

*Aora gracilis* (BATE)

(figs. I-VI)

*Lonchomerus gracilis* BATE, 1857, p. 143.*Autonea punctata* BRUZELIUS, 1859, p. 24, pl. 1, fig. 3a-g.*Aora gracilis* (BATE) BATE 1862, p. 160, vol. 29, fig. 7; SARS, 1894, p. 545, pl. 193.*Aora typica* STEBBING, 1906 (in part), p. 587; CHEVREUX & FAGE, 1925, p. 293, fig. 304-5.

**DIAGNOSIS.** Antennae sparsely setiferous, male gnathopod 1 coxa relatively deep with antero-ventral corner moderately produced, subacute, basis robust, excavate on anterior margin for reception of carpus when folded, merus elongate, slender, sub-triangular, generally reaching distal end of carpus, carpus and propodus relatively robust, propodus shorter than carpus and very sparsely setiferous, dactylus relatively robust; male gnathopod 2 basis moderately stout, the anterior margin convex, carpus slender, propodus slightly shorter than carpus, slender, with the anterior margin weakly convex, the palm very oblique, dactylus relatively long; pereopod 3-4 coxae relatively deep, male pereopods 5-7 with a well developed flange on the posterior margin of the basis which does not attenuate distally, male pereopod 6 basis with a markedly developed flange on the posterior margin which reaches its maximal development distally where it forms a distinct 'heel'; uropod 3 rami with some robust marginal spines and relatively stout terminal setae.

**MATERIAL EXAMINED:** Atlantic: Norway, Shetland, Torbay, Plymouth, Bournemouth, Swansea, Cork, Jersey, Le Croisic, Concarneau, Morgat, Riv. de Lannion-Leguer, Grandcamp, St. Trojan - Ile d'Oleron, Vivero.

Mediterranean: Marseille, Sète, Port Vendres, Ajaccio, Napoli, Baie de Boka Kotorska, La Calle, Baie d'Alger.

*Aora atlantidea* REID

(figs. VII-XIII)

*Aora gracilis* DELLA VALLE, 1893, p. 407, pl. 2, fig. 9. pl. 12, fig. 25-39, pl. 56, fig. 37.*Aora atlantidea* REID, 1951, p. 252, fig. 45.*Aora typica* MYERS, 1969, p. 28, fig. 3c, e-h; KRAPP-SCHICKEL 1969, p. 321, fig. 1.

**DIAGNOSIS.** Antennae relatively setiferous, male gnathopod 1 coxa relatively shallow with antero-ventral corner strongly produced, acute, basis slender, excavate on anterior margin for reception of carpus

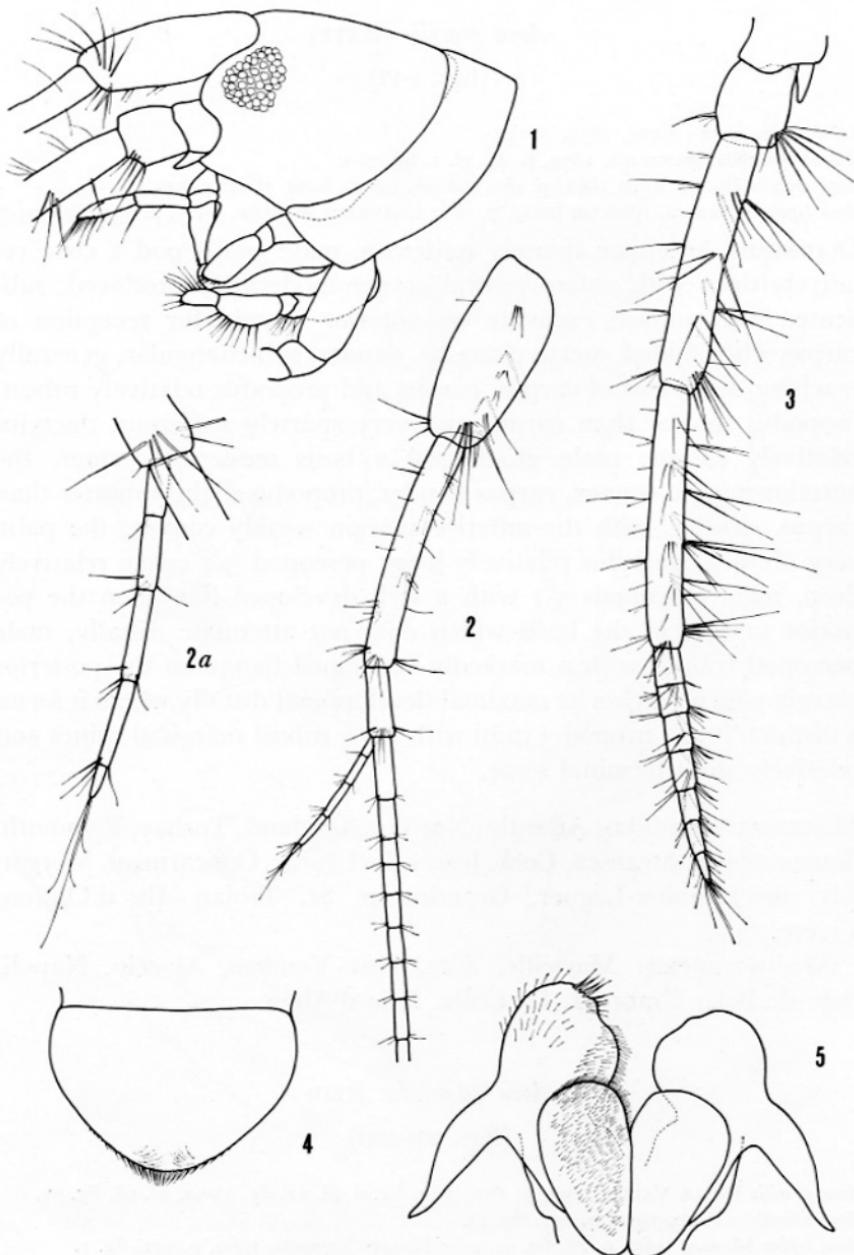


Fig. VII. *Aora atlantidea* REID, Golfo di Napoli. 1 Head. 2 Antenna I. 2a accessory flagellum.  
3 Antenna II. 4 Labrum. 5 Labium.

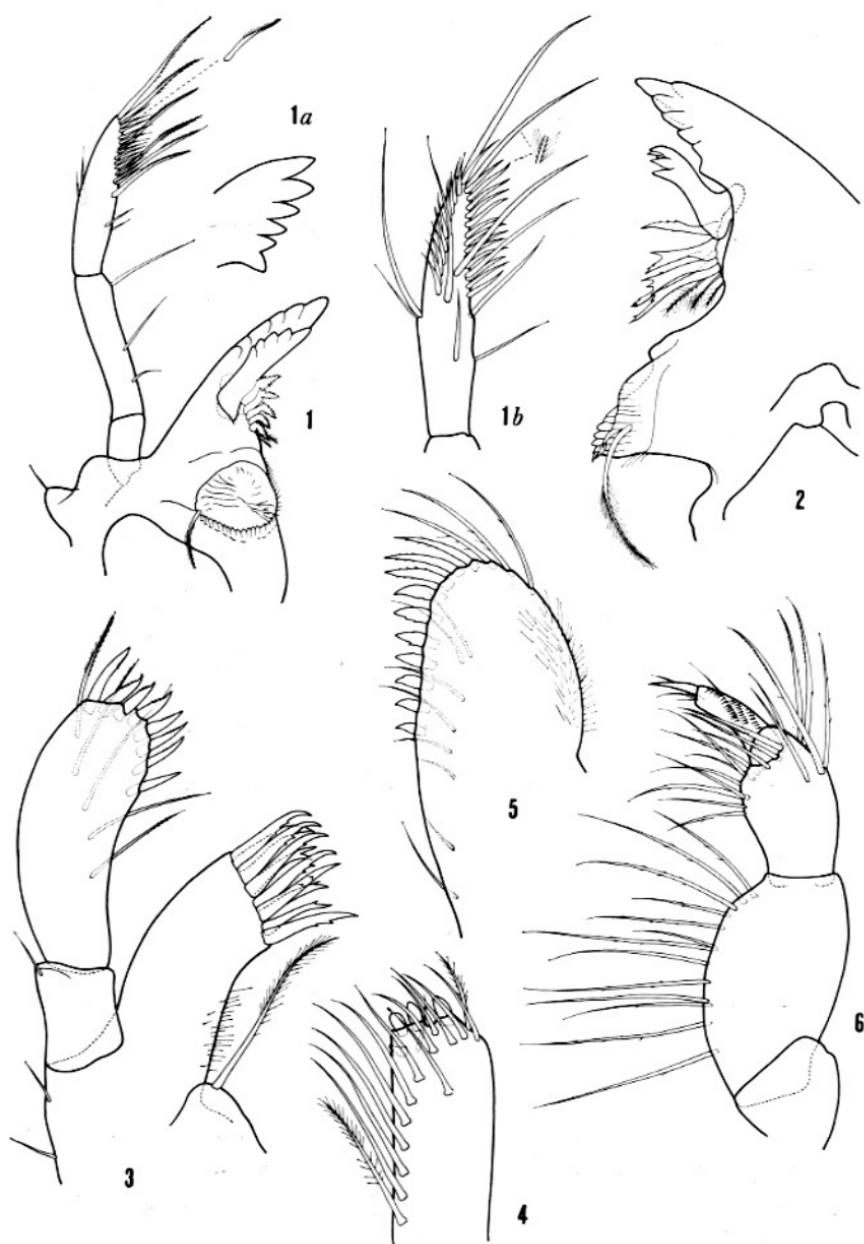


Fig. VIII. *Aora atlantidea* REID, Golfo di Napoli. 1, 1a, 1b, 2 Mandible (left & right). 3 Maxilla 1. 4, 5, 6 Maxilliped.

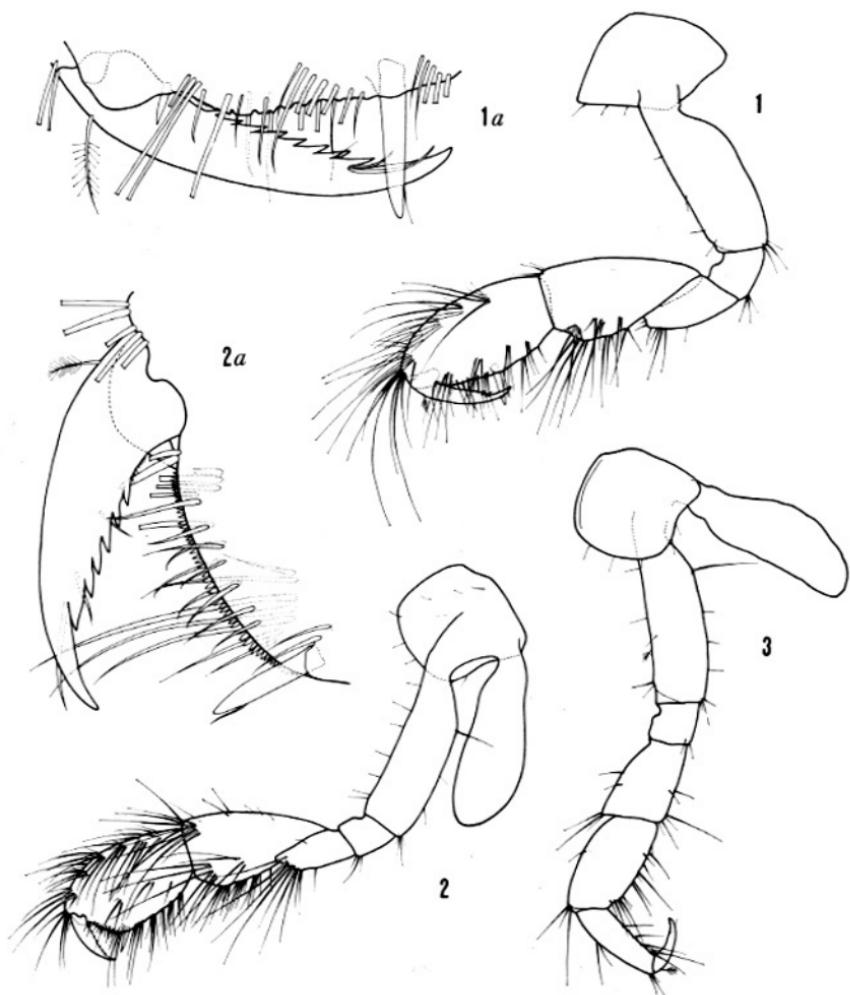


Fig. ix. *Aora atlantidea* REID, Golfo di Napoli. 1, 1a Gnathopod 1. ♂ 2, 2a Gnathopod II.  
3 Pereopod III.

when folded, merus unproduced, or produced distally into a slender tooth of variable length, but never reaching distal end of carpus, carpus and propodus slender, elongate, propodus shorter than carpus, bearing several groups of long setae, on the terminal third of the anterior margin, dactylus relatively slender; male gnathopod 2 basis moderately stout, anterior margin straight or slightly concave, carpus slender, propodus shorter than carpus, swollen, with the anterior

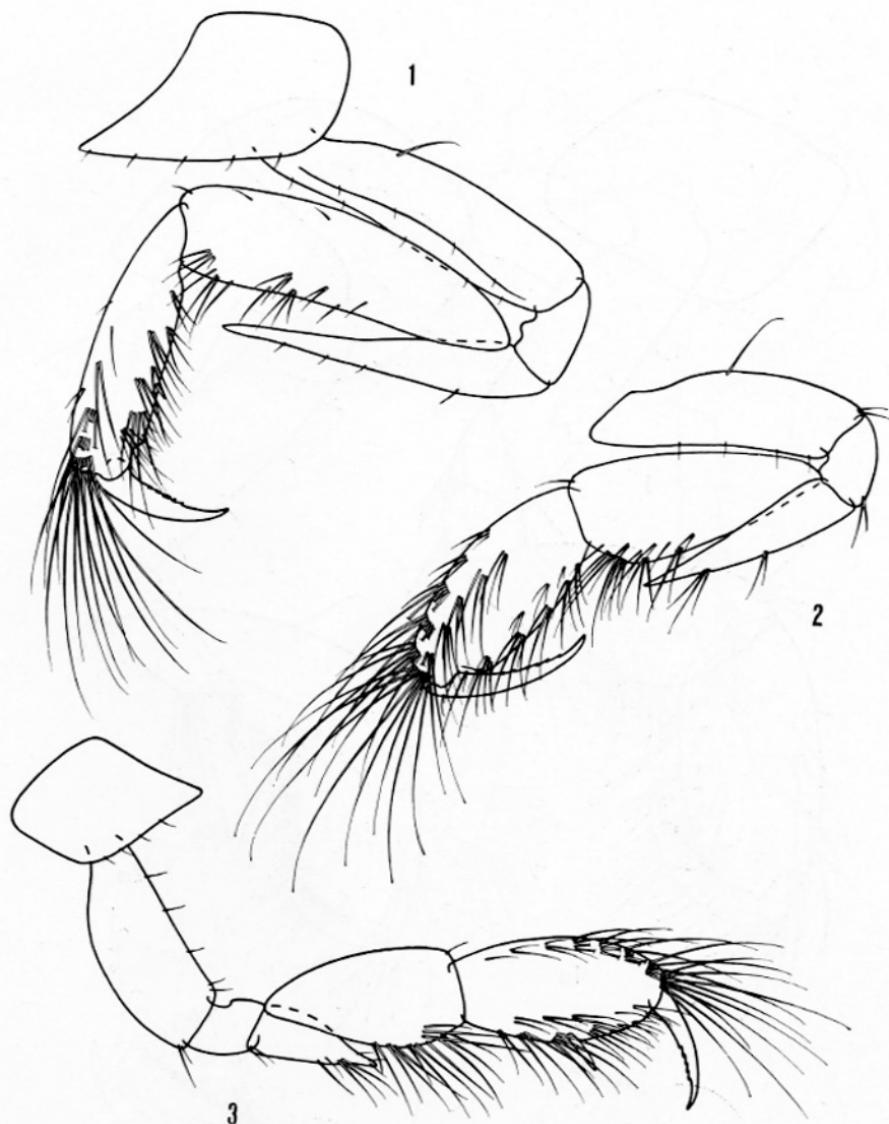


Fig. x. *Aora atlantidea* REID, Khios. 1, 2, 3 Gnathopod 1 ♂.

margin very convex, palm almost transverse, dactylus short; pereopods 3-4 coxae relatively shallow, pereopods 5-7 bases with a flange on the posterior margin which is well developed proximally and attenuates distally; uropod 3 rami with slender marginal spines and terminal setae.

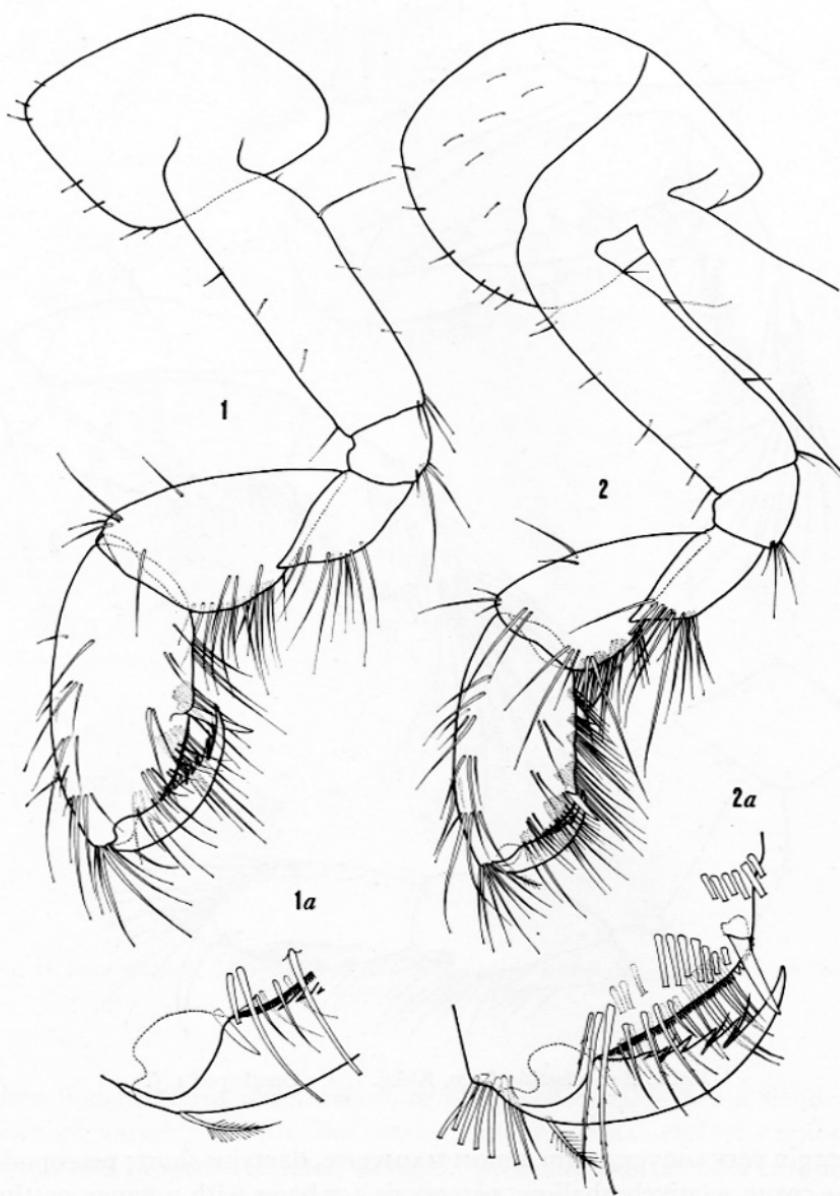


Fig. xi. *Aora atlantidea* REID, Golfo di Napoli. 1, 1a Gnathopod ♀. 2, 2a Gnathopod ♂♀.

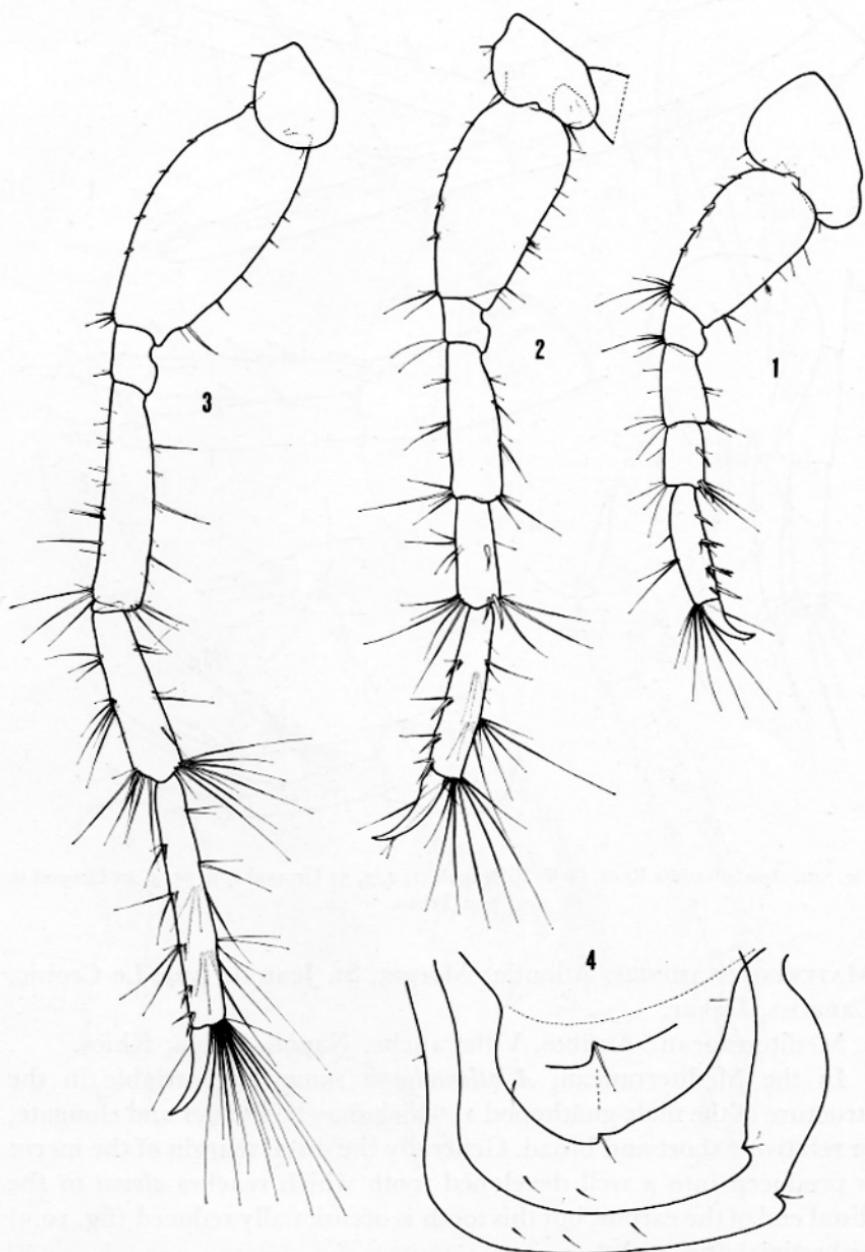


Fig. XII. *Aora atlantidea* REID, Golfo di Napoli. 1, 2, 3 Pereopod V, VI, VII. 4 Epimera I-III.

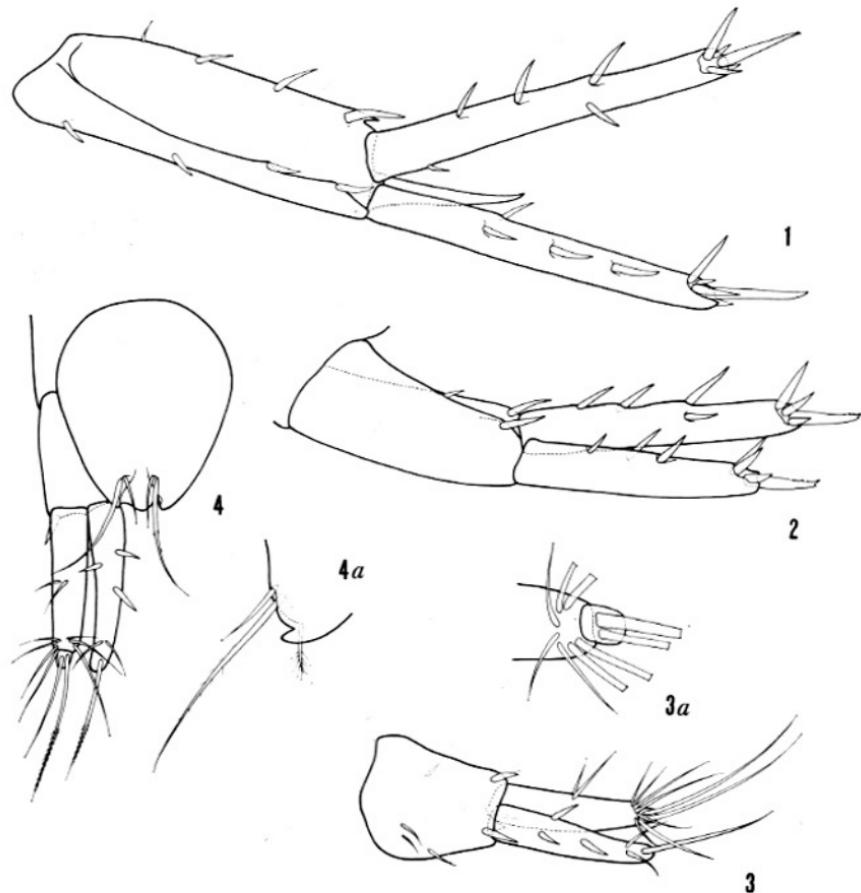


Fig. XIII. *Aora atlantidea* REID, Golfo di Napoli. 1, 2, 3, 3a Uropod 1, II, III. 4, 4a Uropod III and Telson.

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Atlantic: Morgat, St. Jean de Luz, Le Croisic, Canaries, Dakar.

Mediterranean: Antibes, Villefranche, Napoli, Ischia, Khios.

In the Mediterranean, *A. atlantidea* is somewhat variable in the structure of the male gnathopod 1, which may be slender and elongate, or relatively short and broad. Generally the distal margin of the merus is produced into a well developed tooth which reaches almost to the distal end of the carpus, but this tooth is occasionally reduced (fig. 10.3) or vestigial (fig. 9.1).

This latter material could be referred to the genus *Lembos* BATE were it not for its close agreement in all other respects with *A. atlantidea*.

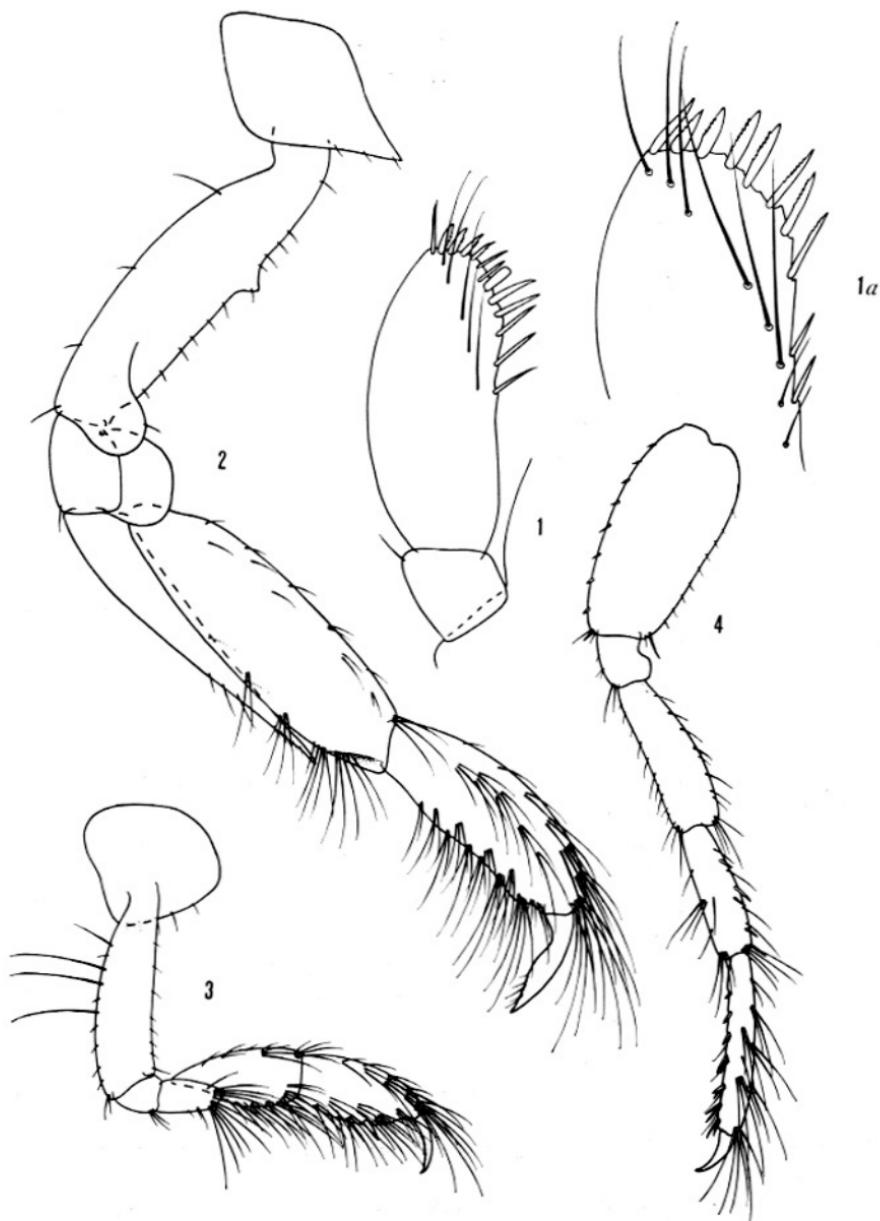


Fig. XIV. *Aora typica* KROYER. 1 Palp of maxilla 1 (Chile). 1a Palp of maxilla 1 (New Zealand). 2 Gnathopod 1 ♂ (Chile). 3 Gnathopod 2 ♂ (Chile). 4 Pereopod VII (Chile).

REID. The only important difference which has been used in differentiating the genera *Lembos* BATE and *Aora* KROYER is the development of the meral tooth in *Aora*, but since this tooth may be present or absent within a single species, the distinction is scarcely tenable. Intergrading also occurs between *Lembos* and *Microdeutopus* COSTA through *Lembopsis* PEARSE.

DISTRIBUTION. The Mediterranean distribution of *A. gracilis* and *A. atlantidea* is difficult to ascertain due to the long confusion of the two species with *A. typica*. Both species would appear to be widely distributed, although *A. atlantidea* may penetrate further East and South East than does *A. gracilis*. Outside the Mediterranean, *A. gracilis* occurs along the Atlantic coasts of Europe from Norway to Gibraltar and North Africa, while *A. atlantidea* is recorded from the Bay of Biscay, southwards along the coasts of Spain, Portugal and Africa, including the Canary Islands to tropical West Africa.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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