

# *Elthusa poutassouiensis* (Penso, 1939), comb. nov. (Isopoda, Cymothoidae) for *Meinertia* (*Ceratothoa*) *poutassouiensis*, parasite of the blue whiting, *Micromesistius poutassou*

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## Abstract

The parasite was obtained on the gill cavity of the blue whiting, *Micromesistius poutassou* (Risso), from the Aegean Sea Coast, Turkey. This cymothoid is a typical parasite of the blue whiting, but it is poorly known. It was reported from the same host as *Meinertia* (*Ceratothoa*) *potassoniensis* and *Meinertia poutassouiensis* with an inadequate description. The specimens examined in this study show the diagnostic characters of *Elthusa* Schioedte & Meinert, 1884. The previous two species are proposed to be transferred to the genus *Elthusa*. The ovigerous female, non-ovigerous female and male species are redescribed by drawings for the first time. The Mediterranean Sea is a new geographical record for the genus *Elthusa*.

## Introduction

Cymothoids (Crustacea, Isopoda) typically infect marine, freshwater or brackish water teleost fish. Cymothoidae species settle in the buccal cavity (*Ceratothoa* Dana, 1852, *Cymothoa* Fabricius, 1793 etc.) (Hadfield et al., 2013; Martin et al., 2015), the branchial cavity (*Mothocya* Costa in Hope, 1851) (Hadfield et al., 2015), on the external surface (*Anilocra* Leach, 1818, *Nerocila* Leach, 1818 etc.), (Bruce, 1987), or in the body cavity (*Ichthyoxenos* Herklots, 1870, *Riggia* Szidat, 1948 etc.) (Tsai and Dai, 1999; Thatcher et al., 2002).

Although the Cymothoidae family is known, there are some deficiencies taxonomically. According to some researchers, more detailed studies must be done for this family (Bruce et al., 2002; Martin et al., 2015; Hadfield et al., 2016a). Fifteen species [*Ceratothoa oestroides* (Risso, 1816), *Ceratothoa parallela* (Otto, 1828), *Ceratothoa italica* Schiödte & Meinert, 1883, *Ceratothoa steindachneri* Koelbel, 1879, *Ceratothoa capri* (Trilles, 1964), *Nerocila bivittata* (Risso, 1816), *Nerocila orbigny* (Guérin-Méneville, 1832), *Emetha audouini* (H. Milne Edwards, 1840), *Mothocya belonae* Bruce, 1986, *Mothocya taurica* (Czerniavsky, 1868), *Mothocya epimerica* Costa,

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