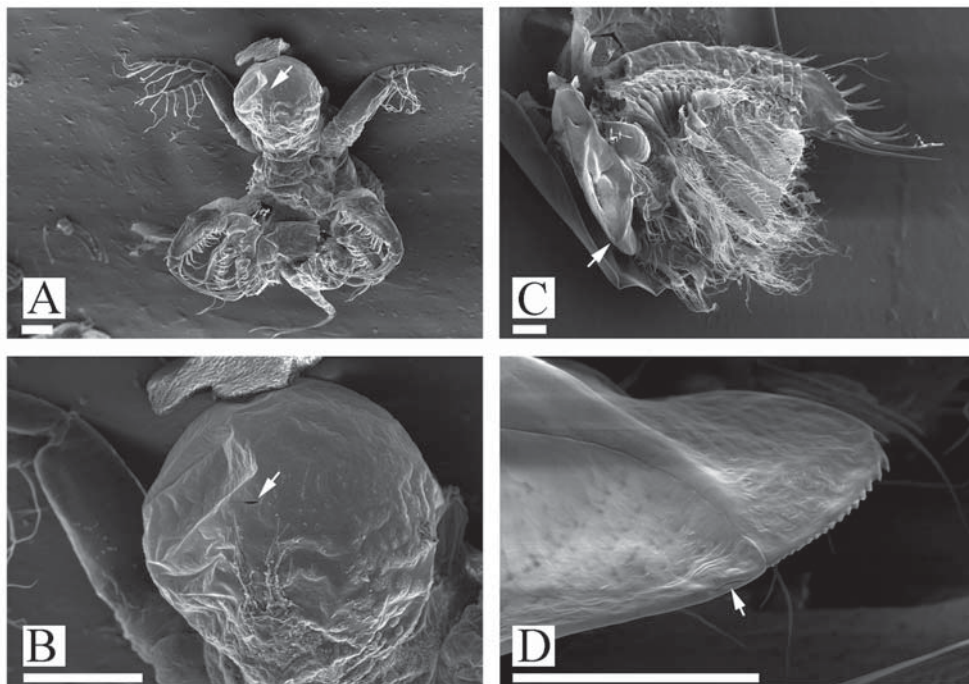


Fig. 4. Frontal head pore in Onychopoda (A–B) and Cyclesterida (C–D).

A–B — *Polyphemus pediculus*; C–D — *Cyclesteria hislopi*. Scale bar 0.1 mm.

Рис. 4. Фронтальная головная пора у Onychopoda (A–B) и Cyclesterida (C–D).

A–B — *Polyphemus pediculus*; C–D — *Cyclesteria hislopi*. Масштаб 0,1 мм.

The “rostral” pore (or analogous sensory structures) is found in other crustaceans, i.e. in the copepods (Boxshall, 1982; Oldewage, Van As, 1989), where the former is a part of a very complicated system of the pores on the cephalon. There is a large pore in the center of rostral zone in the syphonostomatid copepods (Ivanenko, Smurov, 1997). Also the phyllopod frontal head pore connecting the eye chamber with the environment could be regarded as a very distant analogue to sensory pores connecting the eyes to the outside world in Malacostraca (Elofsson, 1963; Chaigneau, 1973). But all aforementioned pores definitively have other origins and are not homologous to the cladoceran frontal head pore.

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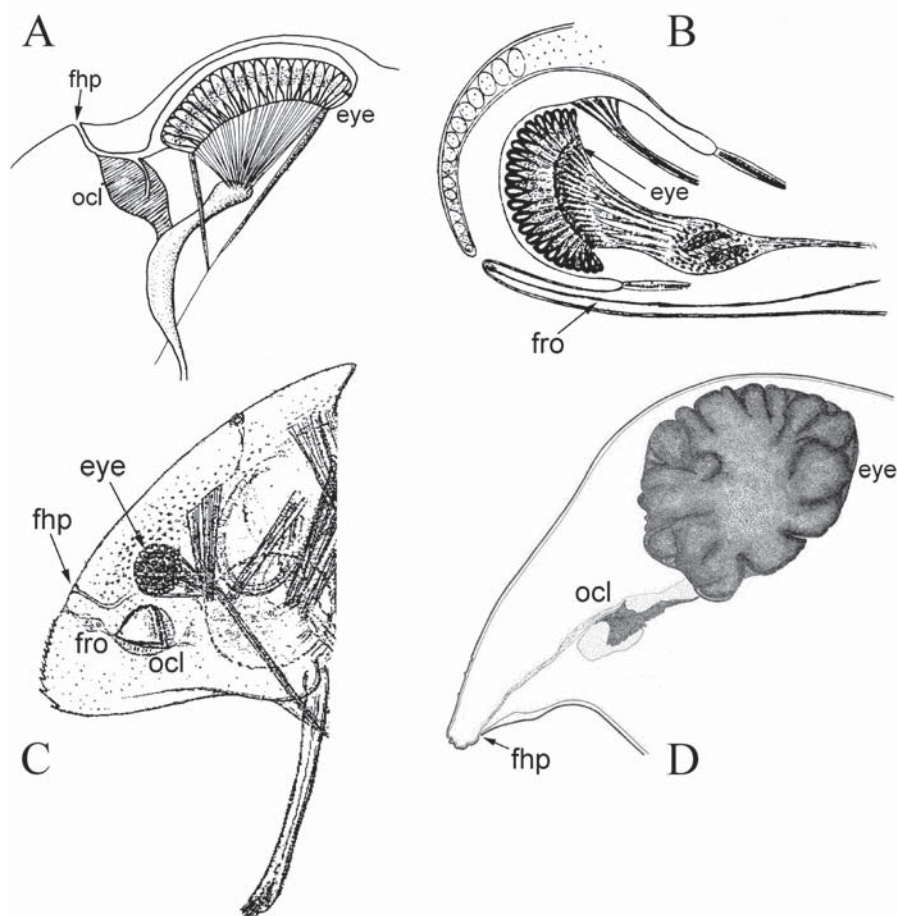


Fig. 5. Frontal head pore in the Branchiopoda.

A — *Triops* sp. (Notostraca) (after Calman, 1909); B — *Limnadia lenticularis* (Spinicaudata) (after Nowikoff, 1905a); C — *Cyclestheria hislopi* (Cyclestherida) (after Sars, 1887); D — *Megafenestra aurita* (Anomopoda: Daphniidae) (after Dumont, Pensaert, 1983).

Рис. 5. Фронтальная головная пора у Branchiopoda.

A — *Triops* sp. (Notostraca) (по: Calman, 1909); B — *Limnadia lenticularis* (Spinicaudata) (по: Nowikoff, 1905a); C — *Cyclestheria hislopi* (Cyclestherida) (по: Sars, 1887); D — *Megafenestra aurita* (Anomopoda: Daphniidae) (по: Dumont, Pensaert, 1983).

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E.N. Temereva, K.G. Mikhailov