

On a semi-parasitic Copepod from a Dutch Nudibranch

by

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During the last few years the Dutch species of nudibranchs have been examined for parasitic or semi-parasitic copepods.

Up to now only one species — *Lichomolgus agilis* (Leydig) (fig. 1) — has been found, from the gills of *Aeolidia papillosa* (L.), captured in two different localities. This species is new to the Dutch fauna. It is by no means common in Dutch waters; I examined several hundreds of *Aeolidia*'s and a considerable number of other Dutch nudibranchs, e.g. *Lamellidoris bilamellata*, *Goniodoris castanea*, *Acanthodoris pilosa*, *Tergipes despectus* and *Eubranchus exiguus* without finding a single copepod.

I secured live specimens of *Lichomolgus agilis* in this way: I killed the nudibranchs with the aid of hydrae chloralis. Being in contact with the chemical, the animals produce a great abundance of slime, in which the copepods get entangled and can be collected easily. The anaesthetic is not very noxious to the copepods; I was able to study the specimens, which were still alive in the slime. The animals are opaque white, with some pink spots, ovisacs also white.

An additional locality in which *Lichomolgus agilis* occurs, was discovered recently. When studying a bottom residu of a collecting-bottle with *Aeolidia*, I secured 4 specimens of the copepod.

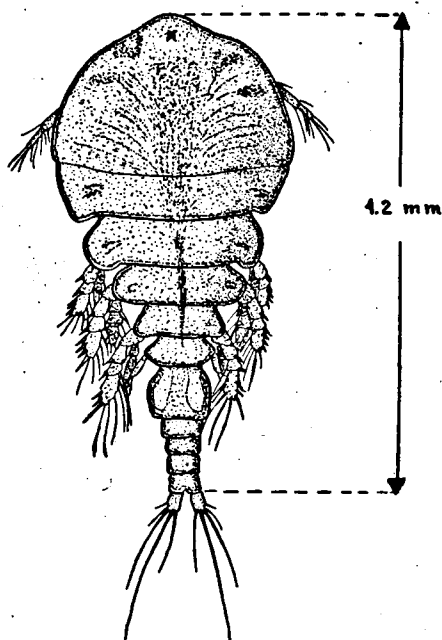


Fig. 1. *Lichomolgus agilis* (Leydig), male.

Data: *Lichomolgus agilis* (Leydig), semi-parasitic on the dorsal papillae of *Aeolidia papillosa* (L.).

Flushing, outer lock (Buitensluis), 2 males and 2 females with ovisacs, depth 4—5 m, Oct. 19, 1951, P. J. H. VAN BREE & J. H. STOCK coll., Zoological Museum, Amsterdam, collection Nr. Co. 100.091. Kattendijke, 2 males and 2 females, one of which ovigerous, from 1 specimen of the nudibranch, low tide, Dec. 31, 1951, B. J. J. R. WALRECHT coll., Zoological Museum Amsterdam, collection Nr. Co. 100.096.