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Microtripus tinggiensis, new genus and species (Amphipoda: Caprellidea: Phtisicidae) from Pulau Tinggi, East Johor Islands Archipelago, Malaysia

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Abstract.—Microtripus tinggiensis, a new genus and species (Amphipoda: Caprellidea: Phtisicidae), was discovered in the interstitial benthos from Pulau Tinggi, an island in the East Johor Islands Archipelago (EJIA). Microtripus tinggiensis is distinct in its reduced pereopods 3–5 (1-articulate pereopods 3, 4 and 3-articulate pereopod 5). The new genus Microtripus most closely resembles Perotripus Dougherty & Steinberg, 1953 in its elongated body segments, shorter antennae 1 and 2 and gills on pereonites 2–4 but differs from the latter by its 3-articulate flagellum of antenna 1 and 1-articulate, vestigial pereopod 3.

Keywords: Amphipoda, East Johor Islands Archipelago, Malaysia, Microtripus tinggiensis, Phtisicidae

This paper is part of a series based on accumulation of material from various sites around the East Johor Islands Archipelago (EJIA), situated off the east coast of Johor State, Malaysia in the South China Sea. These materials have been collected mainly from shallow waters along the coasts of Pulau Tinggi, Pulau Ibol, Pulau Sibu, Pulau Tengah, and Pulau Besar, EJIA. While several new species of gammaridean amphipods from this region are already described (see Lim et al. 2010, Azman & Melvin 2011), studies on the caprellidean amphipods have just begun. Here, we describe for the first time a new genus and new species (Caprellidea: Phtisicidae), discovered in benthic samples from seagrass habitats of Pulau Tinggi. The new genus differs from Perotripus Dougherty & Steinberg, 1953 in its 3-

articulate flagellum of antenna 1 and 1articulate percopod 3.

Materials and Methods

Materials were collected from the sediment using a two-tiered epibenthic sledge with an opening of 60×20 cm (width \times height) in each tier and mesh size of 140 µm, pulled along a 10 m transect. Appendages were dissected from the right side of the specimens. The following abbreviations are used on the figures: A, antenna; ABD (L), abdomen lateral view; ABD (V), abdomen ventral view; G, gnathopod; LL, lower lip; MD, mandible; MX, maxilla; MXP, maxilliped; P, pereopod; UL, upper lip; R, right; L, left. All materials are deposited at the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Muzium Zoologi (UKMMZ), Malaysia.

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Systematics Family Phtisicidae Vassilenko, 1968 *Microtripus*, new genus

Diagnosis.-Body elongated. Head completely fused with pereonite 1. Antenna 1 well developed; flagellum with 3 articles. Antenna 2 well developed; flagellum with 2 articles. Mandible well developed; molar absent; palp 3-articulate, setal formula 1-0-0. Maxilliped well developed; inner plate (basal endite) equal to outer plate (ischial endite); outer plate (ischial endite) well developed; palp article 3 without distal projection; palp article 4 well developed. Pereonite 4 clavate appendage absent. Pereonites 6 and 7 not fused. Pereopod⁻³ vestigial, with 1 article. Pereopod 4 vestigial, with 1 article. Pereopod 5 with 3 articles, dactylus well developed. Pereopods 6 and 7 well developed, with 6 articles. Gills on pereonites 2-4. Pleopods absent. Uropods 2 pairs; uniramous and vestigial. Telson (dorsal lobe) present.

Type species.—Microtripus tinggiensis, new species.

Etymology.—The generic name Microtripus is derived from the reduced three pairs of percopods, i.e., percopods 3-5.

Gender.-Masculine.

Remarks .--- Genera of the Phtisicidae Vassilenko, 1968 are characterized by a combination of several diagnostic characters, including absence of a mandibular molar, palp of mandible 3-articulate, head and perconite 1 completely fused, three pairs of gills, pereonites 5 and 6 separated and urosomites 1 and 2 coalesced (see Takeuchi 1993).

Among the genera in the Phtisicidae, Microtripus is most closely related to Perotripus Dougherty & Steinberg, 1953. Dougherty & Steinberg (1953) established this genus based on Paedaridium breve La Follette, 1915 collected from the coast of California. Perotripus is one of the most apomorphic genera in this family (see Takeuchi 1993) in terms of its 2-articulate flagellum of antennae 1 and 2, 3-articulate

pereopod 3, 1-articulate pereopod 4, 3articulate percopod 5, 6-articulate percopods 6 and 7, mandibular palp 3-articulate, molar process absent and male abdomen with vestigial uropods. The present description clearly indicates that Microtripus differs from Perotripus in its 3articulate flagellum of antenna 1 and 1articulate pereopod 3.

In addition to Perotripus, Microtripus also shares several diagnostic characters with Caprellaporema Guerra-García, 2003, such as mandibular palp with 3 articles, absence of a mandibular molar, 2-articulate flagellum of antenna 2, 6-articulate percopods 6 and 7, and male abdomen with vestigial uropods (Guerra-García 2003). However, Caprellaporema, is placed in the family Caprellidae Leach, 1814 by Guerra-García (2003) and not in Phtisicidae. Caprellaporema appears similar to Perotripus in its flagellum of antenna 1 and 2 with two articles each, mandibular palp 3-articulate, absence of a molar process, outer lobe of maxilliped larger than inner lobe, percopod 5, 3-articulate and abdomen of male with vestigial uropods. Thus, these close similarities of Caprellaporema to Perotripus and to Microtripus indicate that Caprellaporema should be placed in the family Phtisicidae. Microtripus differs from Caprellaporema in general morphological structure, setal formula of the mandibular palp, gills present on perconites 2, 3 and 4 (gills only present on pereonites 3 and 4 in *Caprellaporema*), presence of pereopods 3 and 4 (both absent in Caprellaporema) and 3-articulate pereopod 5 (only 2 articles in *Caprellaporema*).

Microtripus tinggiensis, new species Figs. 1-6

Type material.—Holotype, male, 8.25 mm, UKMMZ-1439 (Fig. 1A), Kampung Pasir Panjang, Pulau Tinggi, EJIA, Johor, 02°17.528'N, 104°06.048'E, epibenthic sledge, 7 Jan 2010, depth 5 m, coll. B. A.

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Fig 1. Microtripus tinggiensis. A, male holotype, 8.25 mm, UKMMZ-1439; B, female paratype, 3.45 mm, UKMMZ-1440, Pulau Tinggi, EJIA. Photographs based on fixed specimens. Scale = 0.5 mm.

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Paratypes.—1 female, UKMMZ-1440 (Fig. 1B); 2 males, 15 females, 4 premature jang, Pulau Tinggi, Johor, Malaysia, males, 1 premature female, 73 juveniles, UKMMZ-1441; 3 males, 15 females, 4 premature males, 2 premature females, 72 juveniles, UKMMZ-1442; 2 males, 15 females, 5 premature males, 1 premature female, 72 juveniles, UKMMZ-1443, same station data. Dissected appendages were

R. Azman, S. Y. Gan, J. H. C. Lim, B. stored in 9 semi-permanent slides mounted on glycerol.

> Type locality.--Kampung Pasir Pan-South China Sea.

> Etymology.---Named after the type locality, Pulau Tinggi in the EJIA. "Pulau" means Island, and "Tinggi" means high.

> Description of male.—Holotype, 8.25 mm (Fig. 2). UKMMZ-1439. Head and pereonite 1, 0.41 mm, completely fused,

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Fig. 2. *Microtripus tinggiensis*. Male holotype, 8.25 mm, UKMMZ-1439, Pulau Tinggi, EJIA. Scales for A1, A2, G1, G2 = 0.1 mm; whole body = 0.5 mm.



Fig. 3. *Microtripus tinggiensis*. MD (L), MD (R), MX1, MX2, MXP, UL, male holotype, 8.25 mm, UKMMZ-1439, Pulau Tinggi, EJIA. Scales: MD (L), MD (R), MX1, MX2, UL = 0.025 mm; MXP = 0.05 mm. LL, female paratype, 3.45 mm, UKMMZ-1440, Pulau Tinggi, EJIA. Scale: 0.025 mm.

suture absent. Pereonite 2, 0.49 mm, with long with anterolateral rounded projection anterolateral projection. Pereonite 3, 0.93 and distolateral sculpturing. Pereonite 5, mm, with anterolateral rounded projec- 2.22 mm with distolateral sculpturing. tion. Pereonite 4, 1.56 mm, slender and Pereonite 6 longest, 2.47 mm, slender and

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Fig. 4. *Microtripus tinggiensis*. Male holotype, 8.25 mm, UKMMZ-1439, Pulau Tinggi, EJIA. Scales: ABD (L), ABD (V), P3, P4, P5 = 0.05 mm; P6, P7 = 0.2 mm.

ABD (L)

Fig. 5. *Microtripus tinggiensis*. Female paratype, 3.45 mm, UKMMZ-1440, Pulau Tinggi, EJIA. Scales: A1, A2 = 0.05 mm; G1, G2 = 0.1 mm; whole body = 0.2 mm.

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elongated. Pereonite 7, 0.17 mm. Antenna 1, 0.1 × body length, peduncular article 2 longest, 1.8 × article 1; article 3, 0.9 × article 2; flagellum 3-articulate (Fig. 2, A1). Antenna 2, 0.7 × length of antenna 1; flagellum 0.2 × peduncular length with 2 articles (Fig. 2, A2).

Mouthparts (Fig. 3, all based on male, except lower lip): upper lip wider than deep; bilobed; smooth on each lobe (Fig. 3, UL). Mandibular palp both left and right similar, 3-articulate, article 2 longer than article 1 with 1 long and 1 short distal setae, article 3 longest, pubescent, with 1 slender terminal seta; left incisor with 6 teeth: lacinia mobilis with 4 teeth followed by 3 plates, one in front of the other; molar absent [Fig. 3, MD (L)]; right incisor with 8 teeth; lacinia mobilis plate-like, serrated, followed by 2 plates one in front of the other, decreasing in size, and accessory bundled seta; molar absent [Fig. 3, MD (R)]. Maxilla 1 outer plate with 6 stout apical setal-teeth (4 bifid and 2 normal); palp 2-articulate; article 2 subequal in length with outer plate, $3 \times \text{longer than}$ article 1 with 3 triangular projections distally, armed with 3 apical setae and 3 facial setae (Fig. 3, MX1). Maxilla 2 inner plate with 4 setae; outer plate with 4 apical setae (Fig. 3, MX2). Lower lip (based on female, 3.45 mm, UKMMZ-1440), right and left inner lobes fused; distal margin finely setose (Fig. 3, LL). Maxilliped basal endite (inner plate) apically provided with 2 setae; ischial endite (outer plate) $1.7 \times$ length of inner plate with 1 plumose seta apically and row of setae on inner margin; palp 4-articulate, article 2 longest, setose along entire inner margin with several plumose setae at distal margin, article 3 subequal in length with article 1, setose along entire inner margin and provided with 1 facial seta, no triangular distal projection; dactylus falcate, with row of setules on inner margin and row of fine setae on outer margin (Fig. 3, MXP).

Pereon (Figs. 2, 4). Gnathopod 1 basis almost as long as ischium, merus and

carpus combined: basis and ischium each with 1 seta at posterodistal corner: merus subrectangular, with row of distolateral serrated teeth: carpus very short, subtriangular; propodus longer than wide (length $1.9 \times$ width), palm serrated, begins onesixth along posterior margin, with 1 row of short submarginal setae and several facial setae, proximal projection equipped with 1 robust seta and 1 normal seta; dactylus falcate, inner margin lined with very fine setae (Fig. 2, G1). Gill 2 elongated, $0.35 \times$ pereonite 2, inserted anteroventrally on pereonite 2. Gnathopod 2 begins onequarter along anterior margin of pereonite 2; basis, $0.65 \times$ perconite 2 length, $1.4 \times$ longer than ischium, merus and carpus combined, basis with 1 seta at posterodistal corner; ischium sparsely setose; merus subrectangular with posterodistal setae; carpus compressed, subtriangular; propodus longer than wide (length 2.0 \times width), palm serrated, begins one-fifth along posterior margin, proximal projection with 1 robust seta (grasping spine) and 1 normal seta; dactylus falcate, with several fine setae (Fig. 2, G2). Gill 3 length $0.3 \times \text{pereonite } 3$, oval. Pereopod 3 very small, $0.01 \times$ perconite 3, 1-articulate with 1 distal seta (Fig. 4, P3). Gill 4 length slightly shorter than gill 3, $0.15 \times$ pereonite 4, oval. Pereopod 4 subequal with pereopod 3, $0.01 \times$ pereonite 4, 1-articulate with 1 short and 1 long distal setae (Fig. 4, P4). Pereopod 5 reduced to 3 articles, article 1 subequal with article 2, article 2 propoduslike, with 2 setae, article 3 falcate, dactyllike with 1 plumose seta (Fig. 4, P5). Pereopods 6 and 7 well developed, 6articulate; carpus and propodus slender and elongated. Pereopod 6 length subequal with pereonite 6; merus, carpus, and propodus flanked by setae on inner and outer margins; propodus inner distal margin with 1 large spine followed by 5 small spines; dactylus falcate and slender (Fig. 4, P6). Pereopod 7 longer than pereopod 6 $(1.1 \times \text{longer})$; carpus with setae on outer

margin; propodus with short setae along

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inner and outer margin, outer margin with 1 plumose seta distally; dactylus slender and falcate, nearly as long as propodus $(0.9 \times \text{length of propodus})$ (Fig. 4, P7).

Pleon (Fig. 4). Penes small, positioned laterally. Uropod 1 base with tuft of 8 setae, uniramous, with 1 long seta apically. Uropod 2 ramus vestigial with 1 seta distally. Telson large and smooth, no setae present [Fig. 4, ABD (V)].

Description of female.—Body length, 3.45 mm (Fig. 5). UKMMZ-1440. Head, and pereonite 1, 0.35 mm. Pereonite 2, 0.36 mm. Pereonite 3, 0.30 mm with anterolateral rounded projection. Pereonite 4, 0.55 mm; slender and long. Pereonite 5, 0.90 mm. Pereonite 6 subequal with pereonite 5. 0.91 mm, slender and elongated. Pereonite 7, 0.13 mm. Antenna 1, 0.15 \times body length, peduncular article 2 longest, $1.1 \times$ longer than article 1; article 3 shortest, 0.8 \times article 2; flagellum 2-articulate (Fig. 5, A1). Antenna 2, $0.7 \times$ the length of antenna 1, peduncular article 3 and 4 subequal in length; flagellum $0.2 \times \text{pedun}$ cular length with 2 articles (Fig. 5, A2).

Pereon (Figs. 5, 6). Gnathopod 1 basis longer than ischium, merus and carpus combined; propodus subovate, slightly expanded proximally, longer than wide (length $1.6 \times$ width), palm serrated, begins one-sixth along posterior margin, with row of short submarginal setae and several facial setae, proximal projection with 1 robust seta (grasping spine) and 1 normal seta; dactylus falcate with 1 plumose seta on outer margin (Fig. 5, G1). Gill 2 length $0.28 \times$ perconite 2, oval. Gnathopod 2 basis longer than ischium, merus and carpus combined $(1.3 \times \text{longer})$; propodus longer than wide $(2.0 \times \text{width})$, palm serrated, begins one-fifth along posterior margin, with 1 row of short submarginal setae and several facial setae, proximal projection with 1 robust seta (grasping spine) and 1 normal seta; dactylus falcate with several fine setae, 1 plumose seta on outer margin (Fig. 5, G2). Gill 3 length $0.35 \times$ pereonite 3, oval. Pereopod 3 very small, 1-articulate

with 1 long seta and 1 plumose seta (Fig. 6, P3). Oostegite 3 longer than wide, length $1.7 \times$ width with fine setae along entire outer margin. Gill 4 length $0.15 \times \text{width}$ with fine marginal setae. Pereopod 5, 3articulate, article 1 and article 2 almost of equal length, article 2 with 1 distal seta, article 3 with 1 plumose seta at proximal margin (Fig. 6, P5). Pereopod 6 carpus less setose on inner margin than outer margin; propodus lacking spines on inner distal margin, outer margin with several normal setae and plumose setae; dactylus falcate with 3 small setae on outer margin (Fig. 6, P6). Pereopod 7 basis $0.8 \times$ shorter than basis of pereopod 6; propodus outer margin with several normal and plumose setae; dactylus slender and falcate, $0.7 \times$ length of male dactylus (Fig. 6, P7).

Pleon (Fig. 6). Uropod 1 ramus vestigial, 1 long seta apically. Uropod 2 ramus vestigial with 1 short seta and 1 long seta. Telson large and smooth, setae lacking [Fig. 6, ABD (V)].

Ontogeny.—Flagellum of antenna 1 in males develops from 2 articles to 3 articles as the individual matures (>5.9 mm). Number of articles for female antenna 1 flagellum remains the same (2 articles) for mature individuals (>2.5 mm).

Remarks.—Currently the genus *Perotripus* consists of three species, namely *P. brevis* (La Follette, 1915) from the west coast of North America, *P. keablei* Guerra-García, 2006 from Lizard Island in Queensland, Australia, and *P. koreanus* Lee & Hong, 2010 from Korea. In addition to these species, an undescribed species of *Perotripus* was recorded from the Pacific coasts of central Japan (see Takeuchi & Hirano 1995, Takeuchi 1999, Aoki & Takeda 2006).

Generally, the external morphological characters of *Microtripus tinggiensis* are most similar to *Perotripus keablei* in terms of the elongated body somites, low number of grasping spines on gnathopods 1 and 2, 1-articulate pereopods 3 and 4, 3-articulate pereopod 5 and presence of spines on palmar margin of pereopod 6. However, it

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is easily distinguished from *P. keablei* by its longer and more sculptured body and anterolateral projections, 3-articulate flagellum of antenna 1, maxilla 1 palp article 2 broad and short (slender and long in *P. keablei*), gnathopod 1 merus with row of distolateral serrated teeth, laterally situated small penes and presence of a pair of appendages in the abdomen. The above differences in external morphology were confirmed by observations on type specimens of *P. keablei* deposited at the Australian Museum.

The recent discovery of *Microtripus* by the present study and *Caprellaporema* by Guerra-García (2003) indicates the potential that the Phtisicidae holds in hosting a wide variety of yet to be discovered genera and species.

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