

Occurrence of a Bathypelagic Harpacticoid Copepod,
Aegisthus mucronatus Giesbrecht (Crustacea) in the
Northwestern Pacific Ocean

Aegisthus

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(Received August 13, 1983)

Abstract. A bathypelagic harpacticoid copepod, *Aegisthus mucronatus* Giesbrecht, 1891, bearing unusually long caudal spines, is recorded for the first time from the northwestern part of the Pacific. Only one female specimen is available for the study and described and illustrated herein.

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A bathypelagic harpacticoid copepod, *Aegisthus mucronatus* Giesbrecht, 1891, of the family Aegisthidae, is well characterized by having unusually long caudal spines and large sword-like fifth legs bearing remarkable setae. This species appears to have a very wide distribution. It has been recorded from almost all regions of the Atlantic Ocean, and in the Indian Ocean, it has been taken off the Cape of Agulhas and off the Laccadive Islands. In the Pacific Ocean, it has occurred in the tropical regions and off the coast of southern California.

During the cruise KH-81-4 of the marine biological and oceanographical researches in the waters of the Japan Trench and its vicinity by the *R/V Hakuho Maru* of the Ocean Research Institute, University of Tokyo, only one female specimen of *A. mucronatus* was collected by the beam-trawl of 4 m span at station 13 (KH-81-4), 38°30.2'N, 144°56.6'E-38°31.6'N, 144°56.4'E, far off east of Kinkazan, the northern Japan proper, in 29 July, 1981. This is the first record for the species from the northwestern part of the Pacific. An account of the specimen, which has been dissected is given below.

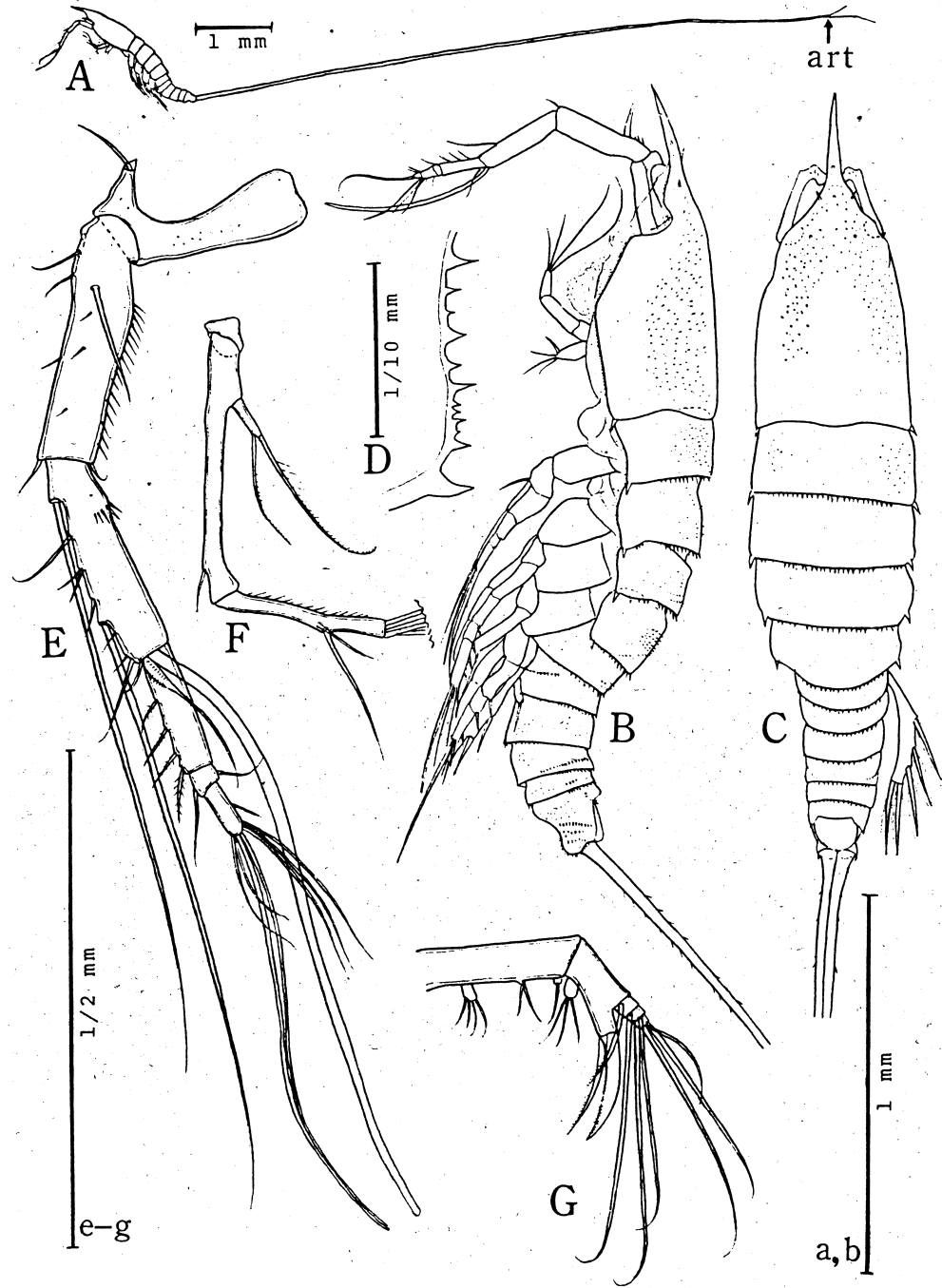


Fig. 1. *Aegisthus mucronatus* Giesbrecht, female, length about 2 mm. A) Whole animal, lateral view. art, articulation of caudal spine. B) Body, lateral view. C) Body, dorsal view. D) Postero-lateral portion of metasome segment 2. E) Antenna. F) Maxilla. G) Maxilliped.

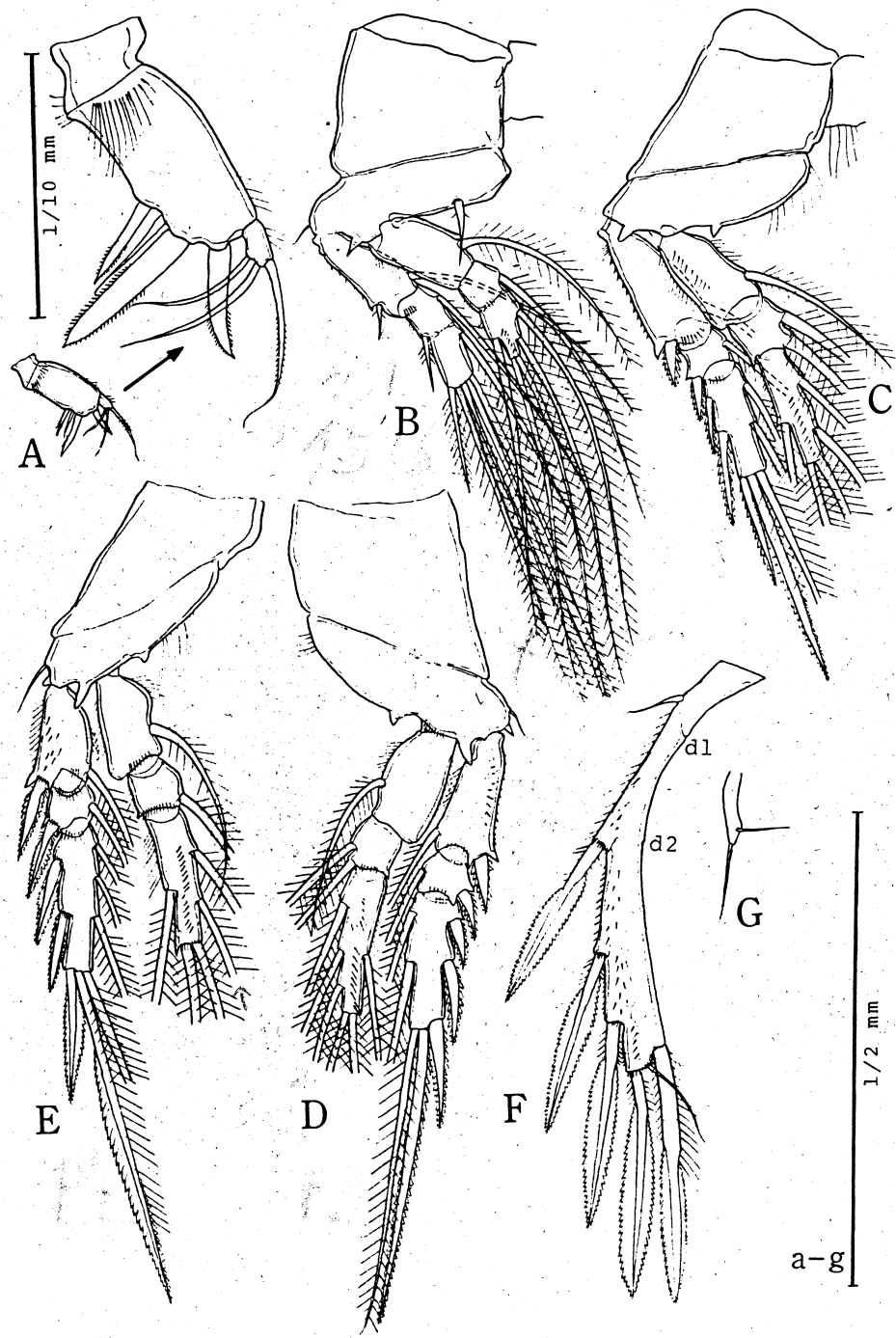


Fig. 2. *Aegisthus mucronatus* Giesbrecht, female. A) Maxilliped. B-E) Leg 1 (B)-4 (E). F) Leg 1. G) Leg 6. segmental division.