A NEW SPECIES OF *Ventojassa* (CRUSTACEA: AMPHIPODA: COROPHIIDEA: ISCHYROCERIDAE) FROM THE BEAGLE CHANNEL, ARGENTINA

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Ventojassa Barnard, 1970 is composed of six species distributed in Australia, New Zealand, Madagascar, Korea and southern California. Vader and Myers (1996) pointed out that the poorly described and figured *V. georgiana* (Schellenberg, 1931) cited from southern Tierra del Fuego, Magellan Straits, Antarctica and sub-Antarctic islands could not belong with this genus and they provisionally transferred the species to a new genus (*Ruffojassa*). *Ventojassa* is distinguished by accessory flagellum well developed; coxae 1-5 of similar depth; coxa 4 not excavate posteriorly; uropod 3 peduncle lacking setae or with fine setae on its outer margin, outer ramus recurved apically, bearing 1-3 wire setae and telson with two or more subapical cusps. *Ventojassa sp nov.*, collected in the Beagle Channel, northern of Despard Island (54° 52'S 68°10'W) at 8-12 m depth, was associated to holdfasts of *Macrocystis pyrifera*. It is characterized by head with lateral cephalic lobes triangular and apically acute; eyes located far from the apex of ocular lobes; maxilla 1, inner plate naked; gnathopod 1 propodus shorter than carpus; female gnathopod 2 much stronger than 1, carpus subtriangular, very short, propodus subquadrate; male gnathopod 2 stouter than in female, carpus short, saucer-like, propodus very robust, quadrate, with a slight round process at the palmar corner, medially excavated and with a large process subdistally; peraeopod 6 much more longer than 5, and 7 longer than 6; uropod 3, outer ramus with one wire-like seta on outer margin; telson with well developed submarginal cusps. The new species is separated from all *Ventojassa* species by the shape of the acute cephalic lobes, the location of eyes far from ocular lobe apex, and numerous telsonic subapical cusps. If future studies confirm that *V. georgiana* must be assigned to *Ruffojassa*, *Ventojassa sp. nov.* would be the unique species belonging to this genus recorded from South America.

FEEDING PREFERENCE OF THE MANGROVE CRAB *Ucides cordatus* (LINNAEUS, 1763) (CRUSTACEA, OCYPODIDAE)

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The feeding preference of the mangrove crab *Ucides cordatus* to the principal mangrove specie leaves (*Avicennia schaueriana*, *Laguncularia racemosa* and *Rhizophora mangle*) and their maturation stage (mature, senescent after and before maturation) was evaluated by leaf frequency choices and ingested amount. The field experiments were carried out in three areas with different mangrove composition and natural availability of leaf litter. In laboratory, crabs were kept in box recipients and leaves were put inside the recipients every 24 hour (in a total of 72 hours). In the field, there were no preferences to leaf species or maturation stage. A greater amount of leaves were carried to burrows in areas with low natural availability of leaf litter. The experiments in laboratory showed no leaf selection at the first 24h, and after this time, leaves were selected by maturation stage (rejection of senescent and that with high polyphenolics concentration) until the 48h. Afterwards, there was a more frequent selection of *A. schaueriana* and *L. racemosa* leaves (mature and decomposition stages). No interactions between food selection, sex or crab maturity could be found. However, juvenile and females demonstrated a greater frequency of leaf ingestion, which could be related to metabolic differences verified in their life stages. Fellowship FAPESP (02/11580-3).