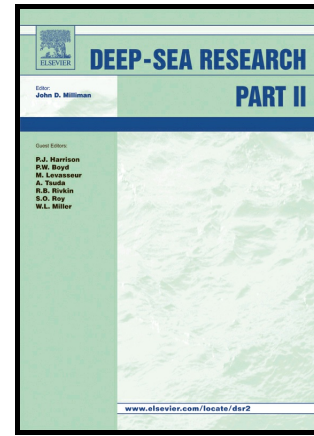


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Diversity and distribution of the deep-sea Atlantic *Acanthocope* (Crustacea, Isopoda, Munnopsidae), with description of two new species

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Abstract

The present paper provides data of the world-wide distribution, abundance and diversity of the rare deep-sea munnopsid genus, *Acanthocope* Beddard, 1885 and presents an identification key to the 18 known species of *Acanthocope*. Two new species, *Acanthocope puertoricana* sp. nov. from the tropical abyssal area near the Puerto Rico Trench and *Acanthocope galaica* sp. nov. from the Galicia Bank, Northeastern Atlantic are described. Additionally, *Acanthocope annulatus* Menzies, 1962 and *Acanthocope eleganta* Malyutina and Brandt, 2004 have been collected in the Puerto Rico Trench area, whereas *Acanthocope galathea* Wolff, 1962 were collected along a latitudinal transect crossing the tropical abyssal North Atlantic during the Vema-TRANSIT expedition. *A. puertoricana* is most similar to *A. carinata* Chardy, 1972 from the Northwestern Atlantic and differs from the latter by: a more slender body; a broader head; a more slender and shorter lateral projections of the pleotelson; the presence of ventral spines on natasome; and a longer uropod. *A. galaica* sp. nov. is most similar to *A. spinicauda* Beddard, 1885 and differs from the latter by having a more elongate pleotelson with almost straight lateral margins between lateral spines, whereas the margins

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