

Terrestrial isopods from northern Algeria (Tissemsilt Province): Rediscovered species and description of *Porcellio thenietelhadensis* sp. nov. (Crustacea: Oniscidea)

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A small collection of terrestrial isopods from northern Algeria (Tissemsilt Province) was studied. This region holds significant faunistic interest, as some of the earliest known North African species of this group were described from this area, with several having never been recorded since. Based primarily on near-topotypical material, some of these little-known species are fully illustrated for the first time to facilitate future identifications in the region: *Lucasius myrmecophilus*, *Soteriscus fuscovariegatus*, *Porcellio wagneri*, *Porcellio bovei*, *Porcellio platysoma*, and *Armadillidium sulcatum*. In addition, we provide photographs of the type specimens for *P. bovei*, *P. wagneri*, and *P. platysoma*, located in various European museums. The identity of *P. intermedius*, a species described from NE Algeria, is also discussed, although its type material has not been located. Finally, a new species belonging to the '*laevis-hoffmannseggii*' systematic complex is described: *Porcellio thenietelhadensis* sp. nov. Additionally, a provisional list of the terrestrial isopods recorded from Algeria to date is provided.

Keywords: Maghreb, Algerian Tell Atlas, woodlice, taxonomy, *Lucasius*, *Soteriscus*, *Porcellio*, *Armadillidium*.

ISÒPODES TERRESTRES DEL NORD D'ALGÈRIA (PROVÍNCIA DE TISSEMSILT): ESPÈCIES REDESCOBERTES I DESCRIPCIÓ DE *PORCELLIO THENIETELHADENSIS* SP. NOV. (CRUSTACEA: ONISCIDEA). S'ha estudiat una petita col·lecció d'isòpodes terrestres del nord d'Algèria (província de Tissemsilt). Aquesta regió té un gran interès faunístic, ja que algunes de les espècies més antigues d'aquest grup conegudes del nord d'Àfrica van ser descrites en aquesta àrea geogràfica i, algunes d'elles, mai més s'han tornat a citar. Basant-nos principalment en material gairebé topotípic, algunes d'aquestes espècies poc conegudes s'han il·lustrat completament per primera vegada per facilitar futures identifikacions en aquesta regió: *Lucasius myrmecophilus*, *Soteriscus fuscovariegatus*, *Porcellio wagneri*, *Porcellio bovei*, *Porcellio platysoma* i *Armadillidium sulcatum*. A més, proporcionem fotografies dels exemplars tipus de *P. bovei*, *P. wagneri* i *P. platysoma*, que hem localitzat en diversos museus d'Europa. També discutim la identitat de *P. intermedius*, una espècie descrita del nord-est d'Algèria, tot i que no s'ha localitzat el material tipus. Finalment, es descriu una nova espècie pertanyent al complex sistemàtic '*laevis-hoffmannseggii*': *Porcellio thenietelhadensis* sp. nov. A més, es presenta una llista provisional dels isòpodes terrestres registrats a Algèria fins a la data.

Paraules clau: Magrib, Atles del Tell algerià, someretes, taxonomia, *Lucasius*, *Soteriscus*, *Porcellio*, *Armadillidium*.

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Introduction and historical context

Knowledge of terrestrial isopods in Algeria dates back to studies conducted during the early colonial period (Seurat, 1930). The first description of an Algerian species is attributed to Milne Edwards (1840), whose work included a new species from this country: *Armadillidium sulcatum*. However, the first specific study on the terrestrial isopod fauna of Algeria was that of Johann Friedrich von Brandt (1841), in which he described *Porcellio wagneri* and *Porcellio platysoma*, both collected by Moritz Wagner, who was regent in the country (Seurat, 1930). Yet, it was not until the major French scientific expedition compiled by Lucas (1849) that the first illustrations of Algerian terrestrial isopods described up to that time appeared, and several new species were also described and illustrated: *Porcellio variabilis* (also from Tunisia); *Porcellio bovei*, *Porcellio echinatus* and *Soteriscus fuscovariegatus*. Subsequently, Kinahan (1859) studied other materials collected by Lucas and established the genus *Lucasius*.

The extensive monograph by Budde-Lund (1885) also provided diagnoses of numerous species of terrestrial isopods from Algeria, many of them collected by naturalists such as Eugène Simon, Vasili N. Uljanin, Frederik V. A. Meinert, William E. Sørensen, Theodor Escherich, L. Lund and

Władysław Taczanowski, among others (Seurat, 1930). Simon (1885), in his monograph on Tunisia, also cited some isopod species from Algerian localities. However, some of these records are dubious and have not been subsequently validated (cf. Schmalfuss, 2003).

The terrestrial isopods of Algeria are also known thanks to the work of Dollfus (1896), who cited 55 species from this country and described two new species: *Porcellio eximius* and *Armadillidium pilosellum*.

In the 20th century, other European isopodologists also studied the Algerian fauna, including Racovitza (1907; 1908), Seurat (1933); Paulian de Félice (1942a; 1942b), Schmölzer (1953) and Vandel (1955). In the 1970s and 1990s, the work of Italian specialists stands out with the revision of Maghrebian species and the description of some new ones from Algeria (Caruso & Lombardo, 1983; Caruso & Di Maio, 1990a; 1990b; 1990c). Schmalfuss (1989) also redescribed some Algerian species of *Porcellio*. The most recent taxonomical work (Caruso *et al.*, 2017) is limited to the family Spelaeoniscidae, which is not covered in the present paper.

More recently, some studies have been published on Algerian terrestrial isopods, focusing primarily on faunistic or ecological aspects (Boukachabia *et al.*, 2022; Ahmed *et al.*, 2023; Ahlem & Ourida, 2025; Benchana *et al.*, 2026).

Currently, 95 species are known in this Maghreb country (Schmalfuss, 2003; OniscidBase, 2026; see Appendix). Some of the first terrestrial isopods described from Algeria have never been recorded again since their original description, and the majority of them have never been illustrated, at least not in full.

Material and methods

Specimens were collected by hand and preserved in 70% ethanol. The study was based solely on morphological characters. Identification was primarily based on original descriptions or redescrptions, as well as HD photographs of type material held in several European museums (see below for a list of consulted collections and their abbreviations). For the illustrations, the specimens were photographed *in toto* using a digital microscope (Dino-Lite) and subsequently dissected under a stereomicroscope (Euromex Nexius). The habitus drawings were made using a Motic stereomicroscope equipped with a camera lucida. Body parts were temporarily mounted in a glycerin/ethanol solution for microscopic observation and drawn using a camera lucida mounted on a compound microscope (Olympus CH 30). Final illustrations were prepared using the free software GIMP with a graphic tablet (Wacom-Intuos). Type specimens of the new species have been deposited in the crustacean collection at the Museu Balear de Ciències Naturals (MUCBO Foundation) in Mallorca, Balearic Islands, Spain (MBCN).

Abbreviations

MBCN: Museu Balear de Ciències Naturals, MUCBO Foundation, Mallorca, Spain.

ZISP: Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia.

NHMD: Natural History Museum Denmark, Copenhagen.

ZMB: Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin, Germany.

TLM: Tyrolean State Museum, Innsbruck, Austria.

CLLG: Lluc Garcia personal collection, Mallorca, Spain.

Study Area

With the exception of a single occasional locality (Algiers), all studied material was collected from natural and semi-natural areas within the Tissemsilt Province, located in the northwestern sector of Algeria (Fig. 1).

1-Hammam Tires (Tissemsilt commune): A wheat field characterized by vertisols covered with low vegetation, including *Diploaxis harra* and *Ecballium elaterium* (Hamecha *et al.*, 2025).

2-Laboune: An almond orchard (~10 ha) near the town of Tissemsilt. It features clay soil with bedrock close to the surface, where the most common plants are jujube and asparagus.

3-Sidi Bentamra: A peri-urban forest near the town of Tissemsilt. This artificial forest formation covers approximately 80 hectares and resulted from an Aleppo pine reforestation program in 1976. It is characterized by a steppe-like shrub layer composed of lotus, jujube trees, esparto grass, and white asparagus. The forest is surrounded by agricultural land dominated by cereal crops (Menaa *et al.*, 2021).

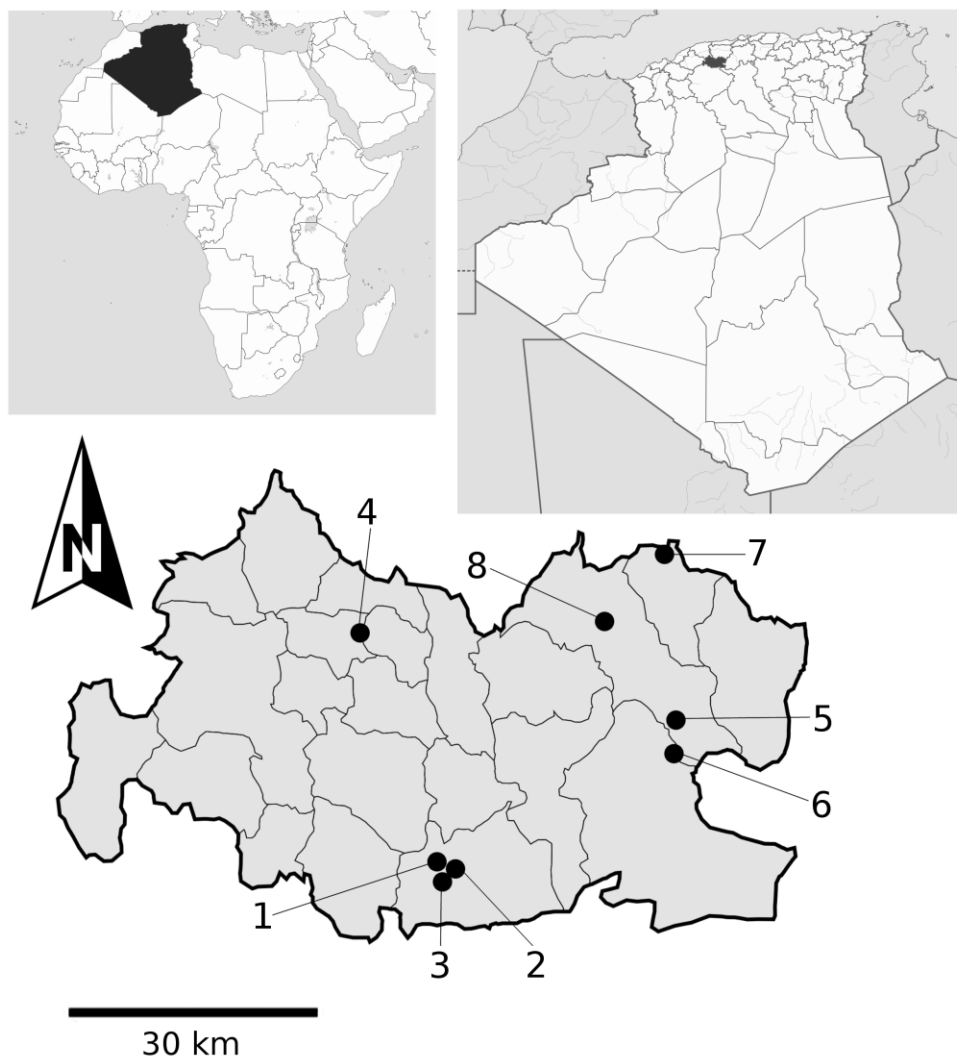


Fig. 1. Map of the Tissemsilt region and its location in NW Algeria, with the prospected localities.

Fig. 1. Mapa de la regió de Tissemsilt i la seva situació al NO d'Algèria, amb les localitats prospectades.

4-Sidi Slimane: A mountainous area located approximately 1 km from the town of Sidi Slimane, near a group of hot springs. It is characterized by high humidity and steep slopes. The soil is composed of schist,

and the vegetation consists mainly of jujube trees.

5-Mghila (Theniet El Had municipality): This region comprises natural and agricultural environments and features a dry continental climate classified as BSk

according to the Köppen-Geiger climate classification (Kottek *et al.*, 2006; Hamecha *et al.*, 2025).

6-Ouarsenis: Located within the Aïn Antar Nature Reserve (established in June 2024) on the north-facing, steep slopes of the Ouarsenis massif. It hosts an Atlas cedar forest covering 100 hectares that intermingles with Aleppo pines and holm oaks further down the slope. Humidity is high, especially in winter, when sunlight cannot penetrate the rocky slopes above the forest.

7-Youssoufia: This region extends northeast of the Ouarsenis mountain range, opposite the Our State Forest on the western Ghilas mountain. The predominant tree cover consists of holm oaks followed by Aleppo pines, and the area is traversed by the Wadi Al-Gherga near the town of Youssoufia.

8-Theniet El Had National Park: Established in 1983 as Algeria's first protected natural area, this park is located in Tissemsilt, in the heart of the Tell Atlas

mountain range. It covers 3,424.5 hectares and reaches an altitude of 1,787 meters. Known for its rugged terrain and semi-arid to subhumid climate, it harbors exceptional biodiversity—including a unique Atlas cedar forest and rare endemic species—as well as distinct landscapes and natural sites (Mairif *et al.*, 2023).

9-Algiers: Some specimens were collected occasionally outside the main study area, in the vicinity of the city of Algiers. Due to their high faunistic interest, they have also been included in this work.

Taxonomy

Family Porcellionidae Brandt in Brandt & Ratzeburg, 1831

Genus *Lucasius* Kinahan, 1859

Lucasius myrmecophilus Kinahan, 1859

Kinahan, 1859, p. 196–197; plate 19.

Garcia *et al.*, 2019, p. 12, figs. 1A–B and 7 A–B.

Figs. 2A, 3–4.

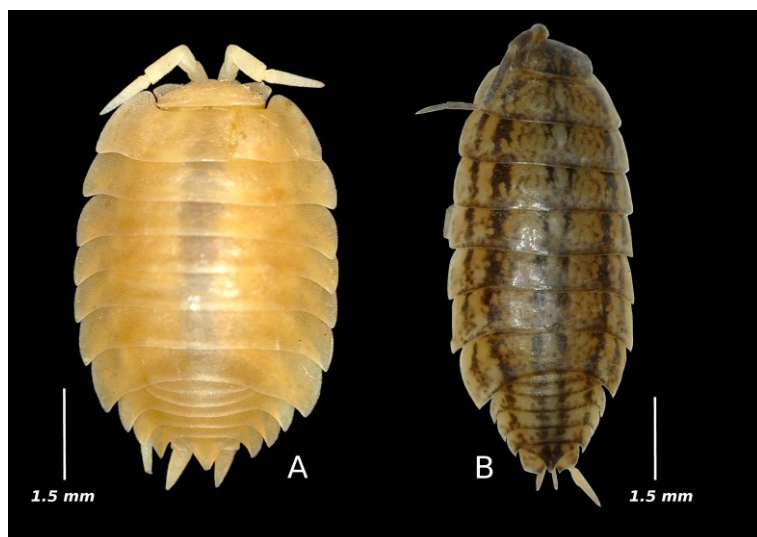


Fig. 2. A. *Lucasius myrmecophilus* (♀), habitus. B. *Soteriscus fuscovariegatus* (♀), habitus.

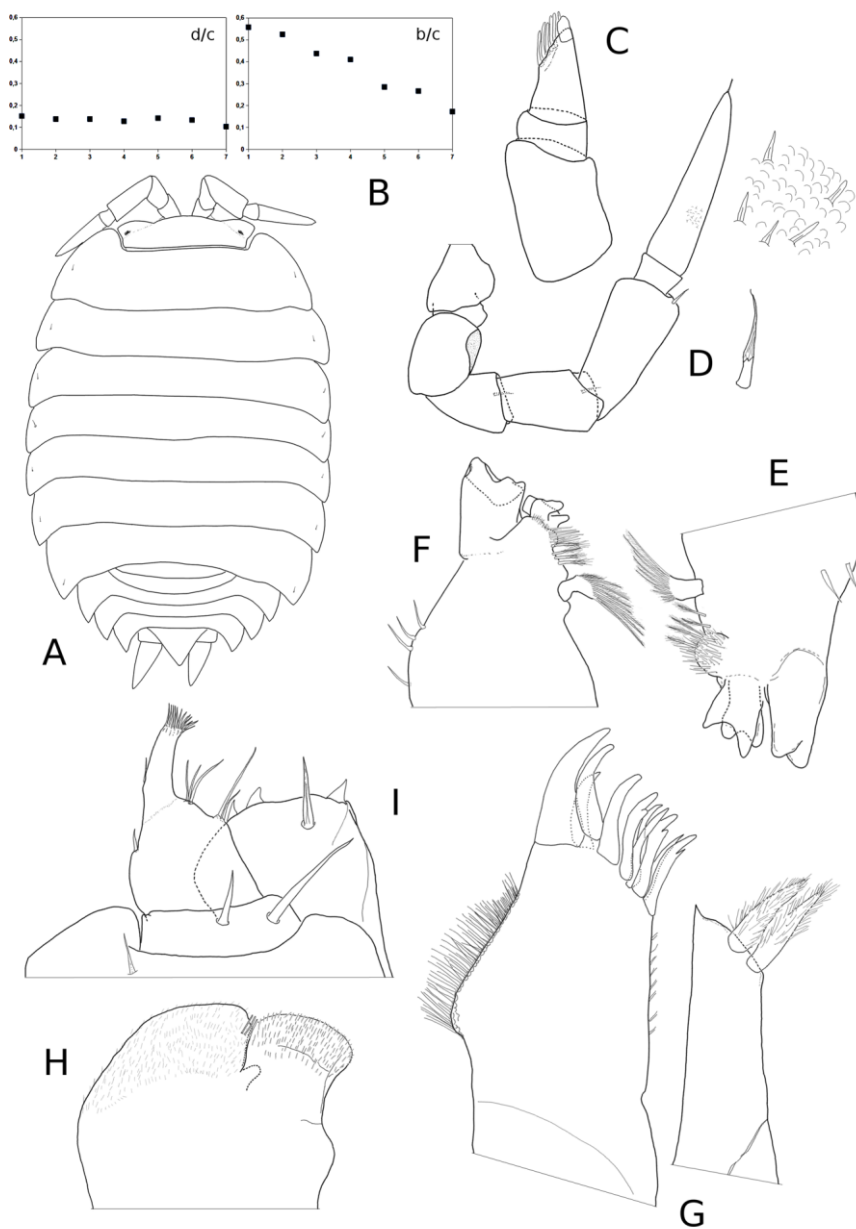


Fig. 3. *Lucasius myrmecophilus*. A. ♀ habitus, dorsal view. B. *Noduli laterales* coordinates. C. Antennula. D. Antenna. E. Left mandible. F. Right mandible. G. Maxillule. H. Maxilla. I. Maxilliped. **Fig. 3.** *Lucasius myrmecophilus*. A. Habitus ♀, vista dorsal. B. *Coordenades dels noduli laterals*. C. Antènula. D. Antena. E. Mandíbula esquerra. F. Mandíbula dreta. G. Maxil·lula. H. Maxil·la. I. Maxil·lípede.

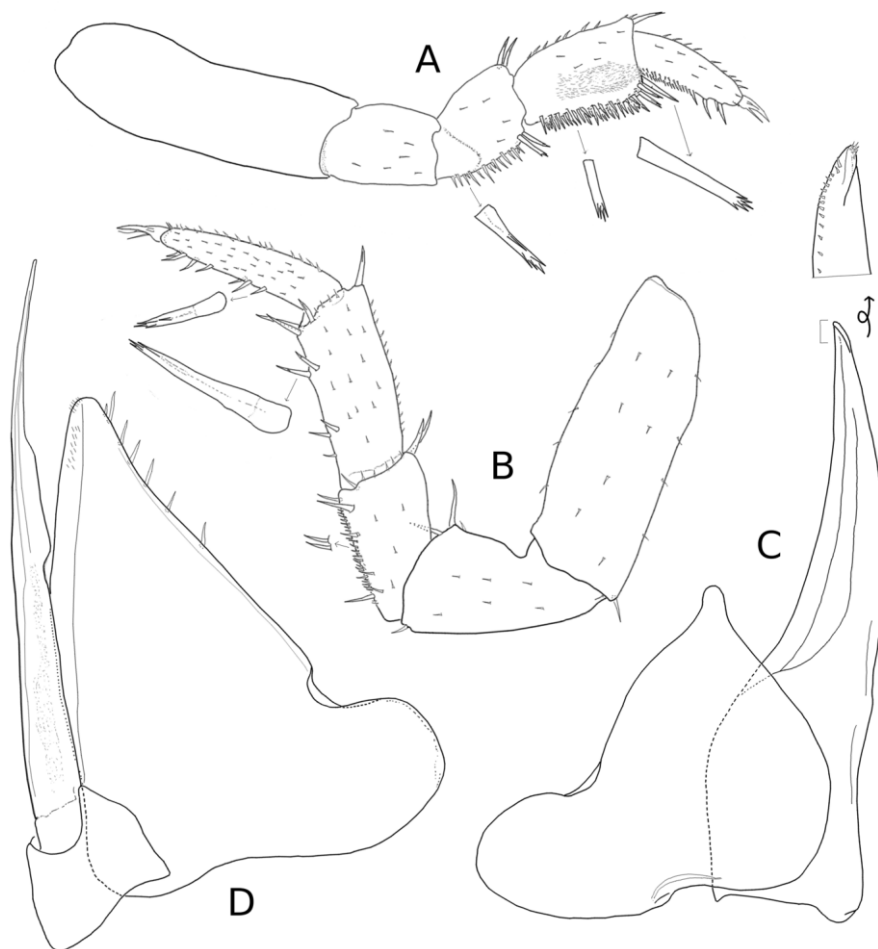


Fig. 4. *Lucasius myrmecophilus* (♂). A. Pereopod 1. B. Pereopod 7. C. Pleopod 1. D. Pleopod 2.

Fig. 4. *Lucasius myrmecophilus* (♂). A. pereopodi 1. B. pereopodi 7. C. pleopodi 1. D. pleopodi 2.

Material examined: Algeria, Tell Atlas, Tissemsilt province: 6 ♀; Theniet el Had National Park, 25/10/2022; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). 4 ♀; Ouarsenis; 1/12/2023; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). 7 ♂, 6 ♀; Youssoufia, 25/11/2023; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). All in nests of *Messor barbarus* and *Messor* cf. *capitatus*.

Remarks: The studied specimens come from various locations in the Tell Atlas mountain range, situated approximately 75 km southwest of the type locality of *L. myrmecophilus* (Médéa), and are therefore considered near-topotypic material. The specimens have been identified as *L. myrmecophilus* according to the partial description provided by Garcia *et al.* (2019),

who detailed its main morphological characteristics after studying old and damaged material collected in Algeria during the 19th century. All examined individuals exhibit a cephalon and anterior dorsal area without granulations, unlike those previously studied by Garcia *et al.* (2019) and to the original description. However, we note that this characteristic tends to be highly variable within Porcellionidae, as is also the case with other species of the genus (see Garcia *et al.*, 2019; 2026; Cifuentes, 2021). A complete illustration of *L. myrmecophilus*, based on the new near-topotypical material, is included to aid subsequent identification (Figs 2A, 3–4). For morphological comparisons with other *Lucasius* species, including an identification key, see Garcia *et al.* (2026).

Distribution: *L. myrmecophilus* has been further recorded in the Iberian Peninsula and Morocco; however, these records (Budde-Lund, 1885; Dollfus, 1892; Vandel, 1946, 1962; Achouri *et al.*, 2008b) were not supported by available specimens or illustrations and, consequently, require confirmation. The records from Morocco could also refer to *Lucasius andalusicus* Garcia, 2019, to *Lucasius tazeekkaensis* Garcia, Mabrouki & Taybi, 2026, or to some other as-yet-undescribed species. More recently, the species was cited again in the Iberian Peninsula by Cifuentes (2021); nevertheless, according to the description and figures provided, these specimens undoubtedly correspond to *L. andalusicus*. To date, the confirmed distribution of *L. myrmecophilus* remains limited to Algeria.

***Lucasius pallidus* (Budde-Lund, 1885)**

Material examined: Algeria: 1 ♂, 1 ♀, surroundings of Algiers city, 10/2025; ex. coll. F. Noël (CLLG)

Remarks: A facultative myrmecophilous species, widely distributed throughout southern Europe (the Iberian Peninsula, France, the Italian Peninsula, Sardinia, and Sicily) and North Africa (Schmalfuss, 2003; Taiti & Rossano, 2015). It was previously recorded in Algeria by Budde-Lund (1885) and Dollfus (1896).

Genus *Leptotrichus* Budde-Lund, 1879

***Leptotrichus panzerii* (Audouin, 1826)**

Material examined: Algeria, Tissemsilt province: 1 ♀; Sidi Slimane, 14/02/2023. 1 ♂, 1 ♀; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). Hammam Tires, 26/06/2024; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG).

Remarks: Previously recorded in Algeria by Lucas (1849), Budde-Lund (1885), Dollfus (1896), Schmalfuss (2000), and Benchana *et al.* (2026). It is a xerophilic and psammophilic species, characteristic of warm environments and sandy areas (Schmalfuss, 2000). Vandel (1962) noted the presence of this species in ant nests despite its not being strictly myrmecophilic. *L. panzerii* has been reported in continental and insular areas of all countries surrounding the Mediterranean Sea (except Asia Minor), the Macaronesian archipelagos, and other parts of the world where it has been introduced (Schmalfuss, 2000; 2003). In the Maghreb, it has also been recorded in northern Morocco (Achouri *et al.*, 2008b; Taiti & Rossano, 2015).

Genus *Soteriscus* Taiti & Rossano, 2015
Soteriscus fuscovariegatus (Lucas, 1849)
Porcellio fuscovariegatus, Lucas, 1849, p.
 70, plate 7, fig. 2.
Porcellio (Proporcellio) medionotatus,

Verhoef, 1917, p. 221–223, fig. 7.
Soteriscus fuscovariegatus, Vandel, 1956, p.
 27–29, fig. 3.
 Figs. 2B, 5–6.

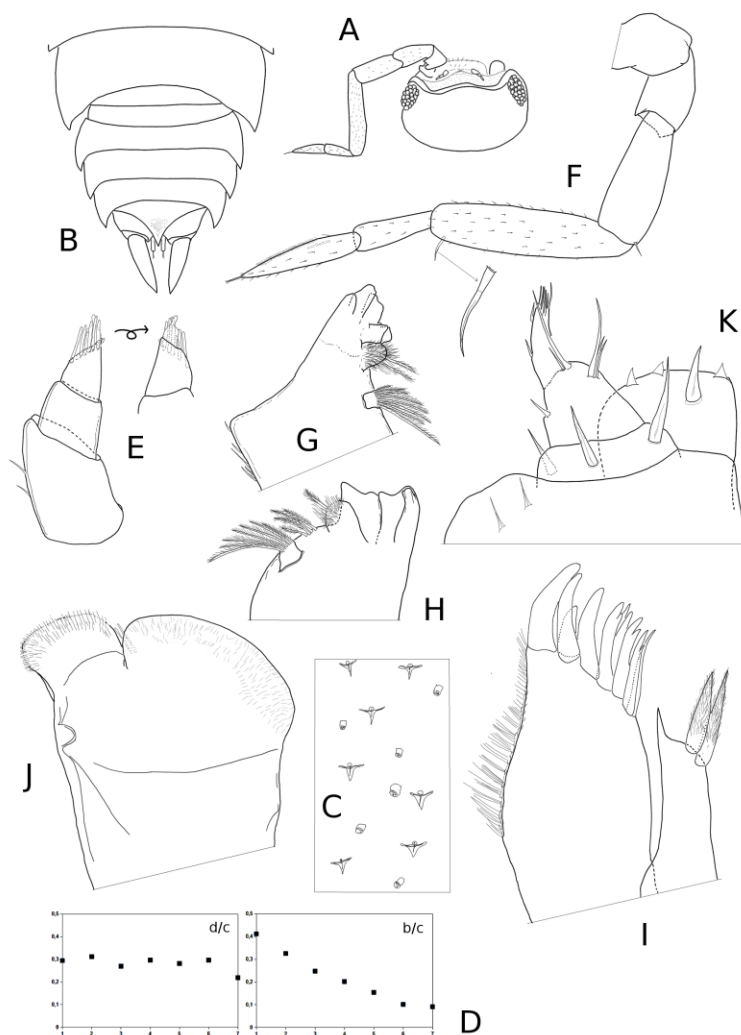


Fig. 5. *Soteriscus fuscovariegatus* (♀). A. Cephalon. B. Pereonite 7, pleon and pleotelson. C. Scale-setae and tergal glandular pores. D. *Noduli laterales* coordinates. E. Antennula. F. Antenna. G. Right mandible. H. Left mandible. I. Maxillule. J. Maxilla. K. Maxilliped.

Fig. 5. *Soteriscus fuscovariegatus* (♀). A. Cèfalon. B. pereonit 7, pleon i pleotelson. C. Seda-escates i porus glandulars. D. coordenades dels noduli laterals. E. Antènula. F. Antena. G. Mandibula dreta. H. Mandibula esquerra. I. Maxil·lula. J. Maxil·la. K. Maxil·lipede.

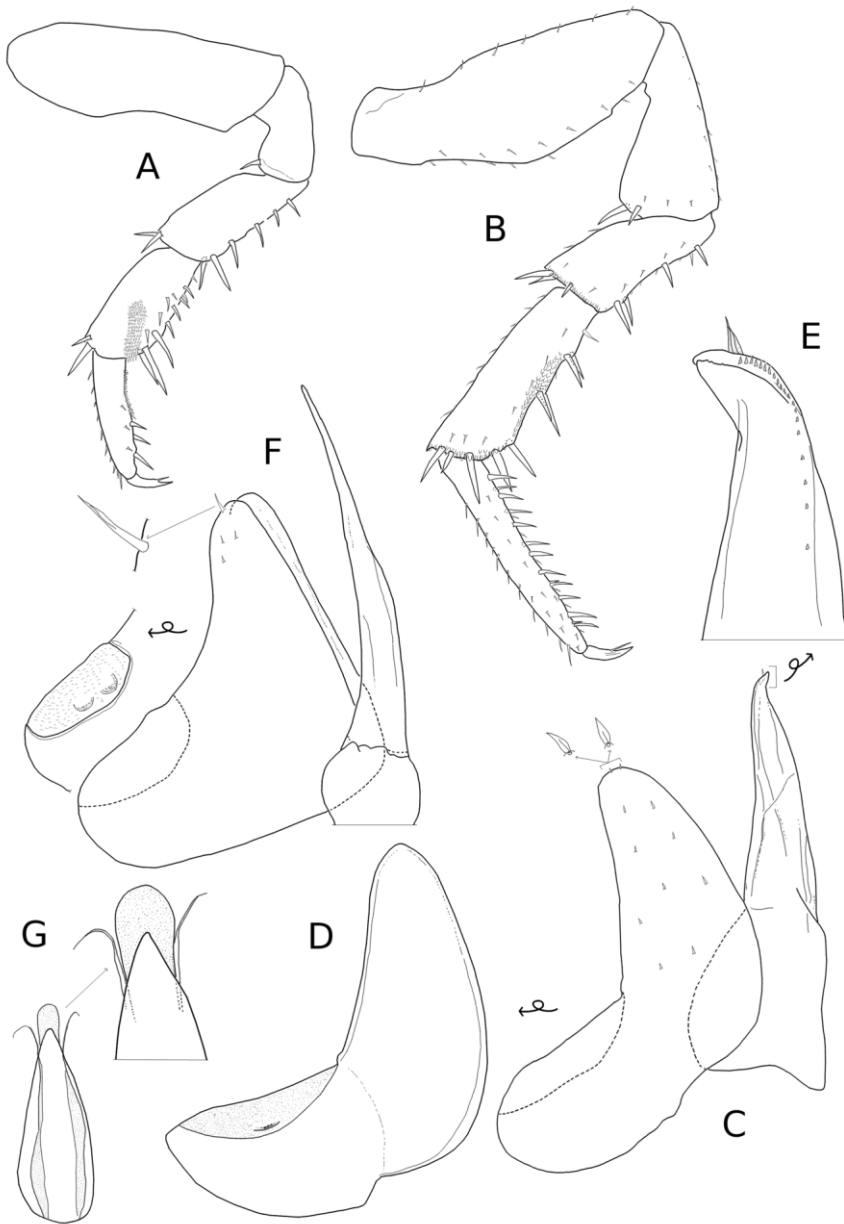


Fig. 6. *Soteriscus fuscovariegatus* (♂). A. Pereopod 1. B. Pereopod 7. C. Pleopod 1, frontal. D. Pleopod 1 exopod, caudal. E. Detail of the pleopod 1 endopod, caudal. F. Pleopod 2. G. Genital papilla.

Fig. 6. *Soteriscus fuscovariegatus* (♂). A. pereopodi 1. B. pereopodi 7. C. pleopodi 1, frontal. D. Exopodit del pleopodi 1, caudal. E. Detall de l'endopodit del pleopodi 1, caudal. F. pleopodi 2. G. Apòfisi genital.

Material examined: Algeria, Tissemsilt province: 2 ♀; Sidi Bentamra, 9/04/2022; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). 2 ♂, 6 ♀; Youssoufia, 14/02/2023; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). 1 ♀; Theniet el Had National Park, 4/04/2023; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). 1 ♂; Ouarsenis, 1/12/2023; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG).

Remarks: *Soteriscus fuscovariiegatus* was described by Lucas (1849) under the genus *Porcellio* and subsequently cited by various authors who illustrated only selected morphological or anatomical characteristics (see Verhoeff, 1917). Vandel (1954) reported the species from southern Spain and later (1956) assigned the Spanish specimens to a new species, *Soteriscus gaditanus* Vandel, 1956. He also provided a key to the main differences between the Ibero-African species of the genus and partially redescribed *P. fuscovariiegatus*. The material examined in this study fits perfectly with both the original description and Vandel's (1956) redescription. As this species has only been partially illustrated previously, we provide a complete illustration of its morphological characteristics herein (Figs 2B, 5–6). Its known distribution is currently limited to northern Algeria. In the Maghreb, the genus *Soteriscus* is represented by three other species from Morocco: *S. virescens* (Budde-Lund, 1885), *S. gibbosus* Taiti & Rossano, 2015, and *S. laouensis* Taiti & Rossano, 2015. Although *S. gaditanus* and *S. fuscovariiegatus* have also been reported there (Vandel, 1958; Schmölzer, 1971), their occurrence in Morocco requires confirmation, as these records probably correspond to *S. laouensis*.

Genus *Acaeroplastes* Verhoeff, 1918

Acaeroplastes melanurus (Budde-Lund, 1885)

Material examined: Algeria, Tissemsilt province: 1 ovigerous ♀; Mghila, 7/09/2021; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG)

Remarks: *Acaeroplastes melanurus* has been previously recorded in Algeria by Budde-Lund (1885), Dollfus (1896), and Vandel (1962), who considered its presence limited to the Mediterranean coast (see also Schmalfuss, 2003). No subsequent records have been published. The occurrence of *A. melanurus* in a ruderal environment within the interior of the country is probably due to an introduction; this species is primarily coastal and psammophilous, although it can be found relatively far inland (Vandel, 1962). Within the Maghreb, *A. melanurus* has also been reported from Libya (Arcangeli, 1924).

Genus *Porcellionides* Miers, 1878

Porcellionides pruinosus (Brandt, 1833)

Material examined: Algeria, Tissemsilt province: 1 ♀; Ouarsenis; 1/12/2023; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). 1 ♀; Hammam Tires, 26/06/2024; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG).

Remarks: A cosmopolitan species, previously recorded in Algeria (Benchana *et al.*, 2026).

Porcellionides glaber (C. Koch in Rosenhauer, 1856)

Material examined: Algeria, Tissemsilt province; 1 ♂; Hammam Tires; 26/06/2024; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG)

Remarks: A Baetic-Rifian species, previously recorded in northwestern Algeria

(Oran Sebkha) by Dollfus (1896). It has also been recorded from northern Morocco (Rif region), western Andalusia, and the eastern Balearic Islands (see Garcia, 2024).

Porcellionides sexfasciatus (Budde-Lund, 1885)

Material examined: Algeria, Tissemsilt province: Sidi Slimane; 14/02/2023; 3 ♂, 8 ♀; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG).

Remarks: A polymorphic western Mediterranean species, currently widely distributed. Several North African subspecies have been described. The specimens examined belong to the nominotypic subspecies (*P. sexfasciatus sexfasciatus*), previously reported in Algeria from Ouarsenis, Djebel Antar, and Awras (Vandel, 1962).

***Porcellionides sexfasciatus* ssp. A.**

Material examined: Algeria, Tissemsilt province: 3 ♂, 3 ♀; Hammam Tires; 26/06/2024; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG).

Remarks: These specimens undoubtedly belong to the *Porcellionides sexfasciatus* species complex. However, their integumentary and secondary sexual characteristics do not match those of the nominotypic subspecies (see Vandel, 1962) or those of accepted subspecies present in North Africa, such as *P. sexfasciatus bernardi* (Vandel, 1946) and *P. sexfasciatus mamorensis* (Vandel, 1946), both from Morocco. The first male pleopod is similar to that of *Porcellonides glaber*.

Genus *Porcellio* Latreille, 1804

***Porcellio laevis* Latreille, 1804**

Material examined: Algeria, Tissemsilt province: 1 ♂, 4 ♀; Ouarsenis, 1/12/2023; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). 1 ♂, 2 ♀; Sidi Slimane, 14/02/2023; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). 1 ♀; Mghila, 7/09/2021; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). 1 ♀; Hammam Tires; 26/06/2024; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). 4 ♀; Theniet el Had National Park, 25/10/2022; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG).

Remarks: A cosmopolitan species introduced globally by human activity. According to Vandel (1962), it is native to North Africa. It has been previously recorded in Algeria by numerous authors, spanning from the earliest explorations (see Dollfus, 1896) to the present day (Ahmed *et al.*, 2023; Benchana *et al.*, 2026).

***Porcellio variabilis* Lucas, 1849**

Material examined: Algeria, Tissemsilt province: 2 ♂, 5 ♀; Theniet el Had National Park, 25/10/2022; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). 1 ♀; 4/04/2023; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). 2 ♂, 1 ♀; Algiers; 01/2026; ex. coll. F. Noël (CLLG).

Remarks: *P. variabilis* was originally described from Algeria by Lucas (1849) and is probably endemic to North Africa (Morocco, northern Algeria and Tunisia) although it has also been recorded from other Mediterranean localities and southern Spain (see Medini & Charfi-Cheikhrouha, 1998; Medini *et al.*, 2006; Benchana *et al.*, 2026).

Porcellio bovei Lucas, 1849

Porcellio bovaei Lucas, 1849, p. 68, plate 6, fig. 5, 5a, 5b.

Porcellio longicauda Budde-Lund, 1885, p. 112–113.

Porcellio bovei Dollfus 1896, p. 535.

?*Porcellio intermedius* Schmölzer 1953, p. 124–128, fig. 1.

Figs. 7–9.

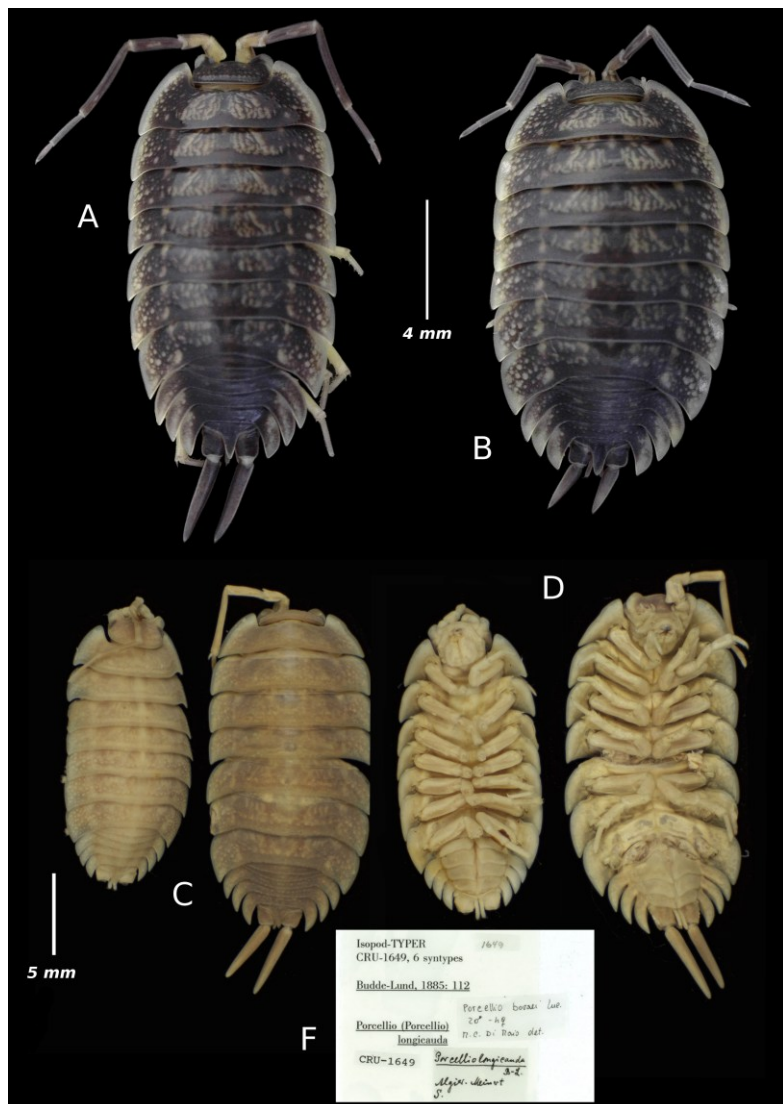


Fig. 7. *Porcellio bovei*. A. ♂, dorsal view. B. ♀, dorsal view. C–D. Syntypes ♂ and ♀, in ventral and dorsal view (NHMD CRU-1649).

Fig. 7. *Porcellio bovei*. A. ♂, vista dorsal. B. ♀, vista dorsal. C–D. Sintipus ♂ i ♀, en vista ventral i dorsal (NHMD CRU-1649).

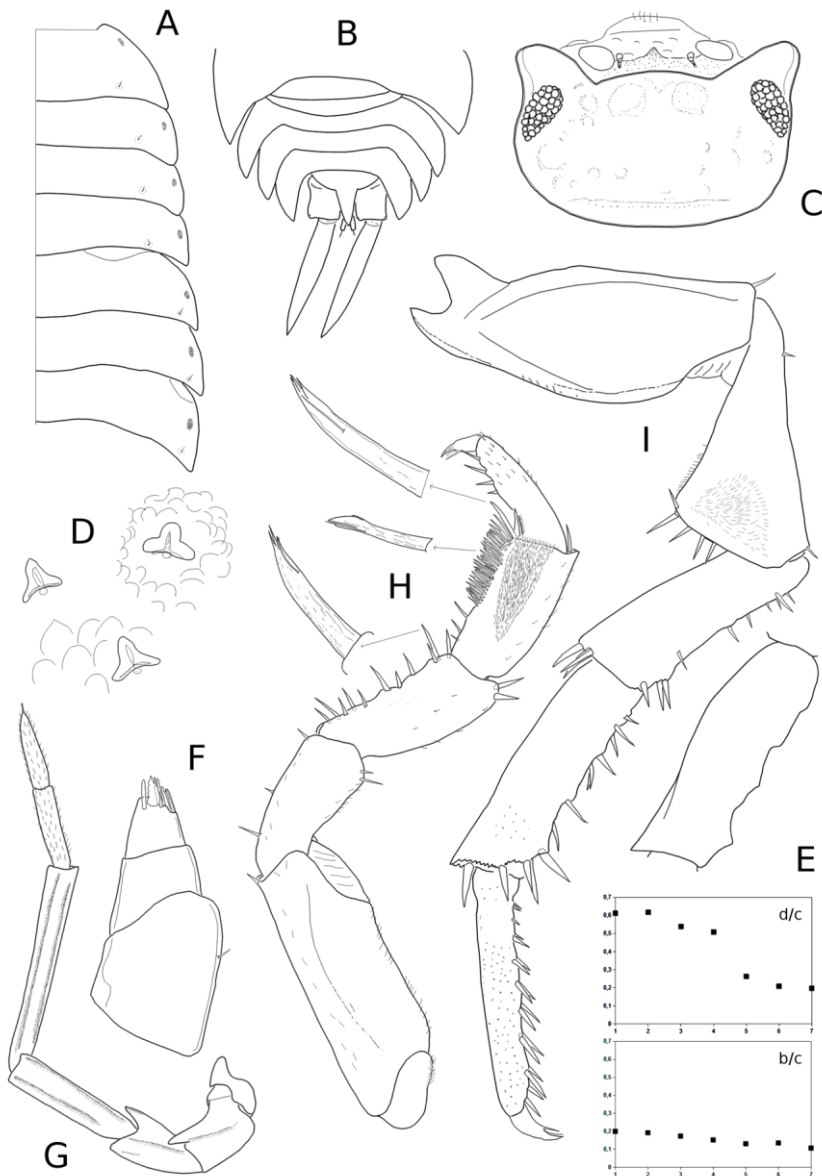


Fig. 8. *Porcellio bovei* (♂). A. Pereonites 1–7 (right half). B. Pereonite 7, pleon and pleotelson. C. Cephalon. D. Scale-setae. E. *Noduli laterales* coordinates. F. Antennula. G. Antenna. H. Pereopod 1. I. Pereopod 7.

Fig. 8. *Porcellio bovei* (♂). A. pereonits 1–7 (meitat dreta). B. pereonit 7, pleon i pleotelson. C. Cefalon. D. Seda-escates. E. coordenades dels noduli laterales. F. Antènula. G. Antena. H. pereopodi 1. I. pereopodi 7.

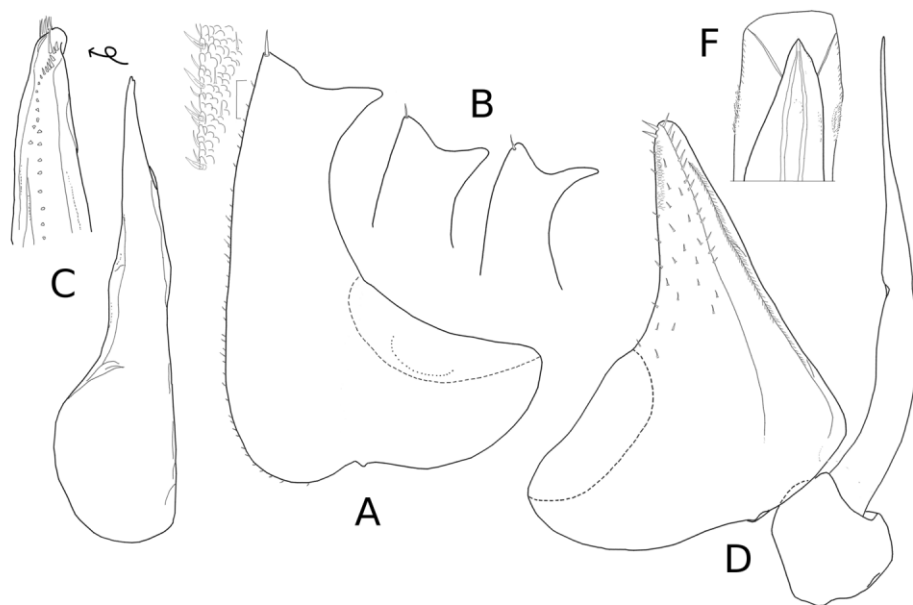


Fig. 9. *Porcellio bovei* (♂). A. Pleopod 1 exopod. B. Variability of distal part of the exopod 1. C. Pleopod 1 endopod. D. Pleopod 2. E. Distal portion of genital papilla.

Fig. 9. *Porcellio bovei* (♂). A. Exopodit del pleopodi 1. B. Variabilitat de la part distal de l'exopodit 1. C. Endopodit del pleopodi 1. D. pleopodi 2. E. Porció distal de l'apòfisi genital.

Material examined: Algeria, Tissemsilt province: 2 ♂, 6 ♀; Ouarsenis; 1/12/2023; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). 3 ♂, 4 ♀; Theniet el Had National Park; 4/04/2023; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). 1 ♂; Youssoufia; 25/11/2023; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). HD images of 1 ♂ and 1 ♀ syntypes of *P. longicauda*; Algiers; CRU 1649; leg. Meinert (NHMD).

Remarks: Our specimens were identified as *P. bovei* after comparison with the original description by Lucas (1849) and that of *P. longicauda* Budde-Lund, 1885, which is a junior subjective synonym of the former (see Dollfus, 1896; Schmalzfuss, 2003; WoRMS Editorial Board, 2026). They were also compared with high-resolution photographs of two syntypes of *P. longicauda* held in the

zoological collection of the Natural History Museum of Denmark (Figs 7C–F; NHMD, 2026); according to the label information, these specimens were re-identified as "*Porcellio bovaei*" [sic] by M. C. di Maio. The somatic features of our specimens, including the shape and position of the epimeral glandular fields, fully agree with the species described by Lucas (1849), but the secondary sexual characteristics could not be compared. Nevertheless, we provide a complete illustration of this species to facilitate future research (Figs 7A–B, 8–9).

Additional remarks: Our specimens were also compared with the original description of *Porcellio intermedius* Schmölzer, 1953, described from Djebel Mahmel (Batna, NE Algeria). The type specimens of *P.*

intermedius could not be located in the Schmölzer collection at Tyrolean Landesmuseum in Innsbruck, Austria (Andreas Eckelt, pers. comm., 2025). However, the body colouration, somatic characteristics, and shape of the male pleopod 1 exopod described by Schmölzer (1953) are consistent with those of our specimens and it is highly likely that *P. intermedius* is a junior synonym of *P. bovei*.

Schmölzer (1965) limited the distribution of *P. intermedius* to Morocco, even though he had previously described it from Algeria. Later, Schmölzer (1971) recorded *P. intermedius* in northern Morocco, and finally, Schmalfuss (2003) suggested that *P. intermedius* could be a junior synonym of *Porcellio pelseeneeri* Arcangeli, 1936. Since neither the type specimens nor the alleged Moroccan specimens of *P. intermedius* have been located, we consider it prudent, for now, not to formally propose the suspected synonymy between *P. intermedius* and *P. bovei*.

***Porcellio wagneri* Brandt, 1841**

Porcellio wagneri: Brandt, 1841, p. 279.

Porcellio wagneri, Lucas, 1849, p. 67; plate 6, fig. 6.

Figs. 10–12.

Material examined: Algeria, Tissemsilt province: 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Ouarsenis; 11/02/2023; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). 1 ♂; Sidi Slimane; 14/02/2023; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). 2 ♂, 2 ♀; Youssoufia; 14/02/2023; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). 1 ♂; Hammam Tires; 26/06/2024; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). HD images of 2 syntypes; 'Algeria'; Brandt collection N 1/1847; Wagner leg (ZISP). HD images of 1 ♀; Algiers; Num. 12258; vend. Verhoeff (ZMB). HD images of 2 gravid ♀; Oran; num. 11102-1 and 11102-2; leg. Escherich (ZMB).

Remarks: *P. wagneri* was originally described based on Algerian material. This species was subsequently recorded in the Iberian Peninsula (Schmölzer, 1971; see Cifuentes, 2021). Lucas's (1849) illustrations fully agree with Brandt's (1841) description, particularly regarding the pleotelson shape and dorsal ornamentation. Another diagnostic characteristic of *P. wagneri* is the remarkably short first male pleopod endopod, which is always shorter than the exopod and features an outwardly curved, hook-like apex; this morphological detail, also based on Algerian material, was previously illustrated by Dollfus (1896, Fig. 4).

To redefine this species and prevent future confusion, photographs of some syntypes of *P. wagneri*, preserved in the Zoological Museum of the Academy of Sciences in St Petersburg, Russia, were examined. These Brandt specimens, totalling 21 individuals (Elena Markhaseva, pers. comm., 2026), were originally collected by Wagner. Moreover, images of several specimens from the collection of the Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin (see von Rintelen & Hingst, 2026)—one collected by T. Escherich and others likely acquired through K. Verhoeff—were also examined. These specimens (Figs 10D–E) fully coincide with the type specimens (Figs 10A–C) and our material (Figs 10F–G, 11–12), with the sole exception of the frontal lobe of the cephalon. However, the variability of this character (emarginate vs entire) was already noted in the original description (see Brandt, 1841).

To facilitate future identifications and comparisons, we provide a complete illustration of *P. wagneri* based on our Algerian specimens, including the morphological variability of its characteristic dorsal spots (Figs 10F–G, 11–12).

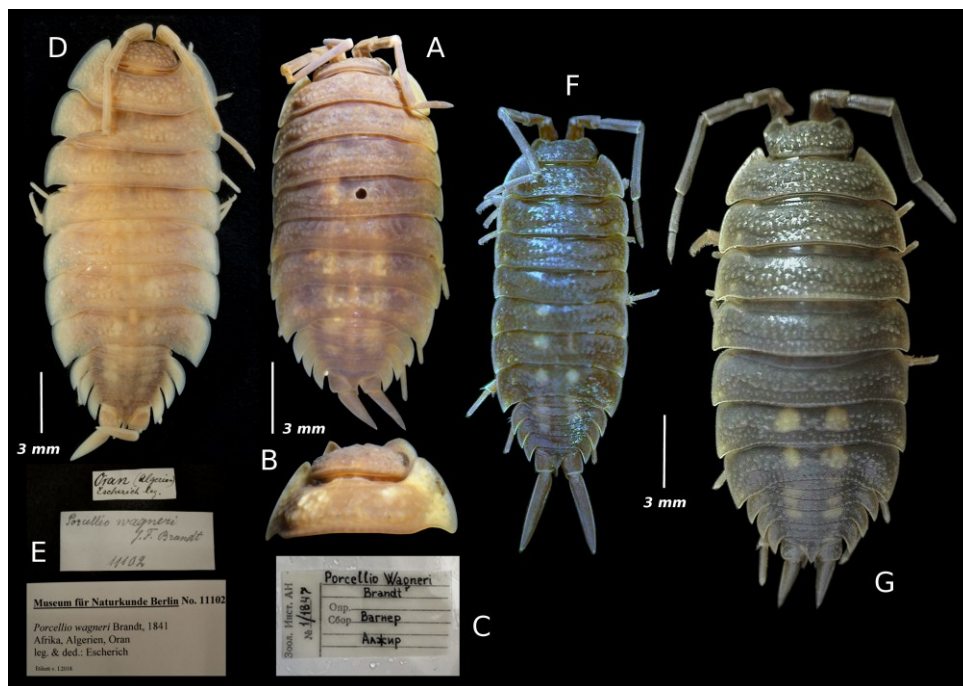


Fig. 10. *Porcellio wagneri*. A. Syntype ♀ (ZISP 1/1847). B. Cephalon of another specimen from the type-series (Brandt collection, ZISP 1/1847). C. Label of the type-series (Brandt collection, ZISP 1/1847; original photographs by N. Kozlova). D. ♀ specimen from Oran (ZMB 11102). E. Labels of specimen ZMB 11102 (original photographs by K. von Rintelen and J. Hingst). F. ♂ specimen. G. ♀ specimen.

Fig. 10. *Porcellio wagneri*. A. Sintipus ♀ (ZISP 1/1847). B. Cèfalon d'un altre exemplar de la sèrie típica (col·lecció Brandt, ZISP 1/1847). C. Etiqueta de la sèrie típica (col·lecció Brandt, ZISP 1/1847; fotografies originals de N. Kozlova). D. Exemplar ♀ d'Oran (ZMB 11102). E. Etiquetes de l'exemplar ZMB 11102 (fotografies originals de K. von Rintelen i J. Hingst). F. Exemplar ♂. G. Exemplar ♀.

***Porcellio platysoma* Brandt, 1841**

Porcellio platysoma: Brandt, 1841, p. 279–280.

Porcellio platysoma: Lucas, 1849, p. 68, plate 6, fig 7.

Figs. 13–15.

Material examined: Algeria: 1 ♂, 1 ♀, surroundings of Algiers city; 10/2025; ex. coll. F. Noël (CLLG). HD images of 3 syntypes; 'Algeria'; Brandt collection N 1894; leg. Wagner (ZISP).

Remarks: *P. platysoma* was among the first terrestrial isopod species described from Algeria (Brandt, 1841) and is known exclusively from this part of the Maghreb (Schmalfuss, 2003). The species was subsequently partially illustrated by Lucas (1849), who provided no further description and noted that it was uncommon. Dollfus (1896) also recorded it from northern Algeria and provided a partial illustration of the first male pleopod. Verhoeff (1907) provided a comprehensive description without any illustrations; however, Verhoeff's

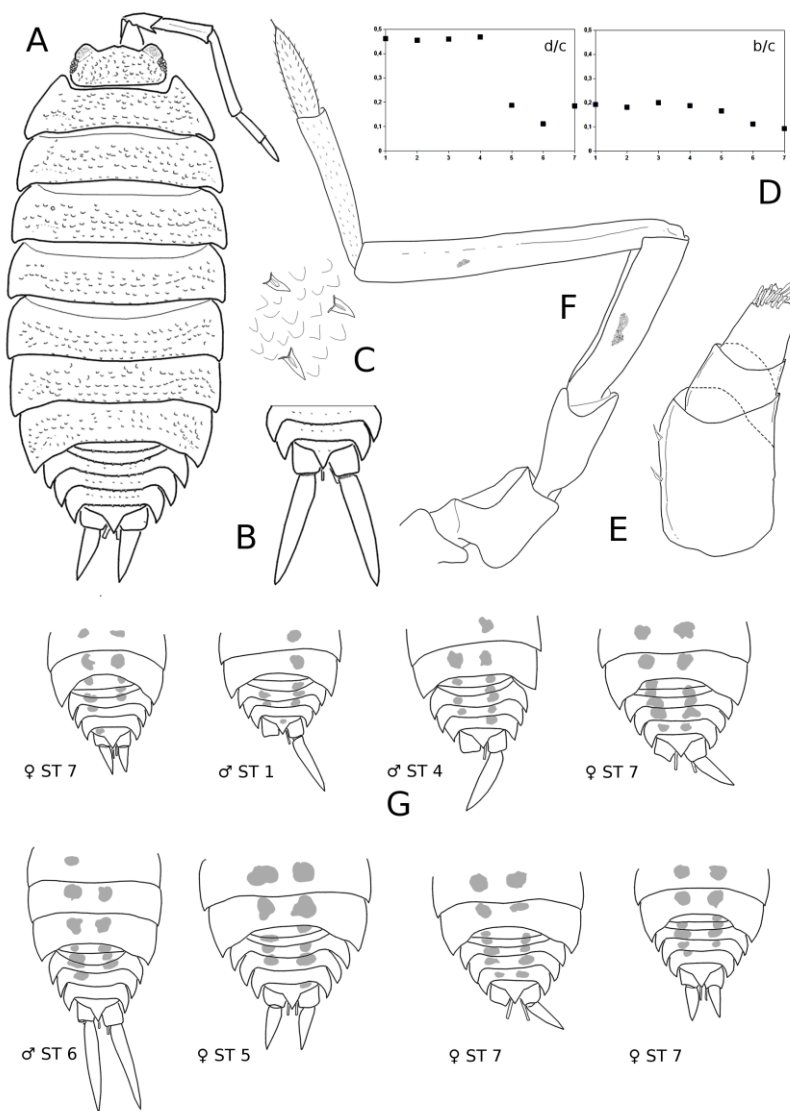


Fig. 11. *Porcellio wagneri*. A. ♀ habitus. B. Pleonites 4–5, pleotelson and uropods ♂. C. Scale-setae. D. *Noduli laterales* coordinates. E. Antennula. F. Antenna. G. Variability of dorsal spots (ST indicates the capture stations).

Fig. 11. *Porcellio wagneri*. A. Habitus ♀. B. Pleonits 4–5, pleotelson i uròpodes ♂. C. Seda-escates. D. coordenades dels noduli laterales. E. Antènula. F. Antena. G. Variabilitat de les taques ornamentals dorsals (ST indica estació de captura).

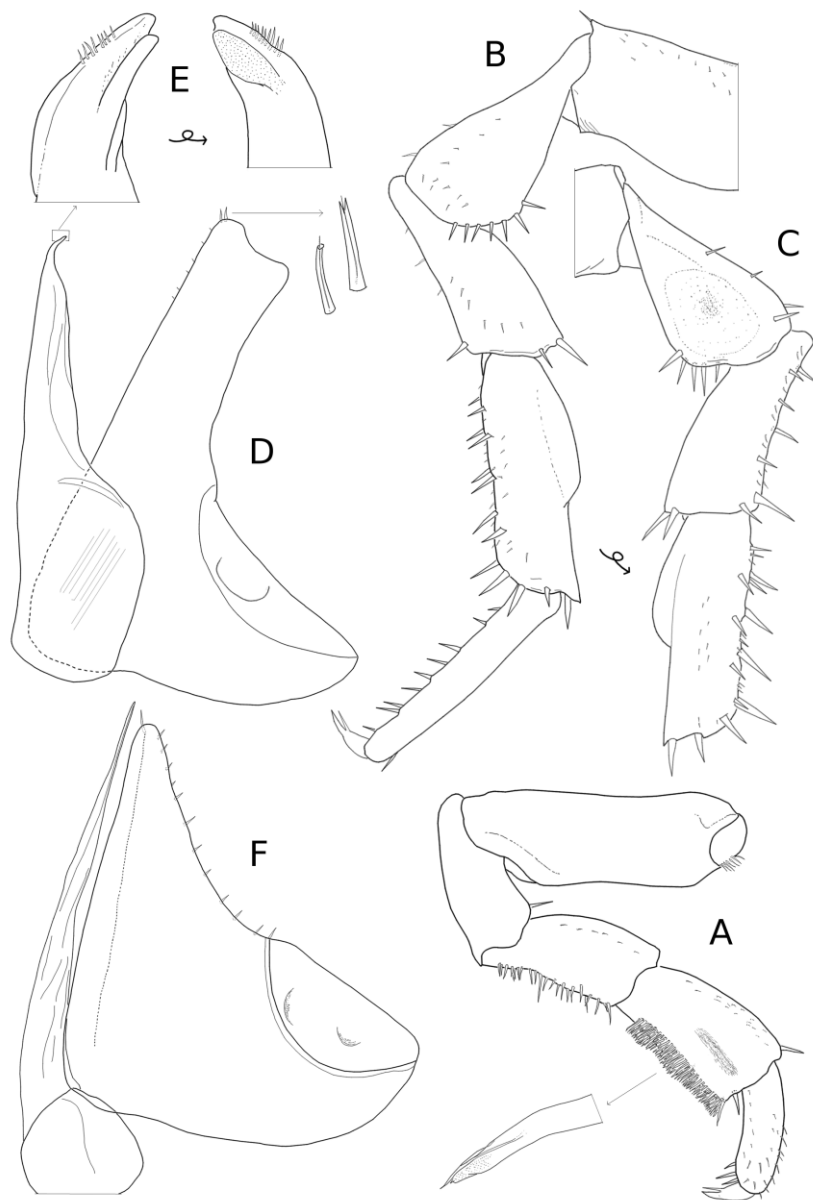


Fig. 12. *Porcellio wagneri* (♂). A. Pereopod 1. B–C. Pereopod 7 (frontal and caudal). D. Pleopod 1. E. Distal part of pleopod 1 endopod. F. Pleopod 2.

Fig. 12. *Porcellio wagneri* (♂). A. pereopodi 1. B–C. pereopodi 7 (frontal i caudal). D. pleopodi 1. E. Part distal de l'endopodit del pleopodi 1. F. pleopodi 2.

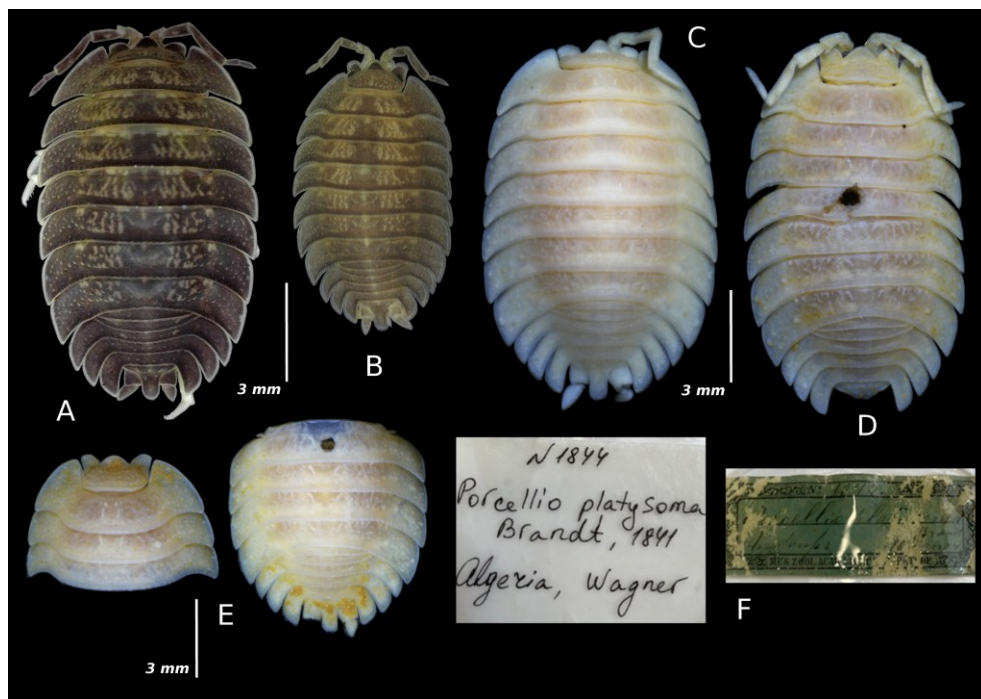


Fig. 13. *Porcellio platysoma*. A. ♂ specimen from Algiers. B. ♀ specimen from Algiers. C–E. Syntype, undetermined sex (Brandt collection, N 1844, ZISP, with original and new labels; original photographs by N. Kozlova).

Fig. 13. *Porcellio platysoma*. A. ♂ d'Alger. B. ♀ d'Alger. C–E. Sintipus, sexe no determinat (col·lecció Brandt, N 1844, ZISP, amb les etiquetes original i nova; fotografies originals de N. Kozlova).

redescription does not correspond to *P. platysoma*, as it was based on a specimen from Libya rather than Algeria; moreover, it does not agree with either the original description (Brandt, 1841) or the illustrations by Lucas (1849). Subsequent records are limited to listing this species from a cave in Béjaïa (Racovitza, 1908; Vandel, 1955). Within the framework of this study, we examined two specimens of *Porcellio* sp. (Figs. 13A–B) whose external morphology corresponds exactly to both the original description (Brandt, 1841) and the illustrations provided by Lucas (1849). Furthermore, these specimens were collected from the same area in northern

Algeria. To confirm the identification, the original material studied by Brandt, housed at the Zoological Museum of the Academy of Sciences in St Petersburg, Russia, was located. Three specimens collected by M. Wagner (sintypes) are preserved in ethanol. Two of these individuals, which bear holes from an entomological pin, were photographed (Figs. 13C–E). The original label cannot be completely read, though a new label with a transcription is already attached (Fig. 13F). To facilitate future comparisons, photographs of these three specimens and a complete illustration of this species based on the new topotypical material are provided (Figs 13A–B, 14–15).

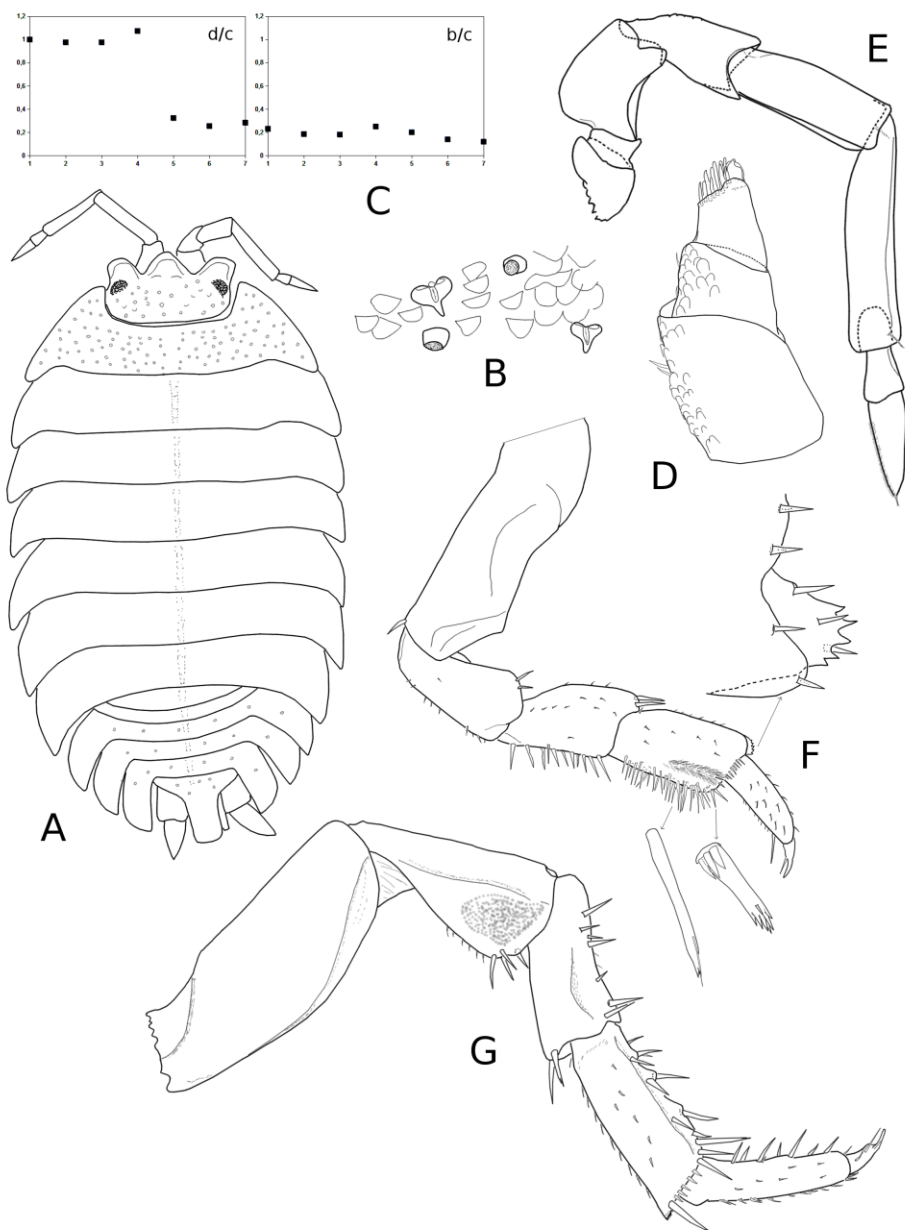


Fig. 14. *Porcellio platysoma*. A. ♀, dorsal view. B. Scale-setae and tergal glandular pores. C. *Noduli laterales* coordinates. D. Antennula. E. Antenna. F. ♂ pereopod 1. G. ♂ pereopod 7.

Fig. 14. *Porcellio platysoma*. A. ♀, vista dorsal. B. Seda-escates i porus glandulars dorsals. C. coordenades dels noduli laterals. D. Antènula. E. Antena. F. pereopodi 1 del ♂. G. pereopodi 7 del ♂.

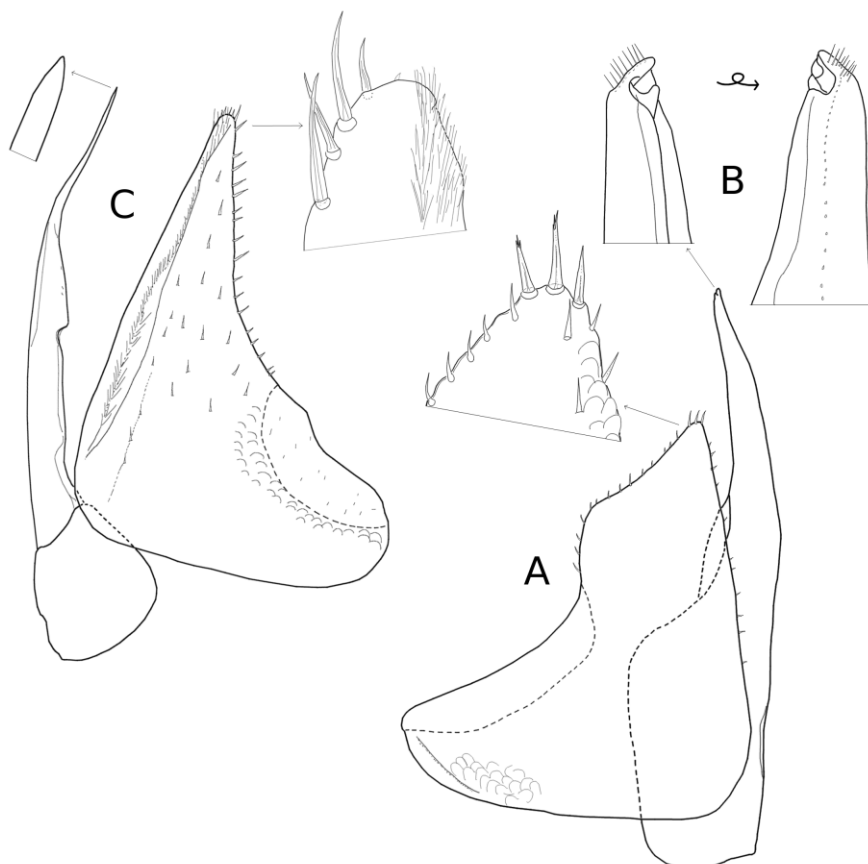


Fig. 15. *Porcellio platysoma* (♂). A. Pleopod 1 with detail of the apical part of the exopod. B. Detail of the apical portion of pleopod 1 endopod. C. Pleopod 2 with details of the apical portion of the exopod and the endopod.

Fig. 15. *Porcellio platysoma* (♂). A. pleopodi 1 amb detall de la part apical de l'exopodit. B. Detall de la porció apical de l'endopodit del pleopodi 1. C. pleopodi 2 amb detalls de la part apical de l'exopodit i de l'endopodit.

***Porcellio simulator* Budde-Lund, 1885**

Porcellio linsenhairi: Schmalfuss, 1989, p. 8, figs. 1–8.

Material examined. Algeria, Tissemsilt province: Ouarsenis; 1/12/2023; 2 immature ♀; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG).

Remarks. *Porcellio simulator* is a common species in northern and central Algeria, as well as in Tunisia (Caruso & Di Maio, 1990a; Medini & Charfi, 1997). Our specimens are immature females; however, based on available redescrptions, they most likely belong to this species.

Porcellio thenietelhadensis* sp. nov.*ZooBank:**

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:71C1B6B0-4DA4-44C3-AFD9-E3B12A651C5E
Figs. 16–19.

Material examined: Holotype ♂. Algeria, Tissemsilt province: Theniet el Had National Park; 25/10/2022; leg. M. Mairif (MBCN 35797). Paratypes: 1 ♂; same data as for the Holotype; (MBCN 35798); 1 dissected ♂; same data as for the Holotype, divided in two vials with ethanol; (MBCN 35799). 1 ♀; Hammam Tires; 26/06/2024; leg. M. Mairif (MBCN 35800). Non type material: 3 ♂; Youssoufia; 25/11/2023; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Youssoufia; 14/02/2023; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). 2 ♂; Ouarsenis; 1/12/2023; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG).

Description: Dimensions of male, 15 mm; female, 17.3 mm. Habitus and colouration as in Figs 16A–C. Body convex, elongated, with parallel sides. Dorsal surface of cephalon and pereon with strong, blunt granulations (more acute in some specimens); a row of conical granules on posterior margin of pereonites, forming a prominent crest on pereonites 1–2; pleonites 1–5 with a row of small granulations on posterior margin and a medial row on tergites 3–5 (Figs. 16A–C, 17A–C). Glandular fields circular, separated from lateral margins; located near anterior angle on pereonite 1 and approximately in the middle on pereonites 2–7. Scale-setae triangular, elongated, with pointed apex (Fig. 17E). *Noduli laterales* 1–4 inserted approximately equidistant from lateral margin (*noduli* 3 closest); *noduli* 5–7 much closer to lateral margin; all *noduli*, except for 7, approximately equidistant from posterior margin (Fig. 17F). Cephalon

without supra-antennal line; lateral lobes projecting obliquely forward, quadrangular, with rounded anterior corners; central lobe small, subtriangular, twice as wide as long, with notched anterior margin; frontal tubercle pointed (Fig. 17A). Eyes composed of about 25 ommatidia. Pereonites 1–3 with marked concavity on each side of posterior margins; pereonite 4 with straight posterior margin; posterior margin of pereonites 5–6 regularly concave; posterior margin of pereonite 7 sinuous; posterior tips of epimera 1–5 blunt, 6–7 more acute, directed backwards (Figs. 16A–B). Pleon slightly narrower than pereon; pleon epimera with posterior tips directed backwards (Figs. 16A, 16C). Pleotelson with well-differentiated basal and distal parts; basal part almost quadrangular with straight sides; apex triangular, short, dorsally excavated, not extending beyond posterior margin of uropod protopods (Figs. 16A, 16C, 17C). Antennula with 3 articles of similar length; distal article bearing 18–20 thin aesthetascs and a subtriangular lobe; basal articles with scales and some scale-setae (Fig. 17G). Antenna, when extended backwards, surpassing posterior margin of third pereonite; peduncular articles 2–4 carinated and toothed; peduncular article 5 carinated, longer than flagellum; first flagellar article about 1.3 times as long as second (Fig. 17H). Mouthparts *Porcellio*-type, without special features, as in Figs 18A–F. Pleopods 1–2 with monospiracular internal lungs. Uropod protopods with straight posterior margin and rounded posterolateral corner; exopods fusiform, dorsally carinated; endopods, visible dorsally, slightly longer than protopods (Figs. 16A, 16C, 17C–D).

Male: Pereopod 1 with a brush of setae on sternal margin of carpus (Fig. 19A). Pereopod 7 with carpus bearing an elongated lobe on tergal margin, with widest part in the

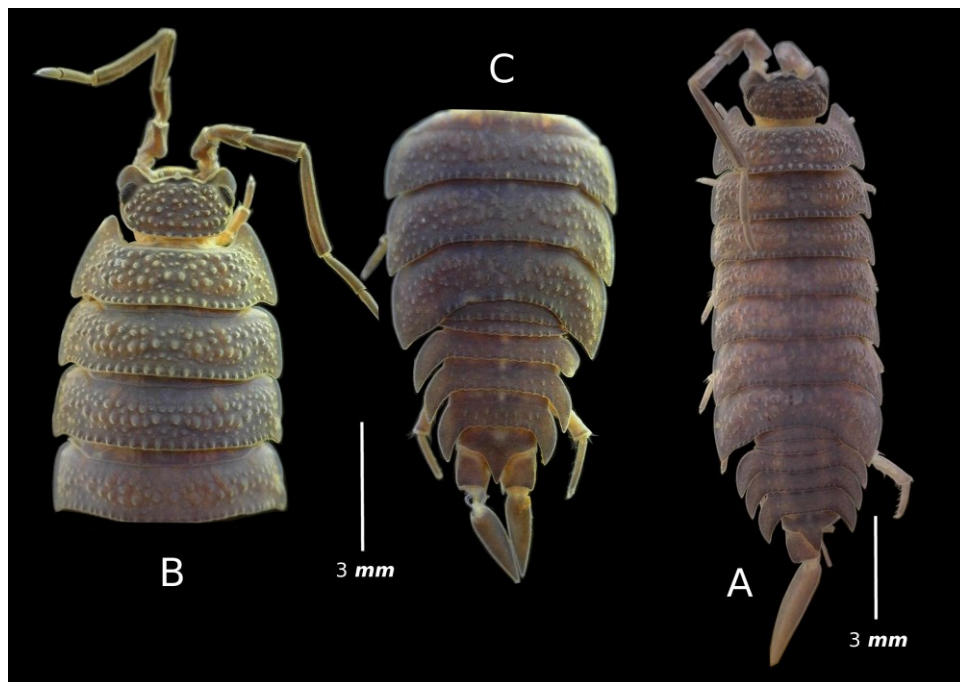


Fig. 16. *Porcellio thenietelhadensis* sp. nov. A. ♂ paratype, lateral view. B–C. ♀ paratype, dorsal view (B, cephalon and pereonites 1–4; C, pereonites 5–7, pleon, pleotelson and uropods).

Fig. 16. *Porcellio thenietelhadensis* sp. nov. A. ♂ paratipus, vista lateral. B–C. ♀ paratipus, vista dorsal (B, cèfalon i pereonits 1–4; C, pereonits 5–7, pleon, pleotelson i uròpodes).

middle (Fig. 19B). Pleopod 1 exopod *hoffmannseggii*-type, with an elongated, curved posterior lobe, about 1.7 times as long as wide, more or less notched distally depending on specimen size (Figs. 19C–D); endopod slightly longer than exopod, with a slightly curved apex bearing more or less developed spines on posterior face (Figs. 19C, 19E–F). Pleopod 2 exopod triangular with straight inner margin; endopod slightly longer than exopod (Fig. 19G). Uropods slightly longer than in females (Figs. 16A, 16C, 17C–D).

Etymology: The specific name is derived from the Theniet El Had National Park in northwestern Algeria, which represents the

type locality of the species.

Remarks: *Porcellio thenietelhadensis* sp. nov. belongs to the '*laevis-hoffmannseggii* group' and is closely related to *Porcellio hoffmannseggii* Brandt, 1833, and *P. wagneri*. It is highly distinctive, primarily due to its convex body with reduced epimera, the substantial development of the male uropod exopods relative to its moderate body size, the shape of the pleotelson (which features a large quadrangular basal portion), and the dense, strong dorsal granulations that form a prominent crest on the posterior margin of the first pereon-tergite.

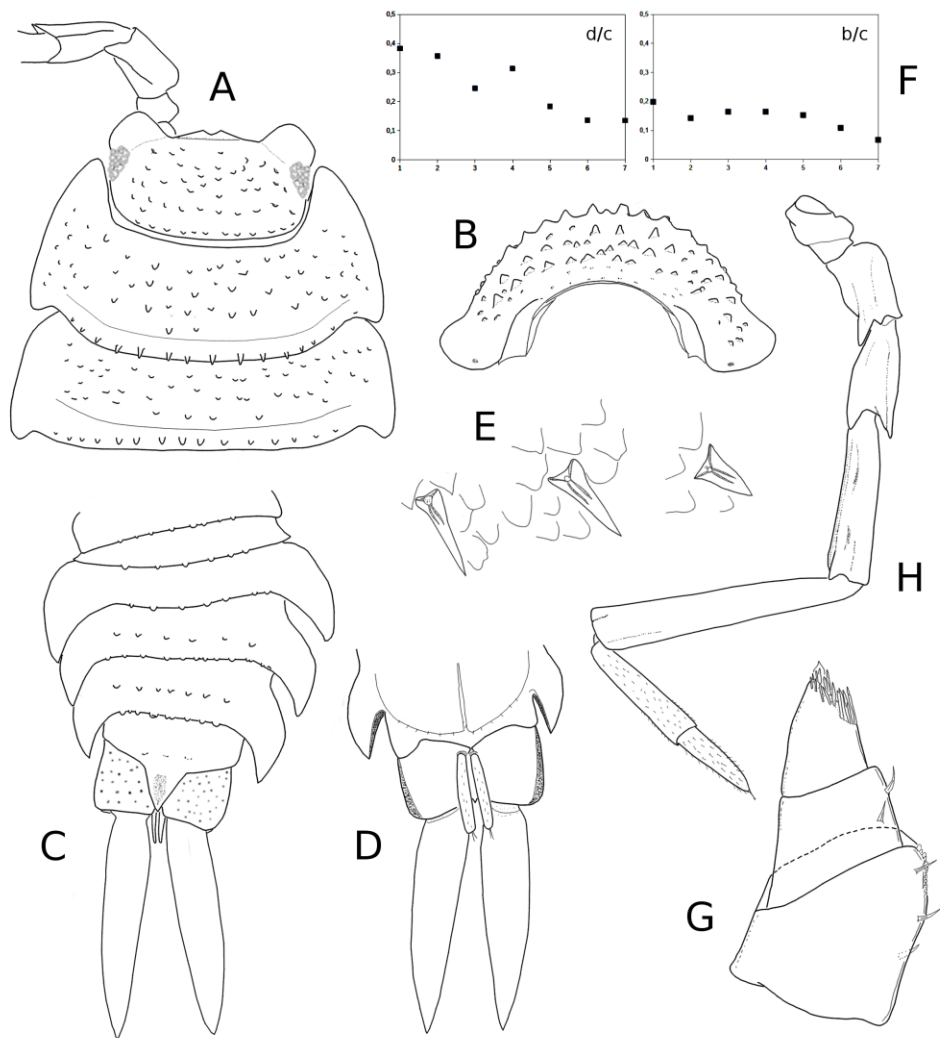


Fig. 17. *Porcellio thenietelhadensis* sp. nov. (♂). A. Cephalon and pereonites 1–2, dorsal view. B. Pereonite 1, transverse view. C. Pleon, pleotelson and uropods, dorsal view. D. Scale-setae. E. *Noduli laterales* coordinates. F. Antennula. G. Antenna.

Fig. 17. *Porcellio thenietelhadensis* sp. nov. (♂). A. Cèfalon i pereonits 1–2, vista dorsal. B. pereonit 1, vista transversal. C. Pleon, pleotelson i uròpodes, vista dorsal. D. Seda-escates. E. coordenades dels noduli laterales. F. Antènula. G. Antena.

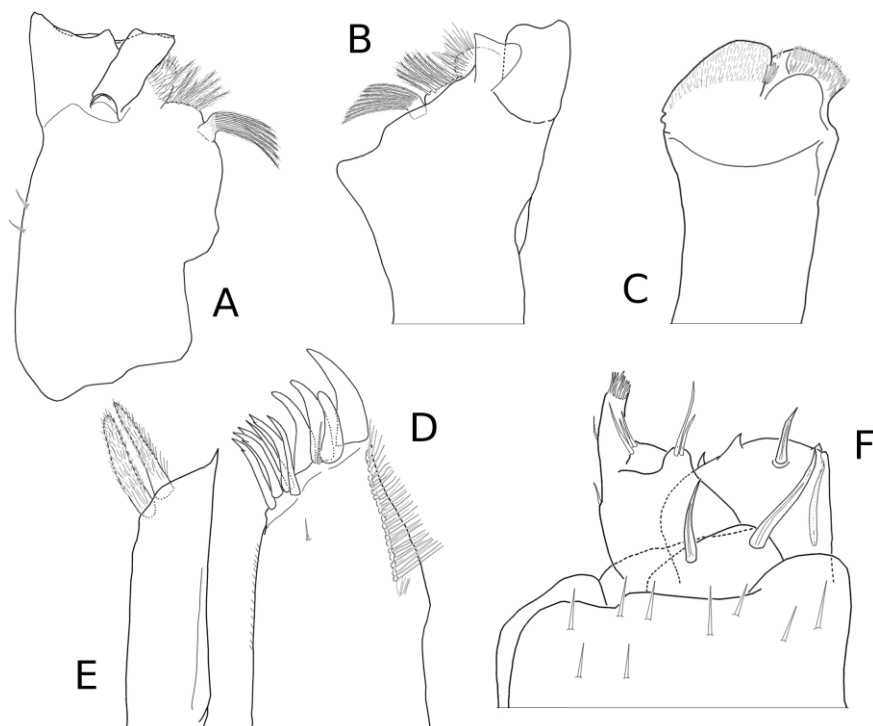


Fig. 18. *Porcellio thenietelhadensis* sp. nov. A. Left mandible. B. Right mandible. C. Maxilla. D. Maxillule, external branch. E. Maxillule, internal branch. F. Maxilliped.

Fig. 18. *Porcellio thenietelhadensis* sp. nov. A. *Mandíbula esquerra*. B. *Mandíbula dreta*. C. *Maxil·la*. D. *Maxil·lula, branca externa*. E. *Maxil·lula, branca interna*. F. *Maxil·lípede*.

It is distinguished from *P. hoffmannseggii* by a narrower and more convex body, more pronounced granulations, and tergites 1–3 being more concave laterally. Additionally, it differs in male secondary sexual characteristics, most notably: the absence of a piliferous pit on the frontal face of the ischium, the straight ventral margin of the ischium, and the uniform curvature of the sternal margin of the merus (cf. Schmalfuss, 1987). Furthermore, in *P. thenietelhadensis* sp. nov., the uropods are of almost equal length in both males and females, whereas they are clearly dimorphic in *P. hoffmannseggii* (see

Schmalfuss, 1987). Finally, the *d/c* values of tergites 1 to 4 are lower in *P. thenietelhadensis* sp. nov. than in *P. hoffmannseggii* (cf. Vandel, 1948). To date, *P. hoffmannseggii* has not been documented in Algeria.

The new species is distinguished from *P. wagneri* by its different colouration, a distinct position of the *noduli laterales* (*d/c* index), the absence of ventral brushes on the merus, carpus, and propodus of female pereopods 1–3, and by the endopods of the first male pleopods, which are longer than the exopods and feature a straight apex, among other characteristics.

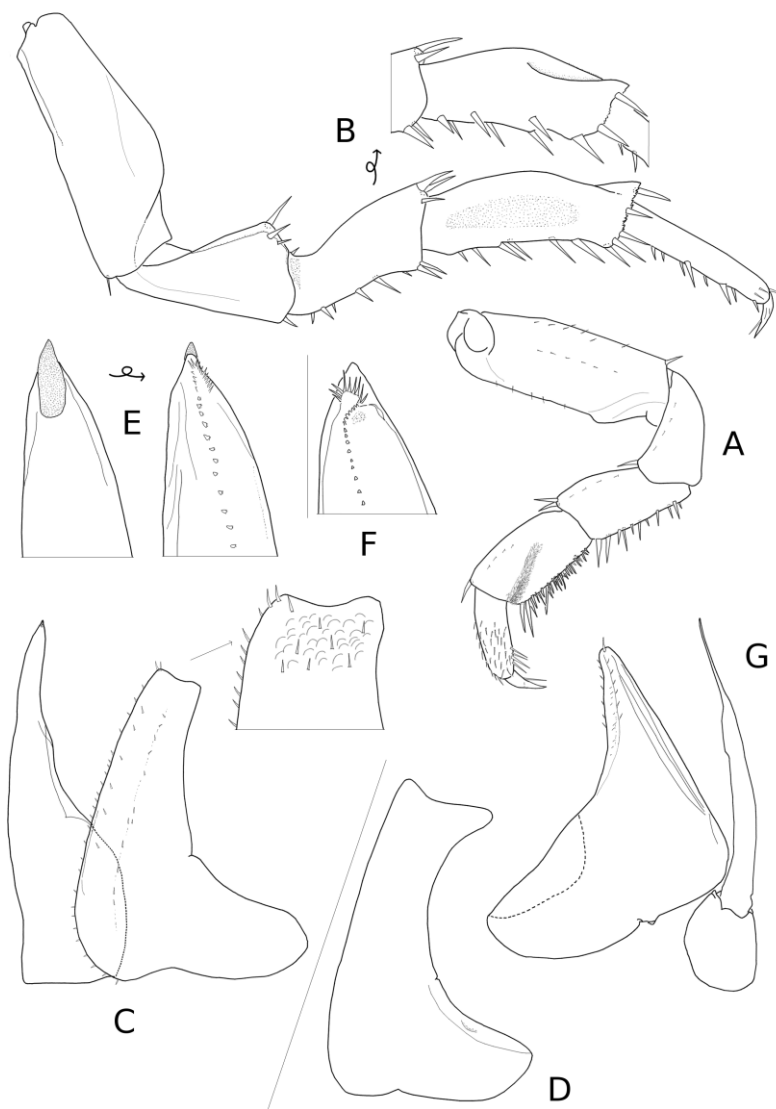


Fig. 19. *Porcellio thenietelhadensis* sp. nov. (♂). A. Pereopod 1. B. Pereopod 7. C. Pleopod 1 and detail of the exopod. D. Pleopod 1 exopod of another specimen (variability). E. Apical portion of pleopod 1 endopod (frontal and caudal). F. Apical portion of the endopod of another specimen (variability). G. Pleopod 2.

Fig. 19. *Porcellio thenietelhadensis* sp. nov. (♂). A. pereopodi 1. B. pereopodi 7. C. pleopodi 1 i detall de l'exopodit. D. Exopodit del pleopodi 1 d'un altre exemplar (variabilitat). E. Porció apical de l'endopodit del pleopodi 1 (frontal i caudal). F. Porció apical de l'endopodit d'un altre exemplar (variabilitat). G. pleopodi 2.

Among the 27 species of the genus *Porcellio* recorded so far in Algeria, and excluding *P. wagneri* (see above), there are eleven other species possessing a first male pleopod exopod that is more or less truncated or notched (versus triangular or rounded): *P. bovei*; *P. intermedius*; *Porcellio eximius* Dollfus, 1896; *Porcellio ferrarai* Caruso & Di Maio, 1990; *Porcellio giustii* Caruso & Di Maio, 1990; *Porcellio mahadidi* Caruso & Di Maio, 1990; *P. platysoma*; *Porcellio praeustus* Budde-Lund, 1885; *Porcellio olivieri* (Audouin, 1826); *Porcellio intercalarius* Budde-Lund, 1885; and *P. variabilis*. Among other somatic and appendicular characteristics, *P. thenietelhadensis* sp. nov. differs from *P. giustii* (cf. Caruso & Di Maio, 1990b, Fig. 10), *P. mahadidi* (cf. Caruso & Di Maio, 1990b, Fig. 25), *P. platysoma* (cf. Figs 13–15; cf. Lucas, 1849), *P. eximius* (cf. Dollfus, 1896, fig. 4), and *P. variabilis* (cf. Lucas, 1849; Medini & Charfi-Cheikhrouha, 1998; Medini et al., 2006), in the shape of the first male pleopod exopod. From *P. bovei* (cf. Figs 7–9) and *P. intermedius* (cf. Schmölzer, 1953, fig. 1) it differs mainly in body shape, coloration, integument, and secondary sexual characteristics.

It is primarily distinguished from *P. praeustus* by having a telson that terminates in a short, triangular tip, whereas *P. praeustus* features a very long and subacute posterior tip (cf. Dollfus, 1896, p. 532). It differs from *P. intercalarius* mainly in body shape, integument, coloration, and uropods, which in that species are very short in both sexes (cf. Budde-Lund, 1885, p. 104, 105). Finally, it differs from *P. ferrarai* and *P. olivieri* in its elongated and convex body shape (versus a wider and more flattened one), as well as in its cephalic morphology (cf. Caruso & Di Maio, 1990b, Figs 15–20, and 1990c, Figs 1–16).

Family Armadillidiidae Brandt, 1833

Genus *Armadillidium* Brandt in Brandt & Ratzeburg, 1831

Armadillidium sulcatum H. Milne Edwards, 1840

Armadillidium sulcatum Milne Edwards, 1840, p. 183.

Armadillidium sulcatum, Lucas, 1849, p. 73; plate 7, fig. 4.

Figs. 20–22.

Material examined: Algeria, Tissemsilt province: 3 ♂, 4 ♀; Theniet el Had; 4/04/2023, leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). 2 ♀; Youssoufia; 25/11/2023; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG). 2 ♂, 4 ♀; Algiers, 7/2025, ex. coll. Frank Noël (CLLG).

Remarks: *Armadillidium sulcatum* can be classified within the *A. simoni* group (Schmölzer, 1954, 1965; Vandel, 1962). It is characterized by deep grooves along the ventral margin of pereonite 1, which probably facilitate more efficient conglobation (Figs 20F, 21B). This species, described by Milne Edwards (1841), had previously only been partially illustrated by Lucas (1849); hence, its morphological characteristics were not known in detail.

To date, 14 species of *Armadillidium* have been described or recorded in the Maghreb, one of which is exclusive to Algeria: *Armadillidium pilosellum* Dollfus, 1896 (see WoRMS Editorial Board, 2026; OniscidBase, 2026). *A. sulcatum* has also been reported in Tunisia (Achouri et al., 2008a). In Algeria, however, it had not been recorded since its original description until it was recently found in the east of the country by Benchana et al. (2026), alongside *Armadillidium tunisiense* Hamaïed & Charfi-Cheikhrouha, 2007.

A. sulcatum is highly distinctive and, although originally described from Constantine, appears to be relatively common

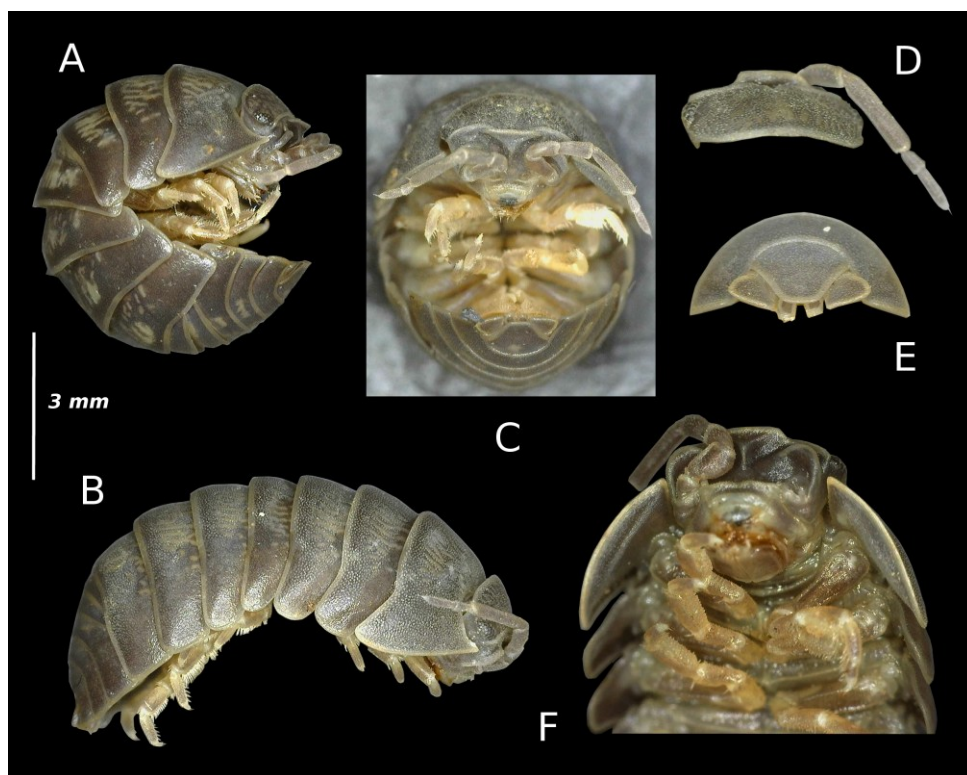


Fig. 20. *Armadillidium sulcatum* (♂). A–B. Lateral view. C. Ventral view. D. Cephalon, dorsal view. E. Pleotelson and uropods, posterior view. F. Cephalon and pereonites 1–3, ventral view.

Fig. 20. *Armadillidium sulcatum* (♂). A–B. Vista lateral. C. Vista ventral. D. Cèfalon, vista dorsal. E. Pleotelson i uròpodes, vista posterior. F. Cèfalon i tergites 1–3, vista ventral.

throughout northern Algeria and Tunisia. To facilitate future identifications, a comprehensive illustration of *A. sulcatum* is provided (Figs 20–22).

Remarks: A widely distributed species spanning the entire Mediterranean basin, including western Morocco and Portugal (Taiti & Rossano, 2015).

Family Armadillidae Brandt in Brandt & Ratzeburg, 1831

Genus *Armadillo* Latreille, 1802

Armadillo officinalis Dumeril, 1816

Material examined: Algeria, Tissemsilt province: 1 ♀; Sidi Bentamra; 9/04/2022. 3 ♂, 1 ♀; Ouarsenis; 1/12/2023; leg. M. Mairif (CLLG).

Discussion

Algeria is the largest country in Africa (2,381,741 square kilometres) and ranks among the ten largest in the world. It boasts an enormous diversity of habitats, ranging from typical Mediterranean ecosystems to alpine, semi-arid, and desert environments. Although it was one of the first non-European countries where the terrestrial

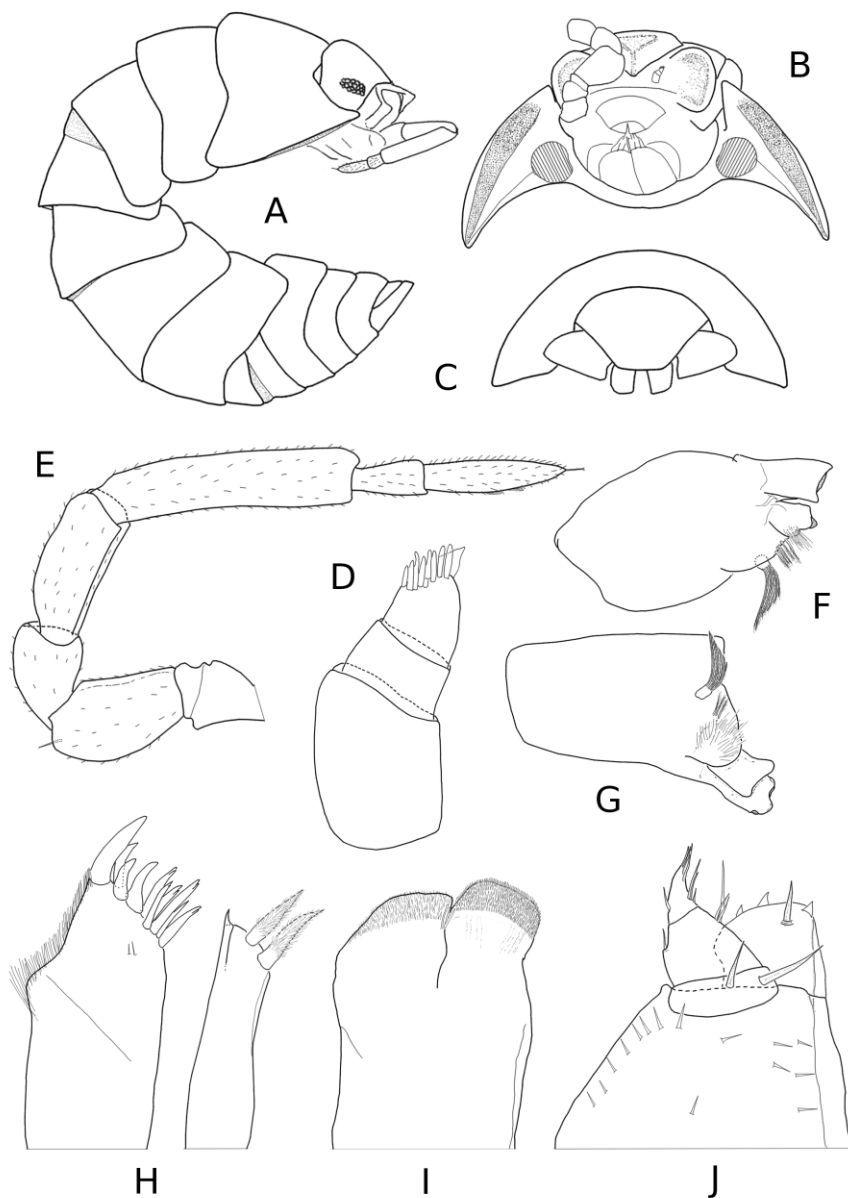


Fig. 21. *Armadillidium sulcatum* (♂). A. Habitus, side view. B. Cephalon and pereonite 1, ventral view. C. Pleonite 5, pleotelson and uropods, posterior view. D. Antennula. E. Antenna. F. Left mandible. G. Right mandible. H. Maxillule. I. Maxilla. J. Maxilliped.

Fig. 21. *Armadillidium sulcatum* (♂). A. Habitus, vista lateral. B. Cèfalon i pereonit 1, vista ventral. C. Pleonit 5, pleotelson i uròpodes, vista posterior. D. Antènula. E. Antena. F. Mandíbula esquerra. G. Mandíbula dreta. H. Maxil·lula. I. Maxil·la. J. Maxil·lípede.

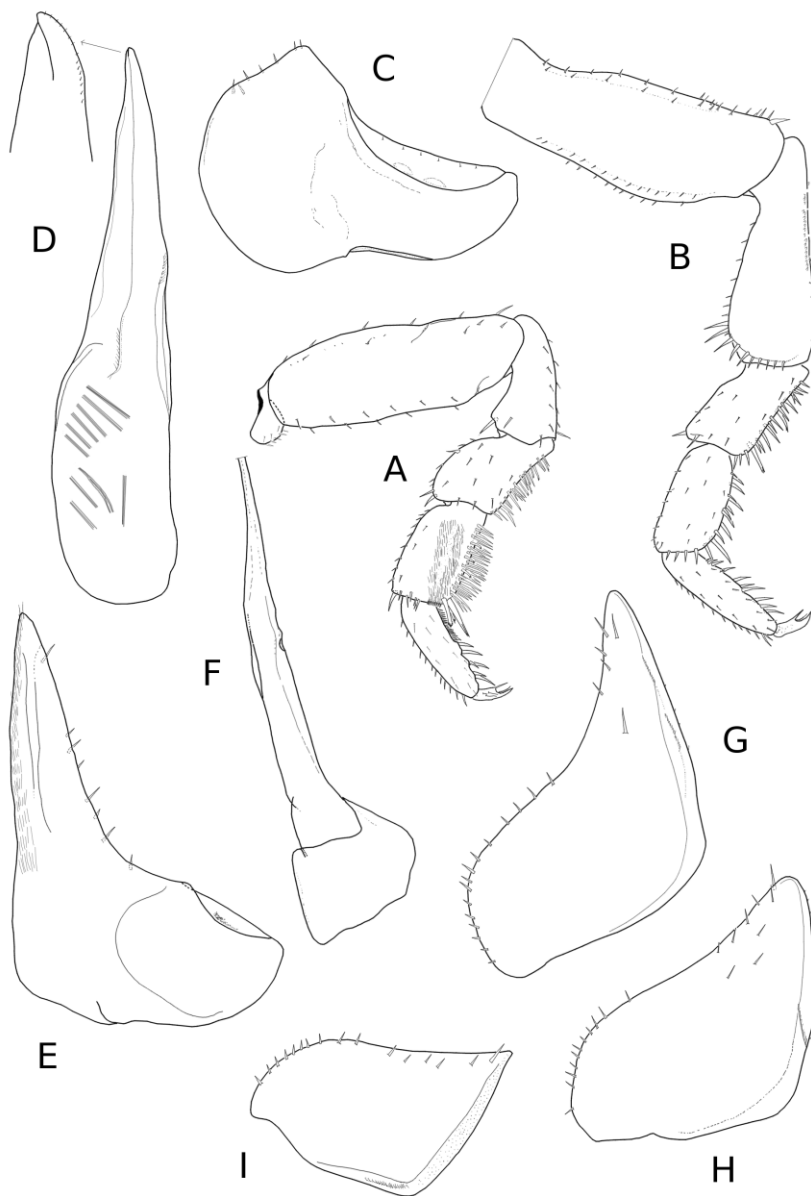


Fig. 22. *Armadillidium sulcatum* (♂). A. Pereopod 1. B. Pereopod 7. C. Pleopod 1 exopod. D. Pleopod 1 endopod. E. Pleopod 2 exopod. F. Pleopod 2 endopod (tip is missing). G–I. Pleopods 3, 4 and 5 exopods.

Fig. 22. *Armadillidium sulcatum* (♂). A. pereopodi 1. B. pereopodi 7. C. pleopodi 1, exopodit. D. pleopodi 1, endopodit. E. pleopodi 2, exopodit. F. pleopodi 2, endopodit (falta la punta). G–I. Exopodits dels pleopodis 3, 4 i 5.

isopod fauna was studied, only 96 species of this crustacean group have been recorded in Algeria to date (Schmalfuss, 2003; OnscidBase, 2026; this paper). Comparing this fauna with that of the Iberian Peninsula (588,246 square kilometres, including the Balearic Islands), where around 300 species of terrestrial isopods are known, indicates that knowledge of Algeria's woodlice fauna remains highly incomplete.

The Tissemsilt region (3,152 square kilometres), located in northwestern Algeria, is delimited by two important natural barriers: the Ouarsenis Mountains to the north and the Jebel Nador Mountains to the south. The region harbours significant floral and faunal biodiversity, featuring a wide variety of environments ranging from lush forests to semi-arid plains (Guemou *et al.*, 2023). A substantial percentage of Tissemsilt's ecosystems are of high ecological value, resulting in the presence of areas subject to strict environmental protection. Despite historical records of terrestrial isopods in the region (see Dollfus, 1896; Vandel, 1962)—primarily from Ouarsenis and Theniet El Had—knowledge regarding its woodlice fauna remains rudimentary, and it is highly likely that numerous endemic species exist in the area.

Most of the original descriptions of Algerian terrestrial isopods are incomplete or insufficient, and many lack illustrations. In other cases, the whereabouts of the type material remain unknown. Furthermore, with few exceptions, many species revisions or field surveys conducted throughout the 20th century focused on the most conspicuous and largest isopods, such as *Porcellio* spp. A brief analysis of the data available to date reveals that almost half of the terrestrial isopods described from Algeria belong to the family Porcellionidae, mainly to the genus *Porcellio*. This genus appears to be extremely diverse in North

Africa (see Schmalfuss, 2003), but its systematics remain unclear, which has probably given rise to identification errors and confusion, particularly in non-specialised faunistic lists.

In this context, the opportunity to study a small collection of this fauna from northwestern Algeria has allowed us, on the one hand, to re-evaluate some of the first species described in the country and, on the other hand, to fully illustrate their morphological characteristics to facilitate their recognition and differentiation from other closely related or superficially similar species. In this regard, it is worth highlighting the importance of illustrating in detail inconspicuous structures that are useful for delimiting species, such as secondary sexual characters, integumentary details, and their morphological variability.

In the future, it is crucial to promote further field studies and progressively compile genetic barcode catalogues, which could potentially reveal the existence of cryptic diversity within this group of crustaceans in the country. It is also necessary to explore habitats that have remained largely uninvestigated in Algeria, such as subterranean ecosystems; despite the large extent of the Algerian karst massifs, very few species of cave-dwelling terrestrial isopods have been described in the country so far (see Decu *et al.*, 2001). Furthermore, we consider it essential to continue redescribing the lesser-known Algerian species, ideally based on type or topotype material.

Five of the 18 species recorded in this study—*L. myrmecophilus*, *S. fuscovariiegatus*, *P. bovei*, *P. platysoma*, and *P. thenietelhadensis* sp. nov.—should currently be considered endemic to Algeria. *A. sulcatum* seems to have a somewhat wider distribution due to its occurrence across various regions of Tunisia. Finally, *P.*

variabilis, *P. simulator*, and *P. wagneri* exhibit a significantly broader distribution; however, the former two are likely endemic to the Maghreb region, whereas the distribution range of *P. wagneri* extends into the southeastern Iberian Peninsula.

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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18768759>

Appendix

Provisional Checklist of the Terrestrial Isopods of Algeria (Based mainly on Schmalfuss (2003), OniscidBase (2026), and the cited literature. Listed in alphabetical order).

Llistat provisional dels isòpodes terrestres d'Algèria (segons Schmalfuss (2003), OniscidBase (2026), i la literatura citada. Llistat en ordre alfabètic.

Acaeroplastes melanurus (Budde-Lund, 1885)

Agabiformius lentus (Budde-Lund, 1885)

Albertosphoera algerina Caruso & Lombardo, 1983

Anaphiloscia simoni Racovitza, 1907

Androniscus dentiger Verhoeff, 1908

Androniscus roseus (Koch, 1838)

Armadillidium granulatum Brandt, 1833

Armadillidium pilosellum Dollfus, 1896

Armadillidium quinquepustulatum Budde-Lund, 1885

Armadillidium sulcatum H. Milne Edwards, 1840

Armadillidium vulgare (Latreille, 1804)

Armadillo officinalis Duméril, 1816

Armadilloniscus candidus Budde-Lund, 1885

Bathytropa meinerti Budde-Lund, 1885

Bathytropa tuberculata Racovitza, 1908

Chaetophiloscia elongata (Dollfus, 1884)

Cordioniscus africanus Vandel, 1955

Ctenoscia minima (Dollfus, 1892)

Cylisticus convexus (De Geer, 1778)

Desertosphoera remyi Vandel, 1948

Eluma caelata (Miers, 1877)

Finaloniscus berberensis Vandel, 1959

Halophiloscia couchii (Kinahan, 1858)

Haplophthalmus mengii (Zaddach, 1844)

Hemilepistus reaumurii (H. Milne Edwards, 1840)

Leptotrichus panzerii (Audouin, 1826)

Ligia italica Fabricius, 1798

Ligidium hypnorum (Cuvier, 1792)

Lucasius myrmecophilus Kinahan, 1859

Lucasius pallidus (Budde-Lund, 1885)

Maghreboniscus minimus Caruso & Lombardo, 1983

Mauritaniscus pierrei (Vandel, 1950)

Metoponorthus lacteolus Budde-Lund, 1885 (*nomen dubium*)

Mica tardus (Budde-Lund, 1885)

Monocyphoniscus bulgaricus Strouhal, 1939

Nesiotoniscus delamarei Vandel, 1954

Nesiotoniscus sebaouensis Vandel, 1955

Philoscia affinis Verhoeff, 1908

<i>Philoscia muscorum</i> (Scopoli, 1763)
<i>Platyarthrus aiasensis</i> Legrand, 1954
<i>Platyarthrus caudatus</i> Aubert & Dollfus, 1890
<i>Platyarthrus costulatus</i> Verhoeff, 1908
<i>Platyarthrus schoblii</i> Budde-Lund, 1885
<i>Porcellio albinus</i> Budde-Lund, 1885
<i>Porcellio angustulus</i> Budde-Lund, 1885
<i>Porcellio auritus</i> Budde-Lund, 1885
<i>Porcellio blattarius</i> Budde-Lund, 1885
<i>Porcellio bovei</i> Lucas, 1849
<i>Porcellio brevicaudatus</i> Brandt, 1833
<i>Porcellio brevipennis</i> Budde-Lund, 1885
<i>Porcellio echinatus</i> Lucas, 1849
<i>Porcellio eximius</i> Dollfus, 1896
<i>Porcellio ferrarai</i> Caruso & Di Maio, 1990
<i>Porcellio giustii</i> Caruso & Di Maio, 1990
<i>Porcellio intercalarius</i> Budde-Lund, 1885
<i>Porcellio intermedius</i> Schmölzer, 1953
<i>Porcellio laevis</i> Latreille, 1804
<i>Porcellio lamellatus</i> Budde-Lund, 1885
<i>Porcellio mahadidi</i> Caruso & Di Maio, 1990
<i>Porcellio marginenotatus</i> Budde-Lund, 1885
<i>Porcellio olivieri</i> Audouin, 1826)
<i>Porcellio omodeoi</i> Caruso & Di Maio, 1990
<i>Porcellio peyerimhoffi</i> Paulian de Félice, 1942
<i>Porcellio platysoma</i> Brandt, 1841
<i>Porcellio praeustus</i> Budde-Lund, 1885
<i>Porcellio purpureus</i> Budde-Lund, 1885
<i>Porcellio ribauti</i> Verhoeff, 1907
<i>Porcellio simulator</i> Budde-Lund, 1885
<i>Porcellio thenietelhadensis</i> Garcia & Mairif, 2026 sp. nov.
<i>Porcellio variabilis</i> Lucas, 1849
<i>Porcellio wagneri</i> Brandt, 1841
<i>Porcellionides coxalis</i> (Budde-Lund, 1885)
<i>Porcellionides frontosus</i> Paulian de Félice, 1939
<i>Porcellionides fuscomarmoratus</i> (Budde-Lund, 1885)
<i>Porcellionides glaber</i> (C. Koch in Rosenhauer, 1856)
<i>Porcellionides parvus</i> (Budde-Lund, 1885)
<i>Porcellionides pruinosis</i> (Brandt, 1833)
<i>Porcellionides sexfasciatus</i> (Budde-Lund, 1885)
<i>Porcellionides viridis</i> (Budde-Lund, 1885)
<i>Soteriscus fuscovariegatus</i> (Lucas, 1849)
<i>Spelaeoniscus akfadouensis</i> Caruso, Pezzino, Messina & Lombardo, 2017
<i>Spelaeoniscus coiffaiti</i> Vandel, 1961
<i>Spelaeoniscus debrugei</i> Racovitza, 1907

Spelaeoniscus kabylicola Vandel, 1948

Spelaeoniscus orientalis Vandel, 1959

Spelaeoniscus sahariensis Paulian de Félice, 1942

Triceratosphoera sabulicola Caruso & Lombardo, 1978

Trichoniscus fragilis Racovitza, 1908

Trichoniscus gachassini (Giard, 1899)

Trichoniscus halophilus Vandel, 1951

Trichoniscus provisorius Racovitza, 1908

Trichoniscus pusillus Brandt, 1833

Tylos latreillii Audouin, 1826

Uncuniscus elegans Caruso, Pezzino, Messina & Lombardo, 2017

Uncuniscus hamatus (Caruso & Lombardo, 1978)

Uncuniscus singularis Caruso, Pezzino, Messina & Lombardo, 2017

