

**A new species of the Y-larva genus *Hansenocaris* Itô, 1985
(Crustacea: Thecostraca: Facetotecta) from the Azores,
with notes on its morphology and biogeography**

**Новый вид Y-личинок рода *Hansenocaris* Itô, 1985 (Crustacea:
Thecostraca: Facetotecta) с Азорских островов с обсуждением
его морфологии и биogeографии**

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КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: Facetotecta, Y-циприс, таксономия, СЭМ, ультраструктура, распространение.

ABSTRACT. A new facetotectan species, described herein as *Hansenocaris spiridonovi* Kolbasov, Savchenko et Høeg sp.n. and based on its cypridiform stage, was found in the plankton off Azores Islands. We employed scanning electron microscopy to document the fine-scale external morphology of this species. We discuss the findings of facetotectan larvae showing cosmopolitan distribution of these crustaceans. The presence of Y-cyprid exuviae in plankton, findings of y-larvae in the deep sea plankton, occurrence in the oceanic plankton, as well as their permanent presence in the tropical waters may evidence on a pelagic host.

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РЕЗЮМЕ. Новый вид фасетотект *Hansenocaris spiridonovi* Kolbasov, Savchenko et Høeg sp.n. описан по ципривидной личиночной стадии, обнаруженной в планктоне в прибрежной зоне Азорских островов. Морфология нового вида, включая ультраструктуру, была исследована с помощью сканирующей электронной микроскопии. Находки личинок фасетотект, свидетельствуют о космополитическом распространении этих ракообразных. Наличие экзувиев Y-циприсов в планктоне, находки Y-личинок в глубоководном и в океаническом планктоне, а также их постоянное присутствие в тропи-

ческих водах могут свидетельствовать о пелагическом хозяине.

Introduction

The enigmatic Y-larvae represent the last significant group of Crustacea for which the adult forms are still unknown [Grygier, 1996; Kolbasov, Høeg, 2003; Glenner *et al.*, 2008; Høeg *et al.*, 2014; Kolbasov *et al.*, 2021]. Their naupliar and cypridiform larvae have been found in the marine plankton worldwide. Grygier [1985] erected the higher-level taxon Facetotecta to accommodate Y-larvae and placed it inside the monophyletic Thecostraca. Different facetotectan nauplii from West Indian, equatorial Atlantic waters and from the Bay of Kiel in the Baltic were first described in detail more than 100 years ago by Hansen [1899]. Subsequently Y-larvae were reported from almost all oceans in the world [Kolbasov, Høeg, 2003; Belmonte, 2005; Ponomarenko, Korn, 2006; Swathi, Mohan, 2019]. A post-naupliar instar or ‘Y-cyprid’ resembling other thecostracan cypridiform larvae was first described by Bresciani [1965]. Treatment with the crustacean moulting hormone 20-hydroxy ecdysone induces Y-cyprids to moult into a unique minute, slug-like stage, called the ypsigon [Glenner *et al.*, 2008]. Thus, the incompletely known life cycle of Facetotecta includes free-swimming naupliar stages, a cypridiform larva specialized for attachment and an ypsigon with an unknown role [Pérez-Losada *et al.*, 2009; Høeg *et al.*, 2014]. The morphology of both the Y-cyprid and the ypsigon suggest that unknown adult stages are advanced

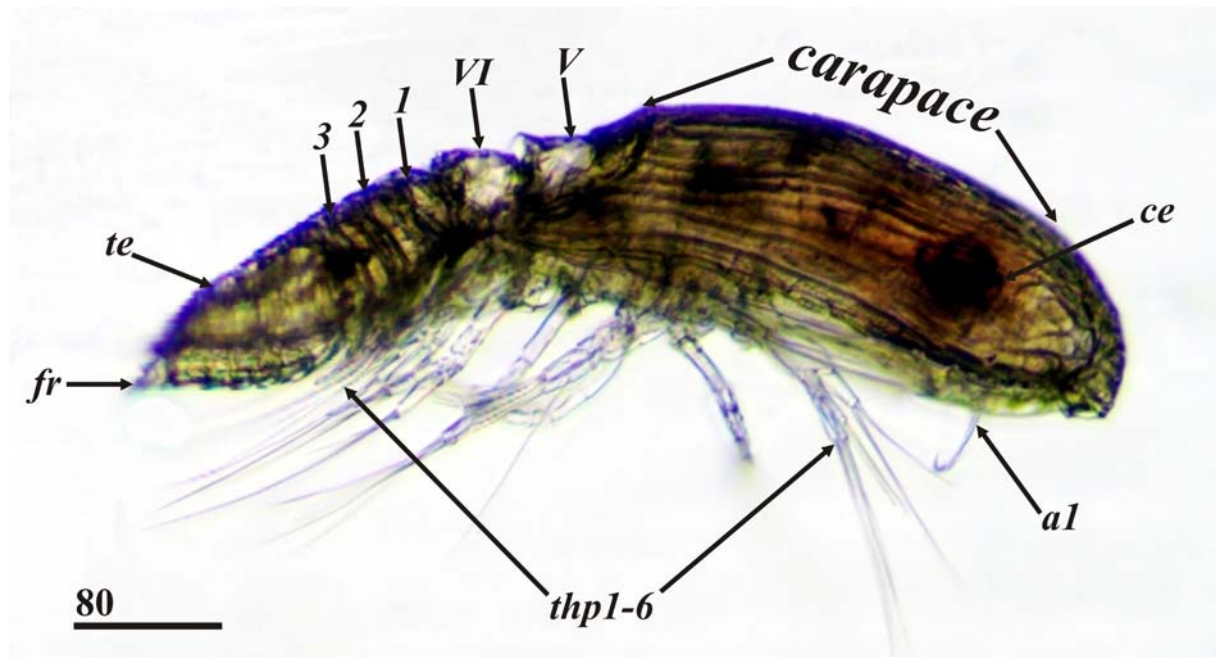


Fig. 1. *Hansenocaris spiridonovi* sp.n. General appearance, light microscopy, Y-cypris, holotype (ethanol fixation), thoracic segments numbered in Roman numerals, abdominal segments in Arabic numerals. Abbreviations: *al* — antennule, *ce* — compound (cypris) eye, *fr* — furcal rami, *te* — telson, *thp1-6* — thoracopods 1–6. Scale bars in μm .

Рис. 1. *Hansenocaris spiridonovi* sp.n. Общий вид, световая микроскопия, Y-циприс, голотип, грудные сегменты пронумерованы римскими цифрами, брюшные сегменты — арабскими цифрами. Сокращения: *al* — антеннула, *ce* — сложный глаз, *fr* — фуркальные ветви, *te* — тельсон, *thp1-6* — торакоподы 1–6. Масштабная линейка в мкм.

endoparasites in still to be identified hosts [Glenner *et al.*, 2008; Pérez-Losada *et al.*, 2009]. The Y-nauplii can be planktotrophic (feeding) or lecithotrophic (non-feeding), but the Y-cypris is always non-feeding. At least thirteen naupliar morphotypes are known to date, but only some of these have been correlated with Y-cyprids.

The naupliar body consists of a cephalic anterior part, covered by the dorsal head shield, and a posterior hindbody. The Y-cypris has a univalved carapace that only partially covers the larval body, six pairs of natatory thoracopods, a segmented thorax and an abdomen with furcal rami. The dorsal side of the naupliar head shield, the ‘trunk’, the carapace, and the telson of the Y-cypris have a surface pattern of reticulated cuticular ridges, which together form a series of interconnected plates or “facets”.

Itô [1985] proposed the new genus *Hansenocaris* for three new species, described on the basis of their respective Y-cyprids. Currently, Facetotecta encompass seven species, established on the basis of Y-cypris morphology and assigned to a single genus, *Hansenocaris* [Itô, 1990; Kolbasov *et al.*, 2007]. Additional six species of *Hansenocaris* were described on the basis of naupliar stages [Steuer, 1905; Itô, 1985; Belmonte, 2005; Swathi, Mohan, 2019], but they remain dubious, because they were not established on the basis of Y-cypris morphology.

A recent study revealed seven naupliar instars in *Hansenocaris itoi* Kolbasov et Høeg, 2003, instead of the five that were previously supposed for the Facetotecta [Kolbasov *et al.*, 2021]. This number of naupliar instars is unique not only for Facetotecta, but also for Thecostraca and Hexanauplia as well.

Here, we describe a new species of Facetotecta from Azores, based on its cypridiform stage found in the plankton. We employ scanning electron microscopy to study its morphology in details. We discuss the findings of facetotectan larvae showing cosmopolitan distribution of these crustaceans. We dedicate this paper to our friend and colleague, Dr. Vassily A. Spiridonov, who passed away untimely after COVID-19 on 17.12.2020.

Material and methods

A single Y-cypris was found in the plankton off Azores Islands, Piscinas do Pesqueiro, Ponta Delgada. It was captured with a 72- μm mesh net with 40 cm mouth opening at a depth of 0–2 m and preserved in 96% ethanol. Before SEM examination it was studied with an Olympus BX51 light compound microscope. For SEM investigation it was dehydrated in acetone and critical-point-dried in CO_2 . The dried specimen was sputter-coated with an alloy of platinum-palladium and examined in a JEOL JSM-6380LA scanning electron microscope operating at voltages of 15–20 kV at the University of Moscow. The resulting photographs were touched up using CorelDraw X3 Graphics Suite.

Results

TAXONOMIC PART

Subclass *Facetotecta* Grygier, 1985

Genus *Hansenocaris* Itô, 1985

Hansenocaris spiridonovi Kolbasov, Savchenko et
Høeg, **sp.n.**
Figs 1–5.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. One Y-cypris [holotype] collected in plankton by A.S. Savchenko and preserved in 96% ethanol. Collecting date: 18.07.2019. Type locality: Piscinas do Pesqueiro, Ponta Delgada, São Miguel Island, Azores [37°44'21.4"N, 25°39'41.1"W], depth 0–2 m. The holotype mounted on an SEM stub is deposited in the Zoological Museum of Moscow State University [no. Mg 1247]. A CD-ROM containing all the digital SEM photographs that were taken of the specimen has also been deposited there for permanent reference.

DIAGNOSIS. Y-cyprid having short carapace with prominent cuticular ridges, its posteriolateral corners short, not reaching the abdomen, areas adjoined to compound eyes inflated; antennules with conspicuous, curved claw and narrow, not bipartite aesthetasc; pleural extensions of thoracomeres 5 and 6 not developed; all thoracopods with two-segmented exo- and endopods; abdomen four-segmented, first segment lacking pointed posteroventral extensions; telson with four serrate spines along posteroventral margin.

ETYMOLOGY. The new species is named in honour of the distinguished Russian carcinologist and our friend Vassily A. Spiridonov, who made a great contribution to the study of malacostracan crustaceans before his untimely death after COVID-19 in 2020.

DESCRIPTION. General appearance. The body consists of a head, a six-segmented thorax, and a four-segmented abdomen (Figs 1, 2). The total length is app. 509 µm. The carapace covers the head and the anterior part of the thorax. The pair of large compound eyes lay laterally, 85 µm from anteriormost end of carapace. It was impossible to trace in detail the number and positions of the ommatidia of the compound eyes. The labrum and antennules are situated on the ventral side of the head, under the compound eyes. Each thoracic segment bears a pair of biramous thoracopods. The fourth abdominal segment or telson is the largest, and it terminates in a pair of furcal rami.

Carapace (Figs 1, 2, 3). The short, univalved carapace is 284 µm long along the mid-dorsal line and 326 µm long along the lateral margins [ratio to the total length is 0.64] and only partially covering the dorsal and lateral sides of the larval body, with the rounded anterior end and posteriolateral corners extending to the anterior end of sixth thoracic segment (Figs 1, 2). The areas of carapace adjoined to the compound eyes are inflated (Fig. 3, “ce”). The carapace resembles an inverted boat with the short posteriolateral parts somewhat produced and about 1/8 of total carapace length. Long longitudinal and short transverse and oblique cuticular ridges are thick and prominent and occupy the whole surface of the carapace (Fig. 2). The surface of the carapace with numerous pores and pore-like pits in more or less a symmetrical pattern (Figs 3, 4A), comprising three major types. The first type has a slit-like opening enclosed by a conspicuous circular rim (Figs 3B, 4A). The second type is a deep pit with a round mouth from which a single short seta protrudes (Figs 3A, B, D). Small paired pores (including the terminal pores of the lattice organs — *tp*) and

bigger unpaired, so-called central pores (*bp*), all with round openings and lacking setae, belong to the third type (Fig. 3). There are at least 22 pairs of pores with cuticular rim of first type, 13 pairs of pits with seta inside, and four unpaired central pores in the mid-dorsal line: two anteriormost with cuticular rim and two big pores without rim associated with anterior and posterior pairs of the lattice organs (Fig. 3).

Lattice organs (Figs. 2B, 3B–D). The carapace bears five pairs of lattice organs (*lo*), situated near the mid-dorsal line and grouped into two anterior and three posterior pairs. The anterior pairs (*lo1* and *lo2*) surrounding the anteriormost of the unpaired big central pores 40–55 µm from the front end of the carapace (Figs 2B, 3A, B). The cuticle of the lattice organs is smooth and lacks any trace of small pores comprising a pore field. The first pair (*lo1*) have a boomerang-like shape, about 11.7 µm long and 2 µm wide; they converge anteriorly, each narrows posteriorly towards the small terminal pore (Fig. 3B). The second pair (*lo2*) are elongate, about 19 µm long and about 2 µm wide; they converge slightly anteriorly and each narrows towards the small, posterior terminal pore (Fig. 3B). The posterior pairs of lattice organs (*lo3–5*) with small posterior terminal pores are situated near the posteriormost unpaired big central pore about 27 µm from the rear margin, two conspicuous, deep pits with seta lie laterally (Figs 2B, 3C, D). The *lo3* have teardrop-like form, each about 8.4 µm long and 2.2 µm wide, converge strongly anteriorly (Fig. 3C). The *lo4* are almost parallel, with recurved posterior parts, each about 10.6 µm long and 1.5 µm wide (Fig. 3C, D). The *lo5* are almost parallel and lie within conspicuous, posteriorly tapered, cuticular ridges or keels, each about 14 µm long and 1.5 µm wide (Fig. 3C, D).

Antennules (Figs 2C, 4A, B). Only the left antennule is exposed in the specimen. The antennules (Fig. 4A, B) consist of four segments, although the large, first segment is not observed. The second, horseshoe shaped segment is armed with a conspicuous curved hook (“claw”) at the distal margin and a minute lateral seta on the outer surface (Fig. 4B). Exposed part of the third, short segment bears on the distal margin one short seta with bifid distal half, although other seta[e] maybe hidden (Fig. 4B). The fourth segment is small and armed terminally with one long, distally serrated seta, one minute or rudimentary seta and one thorn-like projection (Fig. 4A, B). Subterminally it also carries a long, narrow, not bipartite (without constriction) aesthetasc (Figs 2C, 4A, B).

Other cephalic structures. The distal part of the labrum has one anterior curved spine with proximal circular row of fine setules and four posterior long spines or hooks, (Figs. 2C, 4A–C); the proximal part of labrum with two big unpaired pores and a pair of small pores at the base of posterior spines (Fig. 4C). A pair of postocular filamentary tufts is situated posteriorly to the antennules and labrum, each tuft consists of at least 10 setiform protrusions (Figs 2C, 4A). We did not find vestiges of antennae or mandibles, nor any trace of a pair of bifurcate paraocular processes associated with the compound eyes probably because they were hidden by the margins of carapace.

Thorax and thoracopods (Figs 1, 2, 4D). The thorax consists of six segments, their tergites with serrate posterior margins (Figs 1, 2). We could not determine whether the tergites of the first two segments are dorsally fused [Grygier, 1987]. Each tergite is also bearing two or three transverse cuticular ridges (Fig. 2A, B). The tergites of the fifth and sixth thoracic segments have rudimentary quadrangular pleu-

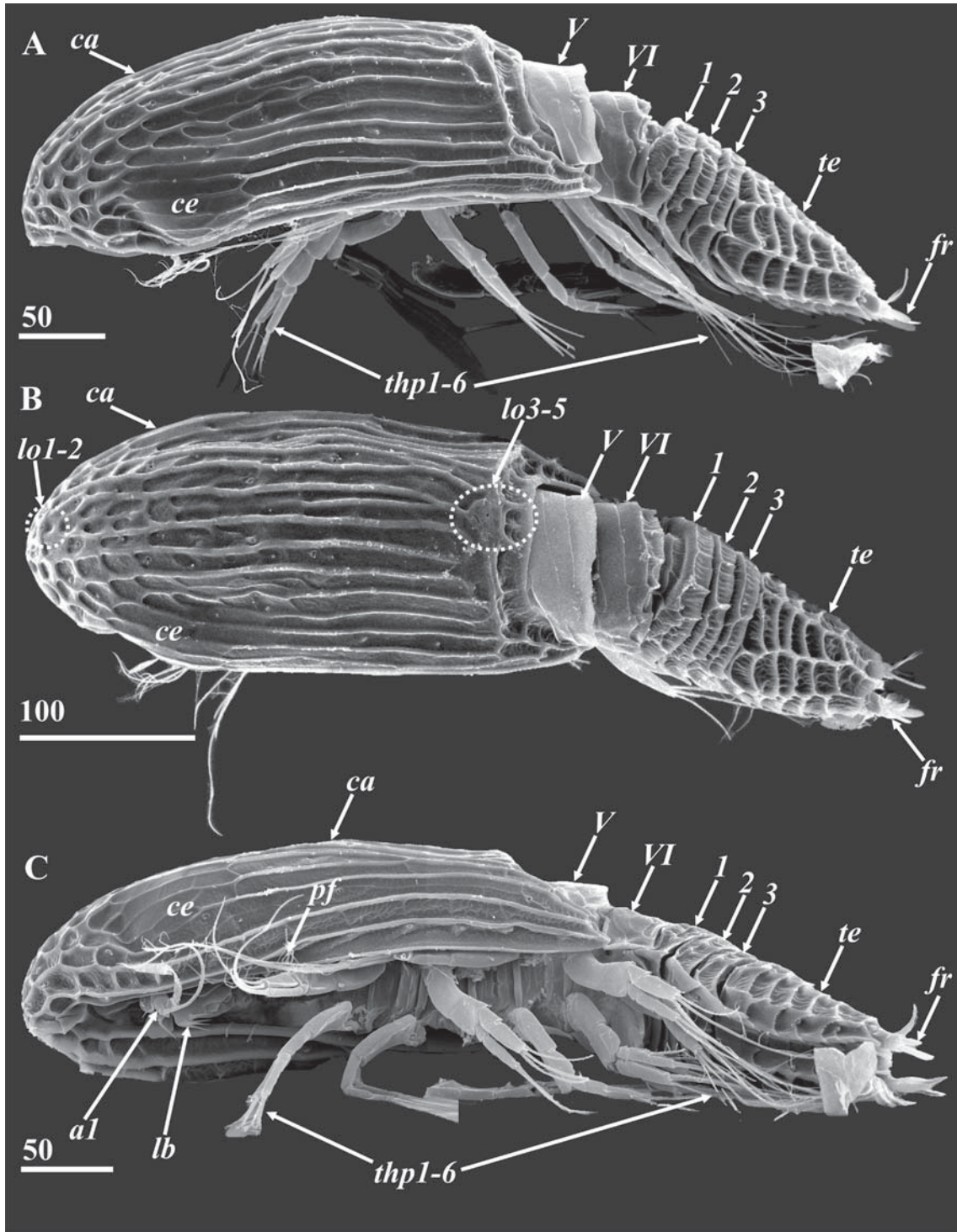


Fig. 2. *Hansenocaris spiridonovi* sp.n., γ -cypris, holotype. General appearance [SEM], thoracic segments numbered in Roman numerals, abdominal segments in Arabic numerals: a — lateral view; b — dorsal view, areas of lattice organs indicated on carapace with dotted oval outlines; c — ventrolateral view. Abbreviations: *al* — antennule, *ca* — carapace, *ce* — cuticle of carapace covering compound [cypris] eye, *fr* — furcal rami, *lb* — labrum, *lo1-5* — lattice organs, *pf* — postocular filamentary tuft, *te* — telson, *thp1-6* — thoracopods 1–6. Scale bars in μm .

Рис. 2. *Hansenocaris spiridonovi* sp.n., γ -циприс, голотип. Общий вид [СЭМ], грудные сегменты пронумерованы римскими цифрами, брюшные сегменты — арабскими цифрами: а — вид сбоку; б — вид сзади, области решетчатых органов обозначены на карапаксе пунктирными овальными контурами; с — вентролатеральный вид. Сокращения: *al* — антеннула, *ca* — карапакс, *ce* — кутикула карапакса, покрывающая сложный глаз, *fr* — фуркальная ветвь, *lb* — лабрум, *lo1-5* — решётчатые органы, *pf* — постокулярный пучок филаментов, *te* — тельсон, *thp1-6* — торакоподы 1–6. Масштабная линейка в мкм.

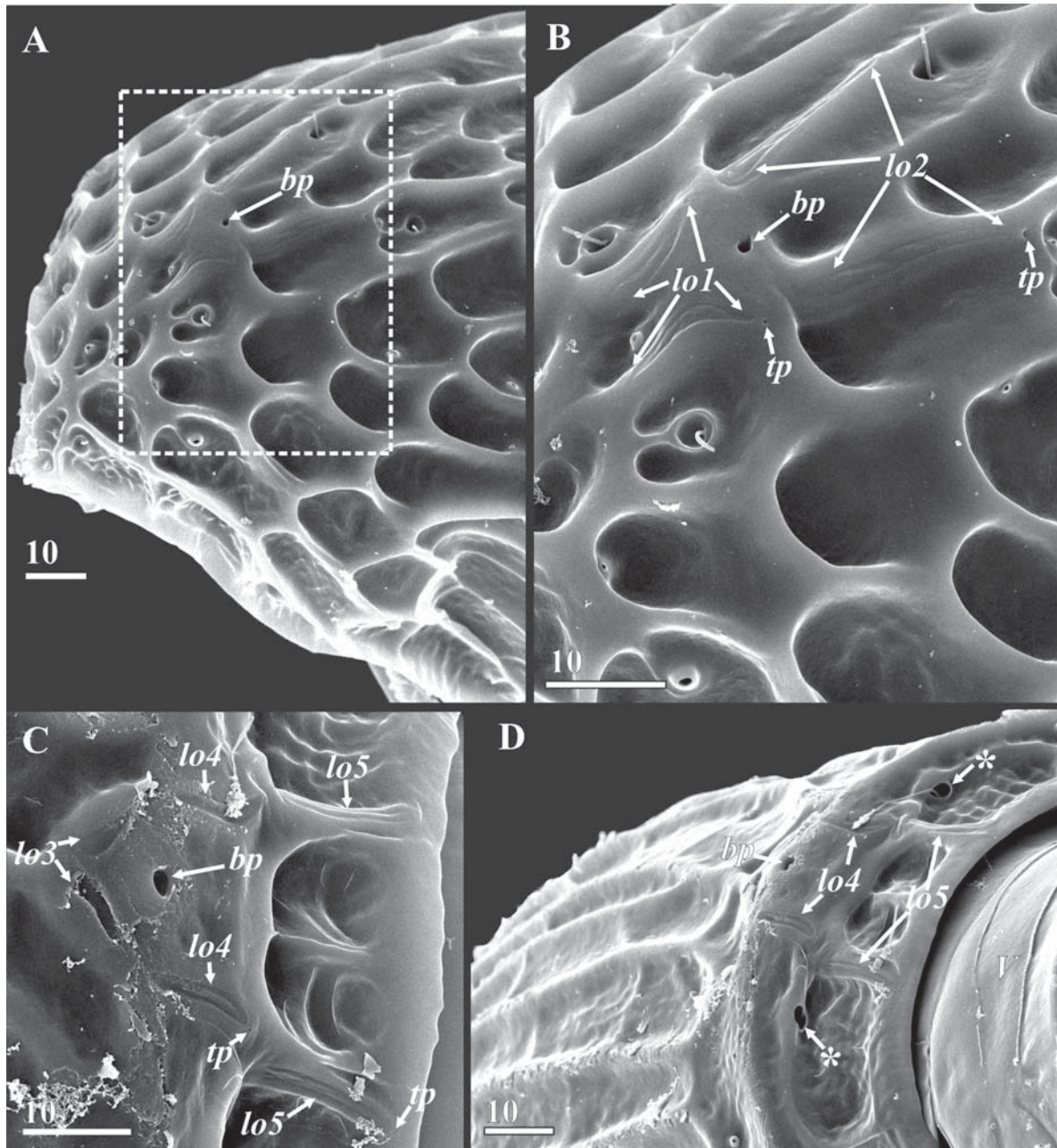


Fig. 3. *Hansenocaris spiridonovi* sp.n., γ -cypris, holotype. Lattice organs of carapace [SEM]: a — anterior end of carapace with lattice organs; b — enlarged rectangular area from “A” with anterior pairs of lattice organs; c — posterior pairs of lattice organs; d — posterior margin of carapace with lattice organs, posteriodorsal view, deep pits with seta inside indicated by asterisk. Abbreviations: *bp* — big central pore, *lo1–5* — lattice organs, *tp* — terminal pore of lattice organs. Scale bars in μm .

Рис. 3. *Hansenocaris spiridonovi* sp.n., γ -циприс, голотип. Решётчатые органы карапакса [SEM]: а — передний конец карапакса с решётчатыми органами; б — увеличенная область рисунка “а” с передними парами решётчатых органов; с — задние пары решётчатых органов; д — задний край карапакса с решётчатыми органами, вид сзади, глубокие ямки с щетинкой внутри обозначены звездочкой. Сокращения: *bp* — большая центральная пора, *lo1–5* — решётчатые органы, *tp* — терминальная пора решётчатых органов. Масштабная линейка в мкм.

ral extensions (Fig. 2A). Each thoracomere bears a pair of biramous thoracopods.

Each thoracopod consists of a basal array of sclerites, a coxa, a basis, and a pair of rami [exopod and endopod]. All thoracopods have two-segmented exopods and endopods; coxa, basis and short proximal segments of both rami lack

setae; elongated distal segments of both rami with long, setulated setae (Figs 1, 2A, C, 4D, 5A, B). The distal segments of both rami of first limb bearing two terminal setae (Fig. 2A, C). The distal segments of exopods of the remaining thoracopods (2–6) have three terminal setae; the distal segments of endopods with two terminal setae and one seta

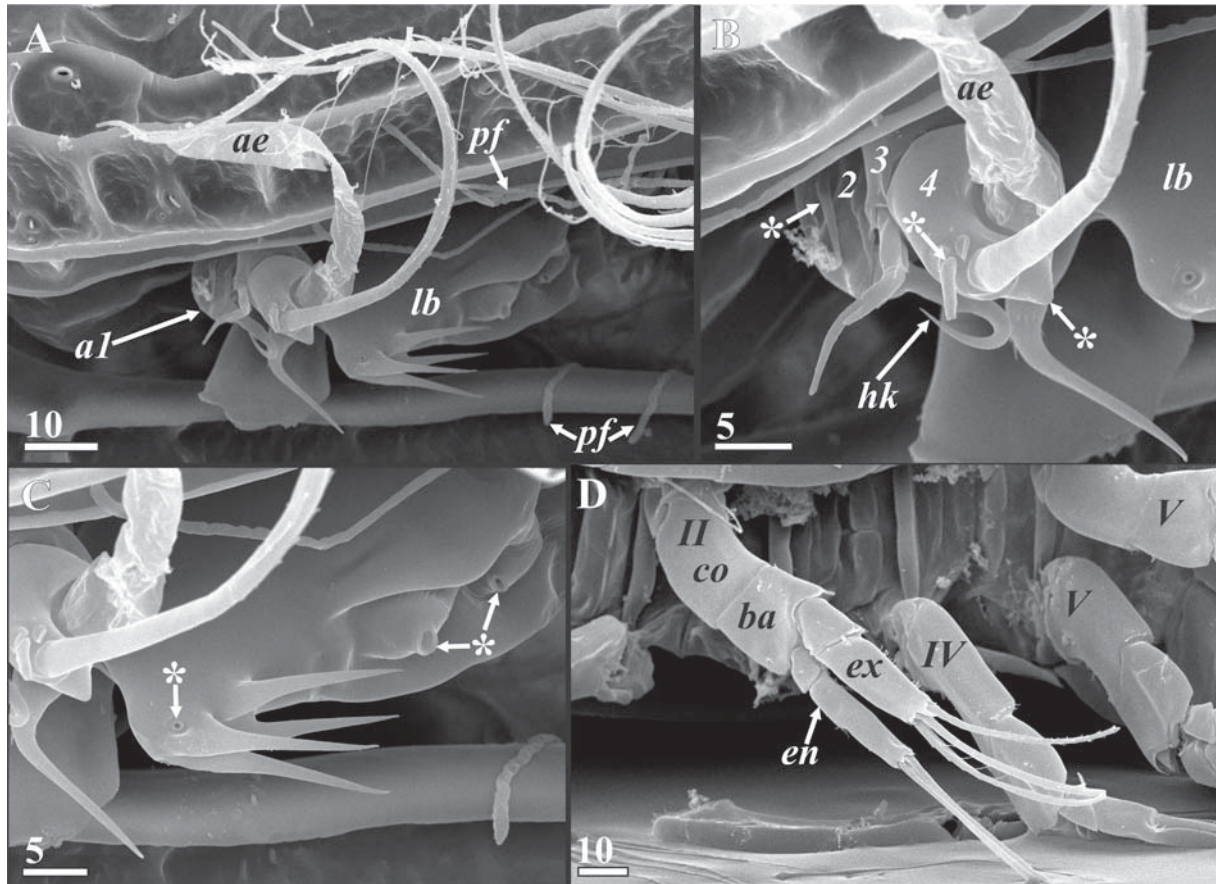


Fig. 4. *Hansenocaris spiridonovi* sp.n., y-cypris, holotype. Cephalic appendages and thoracopods [SEM]: a — cephalic appendages; b — antennule, distal part, rudimentary setae and “thorn” indicated by asterisks, antennular segments numbered in Arabic; c — labrum, lateral side, pores indicated by asterisks; d — thoracopods, numbered in Roman numerals. Abbreviations: *al* — antennule, *ae* — aesthetasc, *ba* — basis, *co* — coxa, *en* — endopod, *ex* — exopod, *hk* — hook/claw of antennule, *lb* — labrum, *pf* — postocular filamentary tuft. Scale bars in μm .

Рис. 4. *Hansenocaris spiridonovi* sp.n., Y-циприс, голотип. Головные конечности и торакоподы [СЭМ]: а — головные придатки; б — антеннула, дистальная часть, рудиментарные щетинки и шиповидный вырост, обозначены звездочками, членики антеннулы пронумерованы по-арабски; с — лабрум, вид сбоку, поры обозначены звездочками; д — торакоподы пронумерованы римскими цифрами. Сокращения: *al* — антеннула, *ae* — эстетаск, *ba* — базис, *co* — кокса, *en* — эндоподит, *ex* — экзоподит, *hk* — крючок/коготь антеннулы, *lb* — лабрум, *pf* — постокулярный пучок филаментов. Масштабная линейка в μm .

at the middle of the inner margin [place of fusion of two endopod segments, Figs. 2C, 4D, 5B).

Abdomen (Figs 1, 2, 5). The abdomen consists of three short segments and a long telson with furcal rami. The abdominal segments have sculpture of transverse and longitudinal cuticular ridges and serrate margins, the tergites of the second and third segments have sharp and long pleural extensions absent in the first segment (Fig. 5A, B). The tergite of first segment has one pair of lateral pits with seta inside and one pair of dorsolateral pores; the tergite of second segment has one pair of lateral pores and tergite of third segment has one pair of pores on ventral surface of pleural extensions (Fig. 5A, B). The telson is densely covered by serrate cuticular ridges forming dorsal, lateral, and ventral rows of plates (Figs 2, 5A, B). Two dorsal rows consist of six and seven cuticular plates; each lateral side has two rows: laterodorsal and lateroventral with six cuticular plates each; the ventral surface consists of four longitudinal rows of plates (two ventrolateral and two ventromedial), ventrolateral rows have six plates and ventromedial rows have five plates (Figs 2, 5A, B). The surface of

telson bears nine papilliform pores: one unpaired pore on seventh dorsal plate, paired pores on second and fourth laterodorsal plates, and paired pores on fourth and sixth ventrolateral plates (Fig. 5). Four conspicuous and serrate terminal spines project along the posteroventral border of the telson (Fig. 5).

A pair of short furcal rami is inserted in the posterior end of the telson (Figs 2, 5). Each ramus looks two-jointed due to the conspicuous circular cuticular ridge but is rather unsegmented and carries three wide, lanceolate setae of different lengths, with serrate margins and basal papilla with pore (Fig. 5C, D).

COMPARISON. Seven described valid facetotectan species were established on the basis of Y-cypris characters, while the other six on the nauplius y phase [Steuer, 1905; Itô, 1985; Belmonte, 2005; Kolbasov *et al.*, 2007; Swathi, Mohan, 2019]. Although the species established on the basis of the naupliar instars are distinguishable from one another, none are linked to any form of cypris y and none can be compared directly to previously described nominal species of *Hansenocaris* that are based on the cypris stage. These Y-

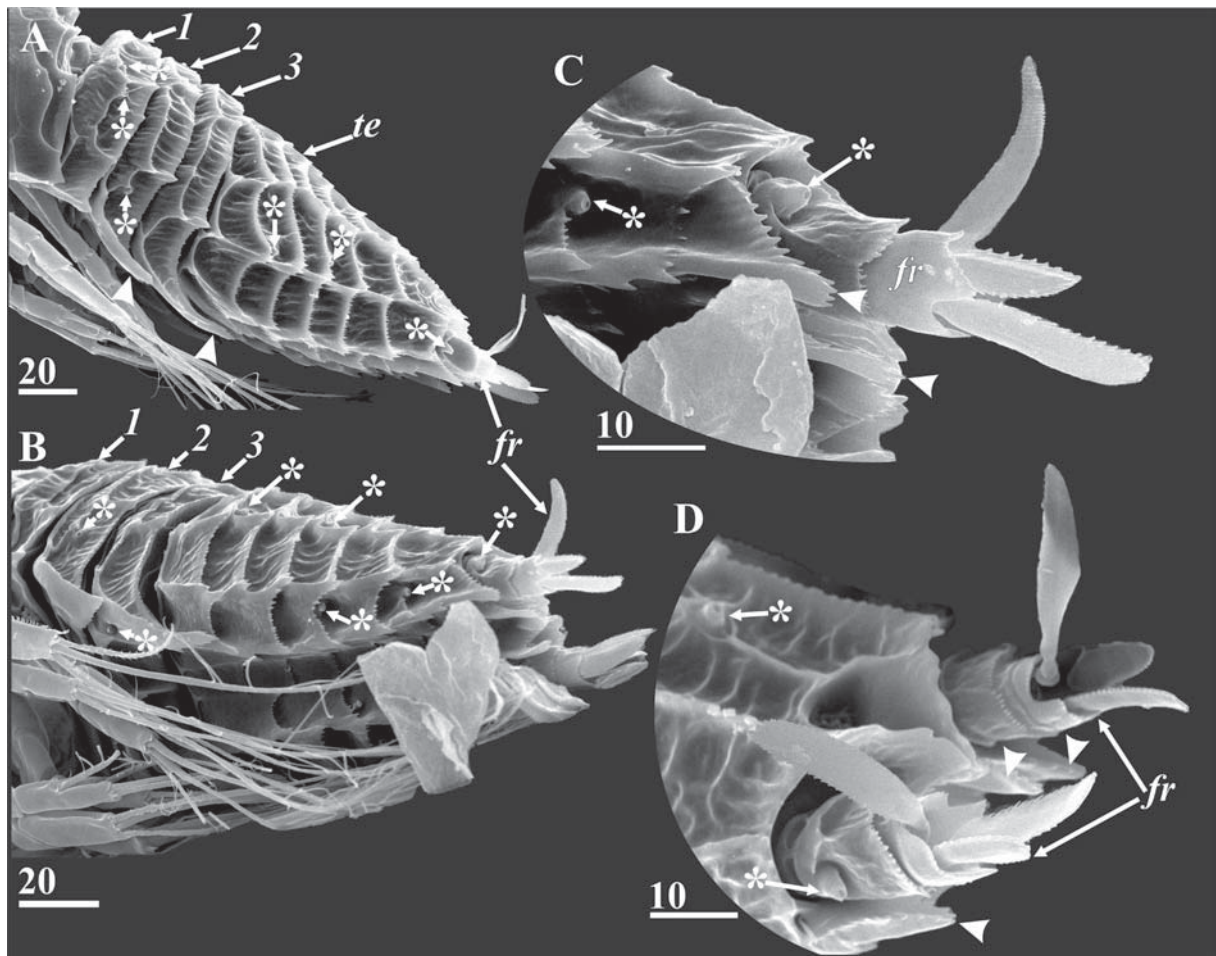


Fig. 5. *Hansenocaris spiridonovi* sp.n., Y-cypris, holotype. Abdomen and furcal rami [SEM]: a — abdomen, lateral view, segments numbered in Arabic numerals, pores/papillae with pores indicated by asterisks, pleural extensions indicated by arrowheads; b — abdomen, ventrolateral view, segments numbered in Arabic numerals, pores/papillae with pores indicated by asterisks.; c, d — furcal rami, lateral and dorsolateral view respectively, pores/papillae with pores indicated by asterisks, serrate terminal spines of telson indicated by arrowheads. Abbreviations: fr — furcal rami, te — telson. Scale bars in μm .

Рис. 5. *Hansenocaris spiridonovi* sp.n., Y-циприс, голотип. Абдомен и фуркальные ветви (СЭМ): а — абдомен, вид сбоку, сегменты, пронумерованы арабскими цифрами, поры обозначены звёздочками, плевральные отростки, обозначены стрелками; б — абдомен, вентролатеральный вид, сегменты, пронумерованы арабскими цифрами, поры обозначены звёздочками; с, д — фуркальные ветви, латеральный и дорсолатеральный вид соответственно, поры обозначены звёздочками, зубчатые концевые шипы тельсона, обозначены стрелками. Сокращения: fr — фуркальные ветви, te — тельсон. Масштабная линейка в мкм.

nauplii species represent the beginning of a parallel nomenclature [see Kolbasov *et al.*, 2007].

Hansenocaris spiridonovi sp.n. in some characters, such as rounded anterior end of carapace with developed cuticular ridges and presence of the antennular hook, resembles facetotectan species of “*Hansenocaris-pacifica* group” including *H. pacifica* Itô, 1985 and *H. furcifera* Itô, 1989 from Japan, *H. itoi* Kolbasov et Høeg, 2003 from the White Sea and several undescribed Y-cyprids from Atlantic and Polar oceans and Kamchatka [Kolbasov, Høeg, 2003; Kolbasov *et al.*, 2007; own data]. It can be easily distinguished from them in having a relatively shorter carapace, which does not reach the abdominal segments, shorter posteriolateral corners of carapace, developed and prominent cuticular ridges covering the whole carapace and rudimentary pleural extensions of fifth and sixth thoracomeres [Itô, Ohtsuka, 1984; Itô, 1989; Kolbasov, Høeg, 2003]. *Hansenocaris spiridonovi* sp.n. also differs from *H. itoi* in having not bipartite anten-

nular aesthetasc, two-segmented endopods of the thoracopods 2–6 and four instead five serrate spines along the posteroventral margin of the telson. It differs from *H. pacifica* by presence of four instead three serrate spines along the posteroventral margin of the telson and from *H. furcifera* by two-segmented endopods of the thoracopods 2–6 and four instead five serrate spines along the posteroventral margin of the telson.

A new species is distinguished from *H. papillata* Kolbasov et Grygier, 2007 described from Indonesia by the absence of a pair of papilliform protrusions at the anterior end of carapace, more developed cuticular ridges of carapace, presence of long and sharp pleural extensions of second and third abdominal segments and two-segmented endopods of thoracopods 2–6. *Hansenocaris spiridonovi* sp.n. is longer than *H. rostrata*, *H. acutifrons*, and *H. tentaculata* (335–375 μm) described from Japan [Itô, 1984, 1985, 1986]. All these species reportedly lack an antennular hook, whereas

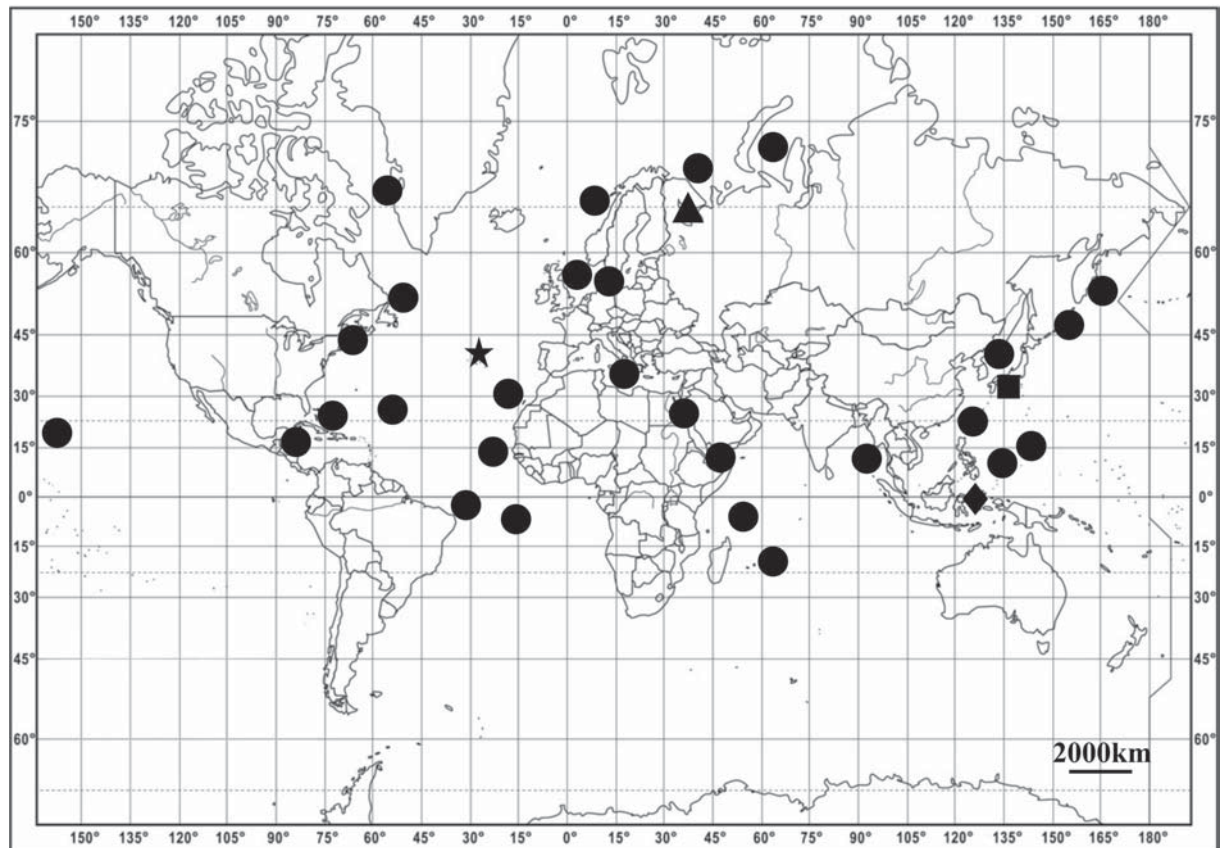


Fig. 6. Map of distribution (findings) of facetotectan larvae (locality of *Hansenocaris spiridonovi* sp.n. indicated by asterisk, rectangle — *H. acutifrons*, *H. furcifera*, *H. rostrata*, *H. pacifica*, *H. tentaculata*, triangle — *H. itoi*, diamond — *H. papillata*, circle — unidentified Y-cyprids and Y-nauplii).

Рис. 6. Карта распространения личинок фасетотект (местонахождение *Hansenocaris spiridonovi* sp.n. обозначено звездочкой, прямоугольник — *H. acutifrons*, *H. furcifera*, *H. rostrata*, *H. pacifica*, *H. tentaculata*, треугольник — *H. itoi*, ромб — *H. papillata*, круги — неописанные Y-циприсы и Y-науплиусы).

Hansenocaris spiridonovi sp.n. has a well-developed antennular hook. The anterior end of the carapace of *H. rostrata* and *H. acutifrons* is strongly produced in comparison with the rounded end in *Hansenocaris spiridonovi* sp.n. In addition, *H. acutifrons* and *H. rostrata* have six and five serrate spines along the posteroventral border of the telson respectively (four in new species), and *H. tentaculata* lacks such spines. *H. tentaculata* also has very long paraocular process and two-segmented abdomen, which distinguish this species from all other known facetotectans.

Discussion

The larvae of Facetotecta have a cosmopolitan distribution (Fig. 6). They have been found in all oceans and seas with normal or slightly reduced marine salinity (the White Sea — 21–25‰ and western part of the Baltic Sea — 15–25‰), where the plankton samples were examined for their presence. We did not find them in brackish waters of the Black Sea (14–17‰) and central and eastern parts of the Baltic Sea (6–9‰). The absence of facetotectans in the brackish waters may be connected with elimination from the local faunas of some taxa (e.g. the echinoderms and sponges)

that may represent putative hosts of Y-larvae. Although Y-larvae can die at low salinity, while their putative hosts (not echinoderms or sponges) live in brackish waters and do not become infected with facetotectans there. In the Atlantic they are distributed from the equatorial regions [Hansen, 1899] to tropical [Bresciani, 1965; Grygier, 1996; Ohtsuka *et al.*, 1999], subtropical and boreal [Hansen, 1899; Steuer, 1904; Apstein, 1905; McMurrich, 1917; Mileikovsky, 1968; Schram, 1972], and polar [Grygier, 1987]. In the Pacific Y-larvae were also found in equatorial [Kolbasov *et al.*, 2007], tropical including Hawaii [Grygier, 1996, own data], subtropical and boreal regions [Mileikovsky, 1970; Itô, 1984, 1985, 1989; Grygier, 1996, Ponomarenko, Korn, 2006; own data]. In the Indian Ocean facetotectans were described from equatorial and tropical waters including the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and the Rodrigues, Seychelles and Andaman Islands [Almeida Prado-Por, Por, 1988; Böttger-Schnack, 1995; Conway *et al.*, 2003; Swathi, Mohan, 2019]. In the Arctic Ocean Y-larvae were found in the Barents, White and Kara seas [Mileikovsky, 1968; Kolbasov, Høeg, 2003; own data].

Most of the Y-larvae were found in the neretic zone, near the continents, but some of them were reported from the oceanic plankton (mid-ocean) or from isolated islands such as Hawaii or St. Helena Island. *Facetotecta*s mostly inhabit the continental shelf (0–200 m), but the deepest catches were collected in the Kuril-Kamchatka Trench between 3000–5640 m (bottom 5750 m) and 3000–5900 m (bottom 8740 m) (own data).

In tropical waters Y-larvae seem to be present more or less permanently [Almeida Prado-Por, Por, 1988, own data]. In the subtropical, boreal and even in polar waters they can be found most of the time of the year, except the White Sea where they were described from April to July, only. Thus, in the warm waters of Japan they were found from April to December [Grygier, 1996]; in the North, Baltic and Norwegian seas from January to November [Elofsson, 1971; Bresciani, 1965; Schram, 1972], in the boreal West Atlantic in February, April, May, June and December [McMurrich, 1917; Fish, Johnson, 1937] and in the polar region off the west coast of Greenland in July and October [Grygier, 1987].

In the south of Japan, the biodiversity of the Y-larvae exceeds more than thirty different species [Grygier, 1996; own data].

In the plankton *facetotecta*s are represented by nauplii and cyridiform larvae, but occasionally their exuviae (including cyridiform) may be found. Thus, the cyridiform exuviae were found in Kamchatka and the Kara Sea (own data). Almeida Prado-Por and Por [1988] wrote about y-larvae that are permanently present in Gulf of Aqaba (Eilat): “We believe that the *Hansenocaris* cypris is either an adult animal, or is the young stage of a parasite on a plankton host: this is the only way in which their permanent presence in the plankton can be explained”. Now we know that a unique minute, slug-like juvenile stage, called the ypsigon follows the Y-cyprids [Glenner *et al.*, 2008]. But the presence of Y-cyprid exuviae in plankton, findings of Y-larvae in the deep sea plankton at the depths of 3000–5900 m but 2840 m above the bottom, occurrence in the oceanic plankton, as well as their permanent presence in the tropical waters may evidence on a pelagic host.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF FACETOTECTA DESCRIBED FROM THE CYPRIS Y STAGE

1. Abdomen two-segmented *Hansenocaris tentaculata*
– Abdomen four-segmented 2
2. Anterior end of carapace strongly produced, antennular hook absent 3
– Anterior end of carapace round or slightly produced, antennular hook present 4
3. Anterior end of carapace sharp, six telsonic spines
..... *H. acutifrons*
– Anterior end of carapace blunt, five telsonic spines
..... *H. rostrata*
4. Carapace elongate, its posterior ends reaching abdomen 6
– Carapace short, its posterior ends not reaching abdomen 5

5. Anterior end of carapace with ventral papilliform protrusions, cuticular ridges feeble *H. papillata*
– Anterior end of carapace without ventral papilliform protrusions, cuticular ridges developed
..... *H. spiridonovi* sp.n.
6. Antennular aesthetasc constricted at mid-length, posterior ends of carapace reaching telson *H. itoi*
– Antennular aesthetasc not constricted at mid-length, posterior ends of carapace not reaching telson 7
6. Entire surface of carapace covered by cuticular ridges ...
..... *H. pacifica*
– Cuticular ridges absent in dorsal part of carapace
..... *H. furcifera*

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