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THE REDESCRIPTION OF NIPHARGUS CARNIOLIOUS SKET
1960 (FAM. NIPHARGIDAE) WITH REMARKS TO ITS NEW
TAXONOMIC POSITION
(CONTRIBUTION TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF
THE AMPHIPODA 195)

ABSTRACT

The taxon *Niphargus tauri carniolicus* Sket 1960, poorly known from the cave »Jama pri gradu Luknja« in Slovenia (Yugoslavia) is redescribed and figured based on paratypes. After the study of its taxonomic characters, this taxon is removed from the species *Niphargus tauri* Schell. 1933 and established as a distinct species, *Niphargus carniolicus* Sket 1960.

ABSTRAKT

Takson *Niphargus tauri carniolicus* Sket 1960, slabo poznat iz pećine »Jama pri gradu Luknja« u Sloveniji (Jugoslavija), ponovo je opisan i nacrtan na osnovu paratipova. Posle studije njegovih taksonomskih karaktera, ovaj takson je izdvojen iz vrste *Niphargus tauri* Schell, 1933, i postavljen kao zasebna vrsta, *Niphargus carniolicus* Sket 1960.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Niphargus* (*Amphipoda Gammaridea*, fam. *Niphargidae*) is presented in Yugoslavia by numerous taxa (over 100), living in the various subterranean waters (caves, wells, springs, etc.).



Among these species, there are numerous taxa very poorly or only partially described, by various authors, so that the taxonomic value and position of these taxa is still uncertain and negligible. By that way, these problems achieve a revision and taxonomy of genus *Niphargus* Schiödte 1849 in Yugoslavia still now only partially successful.

Sket described (1960), among other taxa, the subspecies *Niphargus tauri carniolicus*, n. ssp., from one cave near Novo Mesto in Slovenia (Yugoslavia).

As this description was very scarce and accompanied by only a few figures, the numerous taxonomic characters of this taxon were unknown, and the taxonomic position of ssp. *carniolicus* was uncertain.

Thanks to prof. Dr. Boris Sket from the University of Ljubljana (Yugoslavia), who sent me the paratypic material of ssp. *carniolicus* at disposition for study, we redescribed this taxon in detail, proving its validity, and removing this taxon to the specific rank.

Acknowledgments: I am indebted to prof. Dr. Boris Sket from the University of Ljubljana (Yugoslavia) for the loan of material used in this study.

NIPHARGUS CARNIOLICUS Sket 1960

Figs: 1—6

Syn.: *Niphargus tauri carniolicus* Sket 1960: 75, fig. 7; G. Karaman 1972: 6; G. Karaman 1974: 27; G. Karaman & Ruffo 1986: 532.

Material examined: YUGOSLAVIA: Slovenia: Cave »Jama pri gradu Luknja«, WNW. of Novo Mesto, August 31, 1958, several spec. (leg. B. Sket) (paratypes) (Luknja 320).

Description: Male 7 mm: Body slender, urosomite 1 on each side with one seta, urosomite 2 on each side with one spine and one seta (fig. 1 a).

Head with short rostrum and short subrounded lateral cephalic lobes, eyes absent (fig. 1 b).

Antenna 1 reaching nearly half of body, peduncular segments 1—3 progressively shorter and scarcely setose (fig. 2 a); peduncular segment 3 short; main flagellum consisting of 15 articles, most of them with one short aesthetasc (fig. 2 a); accessory flagellum short, 2-segmented, not exceeding half of peduncular segment 3 (fig. 2 b).

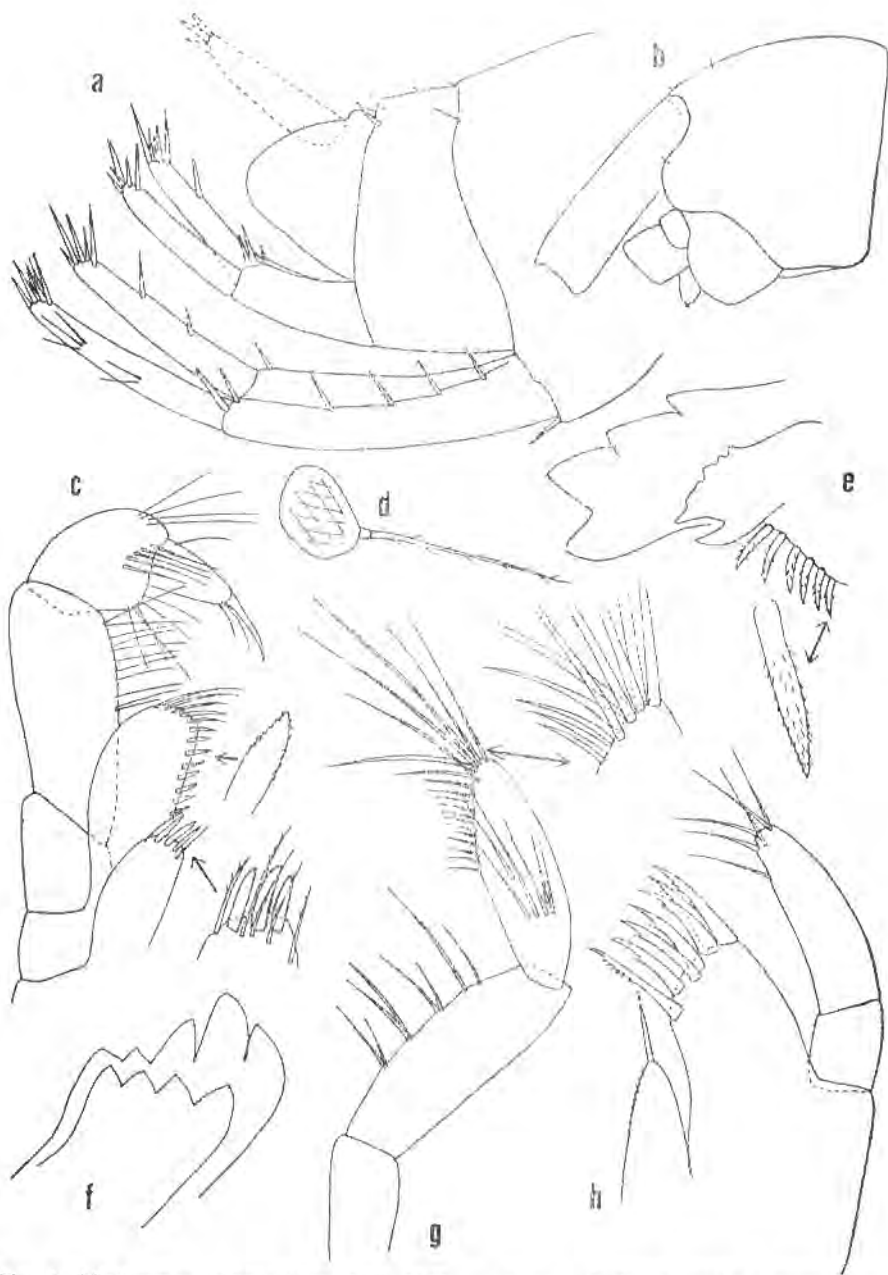


Fig. 1. *Niphargus carniolicus* Sket 1960, cave near Luknja, male 7 mm: a = urosome with uropods 1—2; b = head; c = maxilliped; d = right molar; e = tip of right mandible; f = tip of left mandible; g = mandibular palp; h = maxilla 1.

Antenna 2: peduncular segments 4 — 5 nearly subequal long, bearing several bunches of longer setae each (fig. 2 c), flagellum slender, exceeding the length of last peduncular segment and consisting of 6 articles; antennal gland cone short (fig. 2 a).

Labrum entire, broader than long (fig. 5 f); **labium** with entire outer lobes, inner lobes small (fig. 5 e).

Left mandible: molar triturative, without long distolateral seta, incisor with 5 teeth (fig. 1 f), lacinia mobilis with 4 teeth, accompanied by cca 7 rakers (fig. 1 f).

Right mandible: molar triturative, with long distolateral seta (fig. 1 d), incisor with 4 teeth (fig. 1 e), lacinia mobilis bifurcate, larger part pluritoothed (fig. 1 e). **Palp** of both mandibles 3-segmented, second segment with 8 setae (fig. 1 g), third segment as long as second segment, bearing on outer face one group of A-setae, on inner face 2 single B-setae, along margins with 12 short D-setae and 7 long distal E-setae sitting in two rows (fig. 1 g).

Maxilla 1: inner plate with one seta, outer plate with 7 spines (5 spines with one lateral tooth, one spine with 2 teeth, one spine with 5 — 6 lateral teeth) (fig. 1 h); **palp** 2-segmented, reaching distinctly tip of spines of outer plate and bearing 6 distal setae (fig. 1 h).

Maxilla 2: both plates with distal setae, inner plate with 2 distolateral setae also (fig. 5 b).

Maxilliped: inner plate short, bearing 3 distal spines and single setae (fig. 1 c), outer plate not exceeding half of second palp segment, bearing a row of distolateral lanceolate spines (fig. 1 c), **palp** segment 4 with nail hardly shorter than pedestal and bearing 2 setae near basis of nail along inner margin (fig. 1 c).

Coxae relatively short, coxa 1 broader than long, with subrounded ventroanterior corner (fig. 3 a), coxae 2 and 4 nearly as long as broad (fig. 3 d, 4 c, g), coxa 3 slightly longer than broad (fig. 4 a, g); coxa 5 shorter than coxa 4 (fig. 4 g), coxae 5 — 6 with subrounded both lobes (fig. 2 d, f), coxa 7 entire (fig. 2 h).

Gnathopods 1 — 2 moderately large, gnathopod 2 remarkably larger than gnathopod 1. **Gnathopod 1:** segment 2 with long setae along anterior and posterior margin (fig. 3 a), segments 3 — 4 with posterior group of setae only; segment 5 shorter than 6 (fig. 3 a); segment 6 hardly longer (higher) than broad, with 6 groups of setae along posterior margin and poorly kochianus — type (i. e. with distoposterior corner slightly produced and palm transverse) (fig. 3 a, c); palm convex, defined on outer face by one strong corner spine accompanied laterally by one short toothed spine and 3 facial setae (fig. 3 b, c); on inner face palm is defined by one



Fig. 2. *Niphargus carniolicus* Sket 1960, cave near Luknja, male 7 mm: a = antenna 1; b - accessory flagellum; c = antenna 2; d-e = pereopod 5; f-g = pereopod 6; h-i = pereopod 7.

short subcorner spine (fig. 3 b); dactyl reaching posterior margin of segment 6, bearing on outer margin one median seta, on inner margin 4—5 short setae (fig. 3 c).

Gnathopod 2: segment 2 along posterior margin with setae distinctly longer than these along anterior margin (fig. 3 d); segments 3—4 with one bunch of posterior marginal setae each; segment distinctly shorter than 6 (fig. 3 d); segment 6 hardly longer than broad, poorly kochianus-type, bearing 7 groups of setae along posterior margin and palm transverse, convex, defined on outer face by one strong corner spine accompanied laterally by one short toothed spine and 4 facial setae (fig. 3 e, f); palm is defined on inner face by one short subcorner spine (fig. 3 e); dactyl like that of gnathopod 1 (fig. 3 f).

Pereopods 3—4 similar to each other, slender; dactyl slender, slightly exceeding half of segment 6 (fig. 4 a-d), nail is longer than pedestal; one short seta appears at inner margin of dactyl.

Pereopods 5—7 progressively longer (fig. 2 d, f, h), their segment 2 is narrow, less than twice as long as broad, with several short setae along posterior margin and several long spine — like setae along anterior margin (fig. 2 d, f, h), ventroposterior lobe is not distinctly developed. Dactyl of pereopod 5 nearly reaching half of segment 6 (fig. 2 d, e), that of pereopods 6 and 7 distinctly shorter (fig. 2 f, g, h, i); nail as long as pedestal (pereopod 5) or shorter than pedestal (pereopods 6—7) (fig. 2 e, g, i); along inner margin of dactyls appears one short seta only.

Peduncle of pleopods 1 and 2 smooth, peduncle of pleopod 3 with one mediolateral strong seta (in lateral projection) (fig. 5 d); number of retinacula on pleopods 1—3 is: 2—3—3.

Epimeral plates 1—3 subrounded, with several short posterior marginal setae (fig. 4 e, f), epimeral plates 2 and 3 with 3 submarginal ventral spines each (fig. 4 e, f).

Urosomite 1 near basis of peduncle of uropod 1 with one short spine (fig. 1 a).

Uropod 1: peduncle with row of dorsoexternal spines and 2 distal short spines (fig. 1 a), dorsointernal spines absent, except one distal spine (fig. 1 a); rami subequal long, outer ramus with 2 lateral bunches of short simple setae, inner ramus with 2 single lateral spines (fig. 1 a); both rami with 5—6 distal short spines.

Uropod 2: peduncle with one group of 2 distoexternal spines and one short distoexternal spine (fig. 1 a); rami subequal long, each with 5 distal short spines, inner ramus with one lateral spine also (fig. 1 a).

Uropod 3 long, second segment of outer ramus only slightly shorter than inner one (fig. 5 a).

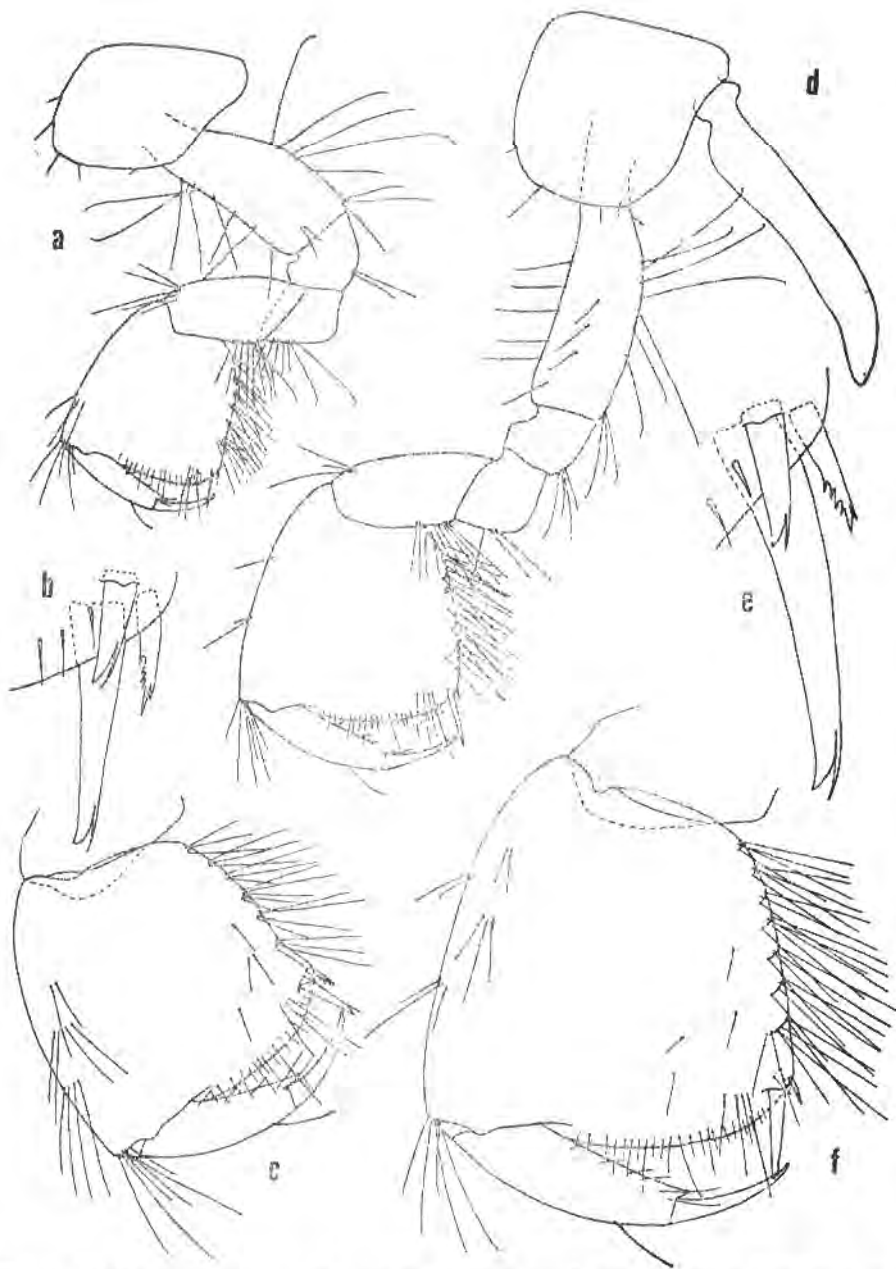


Fig. 3. *Niphargus carniolicus* Sket 1960, cave near Luknja, male 7 mm: a-c = gnathopod 1; d-f = gnathopod 2.

Telson relatively short, longer than broad, deeply incised, each lobe with 6 distal spines and with one outer lateral spine (fig. 5 c); a pair of short plumose setae appears near the middle of each lobe (fig. 5 c).

Coxal gills on gnathopod 2 and pereopod 4 are long (fig. 3 d, 4 c), these on pereopods 3, 5, and 6 are short (fig. 2 d, f; 4 a).

Female 6.5 mm with setose oostegyts: Female is very similar to the males, including coxae 1—7 (fig. 6 f), antennae 1—2, pereopods 3—7 (fig. 5 h), urosome (urosomite 1 with one seta on each side, urosomite 2 with one spine on each side) (fig. 6 a), epimeral plates (fig. 5 i) and uropods 1—2 (fig. 6 a).

Outer ramus of uropod 1 with one lateral bunch of simple setae only (fig. 6 a), inner ramus with one lateral spine. Rami of both uropods of subequal length, peduncle of uropod 2 with one group of 2 distoexternal spines also (fig. 6 a).

Gnathopods 1—2 like these in males, palm of segment 6 in gnathopod 2 is defined on outer face by one long and 2 short corner spines and 4 facial setae (fig. 6 b, c, d, e).

Telson slightly longer than broad, each lobe with 5 distal and one pair of outer lateral spines (fig. 5 g).

Uropod 3 missing. Pleopods 1—3 with elevated number of retinacula (4—4—3 (4)).

Variability: Telson in males and females with 1—2 outer lateral and 5—6 distal spines, rarely with only distal spines (female 5.5 mm, fig. 5 j).

Palm of segment 6 in gnathopods 2 usually with only one strong and short corner spine on outer face in males and females, rarely with 2 short spines (female 6.5 mm, fig. 6 e).

Segment 6 of gnathopod 2 with 3—4 facial setae (fig. 6 d).

Number of retinacula is rather variable, but always at least some of pleopods are with elevated number of retinacula. The female of 5.5 mm was with 2—2—3 retinacula on pleopods 1—3 respectively.

Sket (1960) in his original short description mentioned for ssp. *carniolicus* the length of male of 7.5 mm, flagellum of antenna 2 with 7 articles, palp of maxilla 1 with 7 distal setae, pleopods with 4—5 retinacula each, as well as subequal long first and second segment of outer ramus in uropod 3.

Holotype: male 7.5 mm deposited in University of Ljubljana.

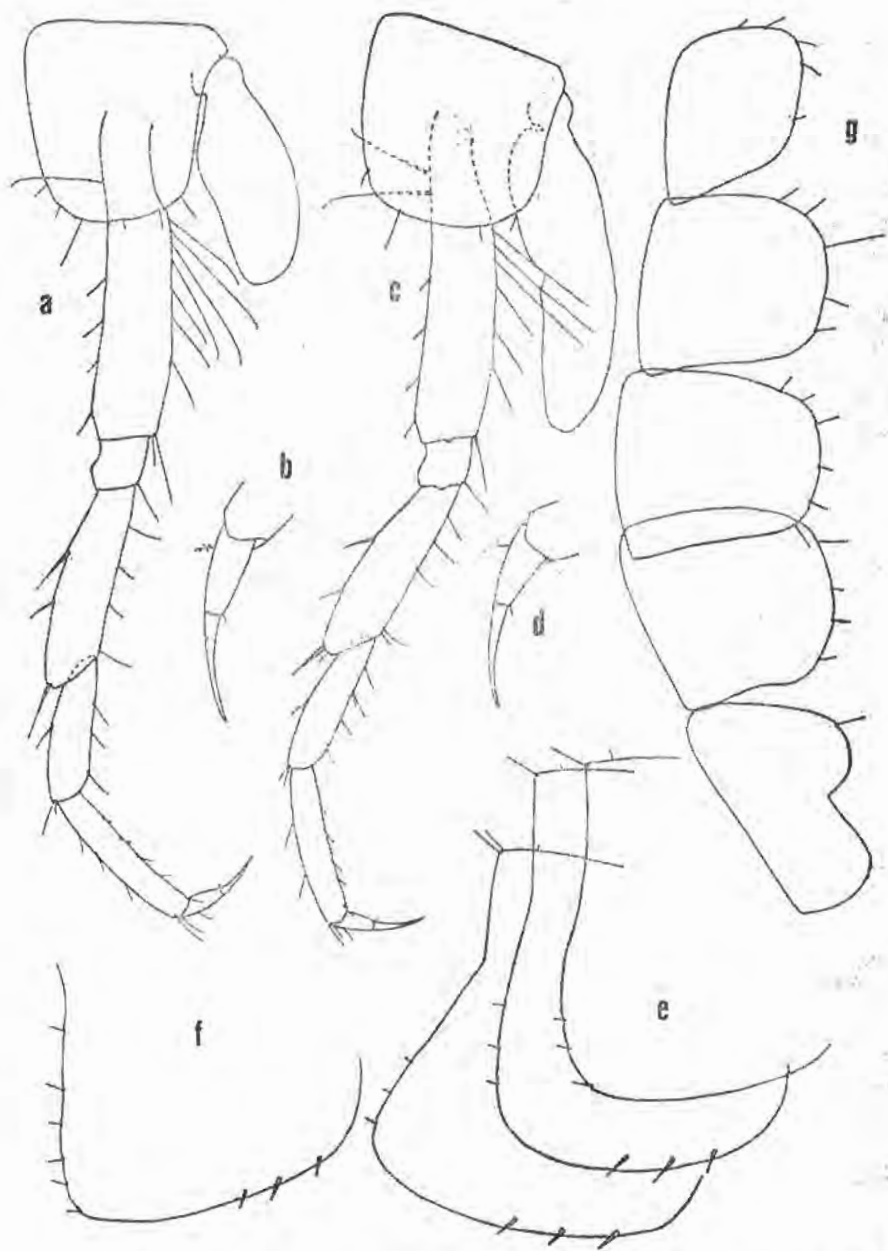


Fig. 4. *Niphargus carniolicus* Sket 1960, cave near Luknja, male 7 mm: a - b = pereopod 3; c - d = pereopod 4; e = right epimeral plates 1-3; f = left epimeral plate 3; g = coxae 1-5.

Distribution: Known only from type-locality.

Remarks and affinities. *Niphargus carniolicus* is rather similar to several species and subspecies, but differs from all of them by numerous characters.

Niphargus tauri tauri Schellenberg 1933, known from Asia Minor (cave in Taurus Mt.) agree with *N. carniolicus* by subrounded epimeral plates 1—3, telson, pereopods 5—7, maxilla 1, urosome and uropods 1—2; but it differs from *N. carniolicus* by non kochianus-type of gnathopods 1—2, stouter and shorter dactyls of pereopods 3—7, higher number of retinacula.

Niphargus tauri jurinaci S. Karaman 1950, known from Croatia (Crni Lug W. of Ogulin) and *N. tauri kragujevensis* (S. Karaman 1950) known from Kragujevac (Serbia) have also one seta on dactyl of gnathopods 1—2, subrounded epimeral plates 1—3, elevated number of retinacula on pleopods 1—3 and long second segment of outer ramus in uropod 3 in males; these taxa differ from *N. carniolicus* by different shape of gnathopods 1—2.

N. tauri medvednicae S. Karaman 1950, known from springs on Sljeme Mt. near Zagreb (Croatia) differs from *N. carniolicus* by angular epimeral plates 1—3, by different shape of gnathopods 1—2, etc.

N. tauri osogovensis S. Karaman 1959, known from Osogovo Mt. in Macedonia (Yugoslavia) has also subrounded epimeral plates 1—3, and almost transverse palm of gnathopods 2 as well as the elevated number of retinacula (4), and subequal rami of uropod 1 in males; but, this taxon differs from *N. carniolicus* by oblique palm of segment 6 in gnathopod 1, broader segment 2 of pereopods 5—7 and by absence of lateral spines on telson.

N. tauri pecarensis S. Karaman & G. Karaman 1959, known from cave Pecara Dupka near Belogradtchik in Bulgaria, has also subrounded epimeral plates 1—3, but this taxon differs from *N. carniolicus* by non kochianus-type of gnathopods 1—2, by broad both rami of uropod 1 in males, by absence of lateral spines on telson, etc.

Niphargus aquilex Schiödte 1855, known from western Europe (England, France, Germany, etc.), very close also to the species *N. tauri* Schell., differs from *N. carniolicus* by uropod 1 in males bearing outer ramus longer than inner one, by oblique palm of segment 6 of gnathopods 1—2, etc. (see G. K a r a m a n 1980 b, 1982).

Schellenberg described (1933) a new species *Niphargus strouhali*, n. sp. from Austria (Eggerloch near Villach, Kärnten) based on female only; this species is provided with subrounded epimeral plates 1—3, pleopods with 3 retinacula each, by nearly

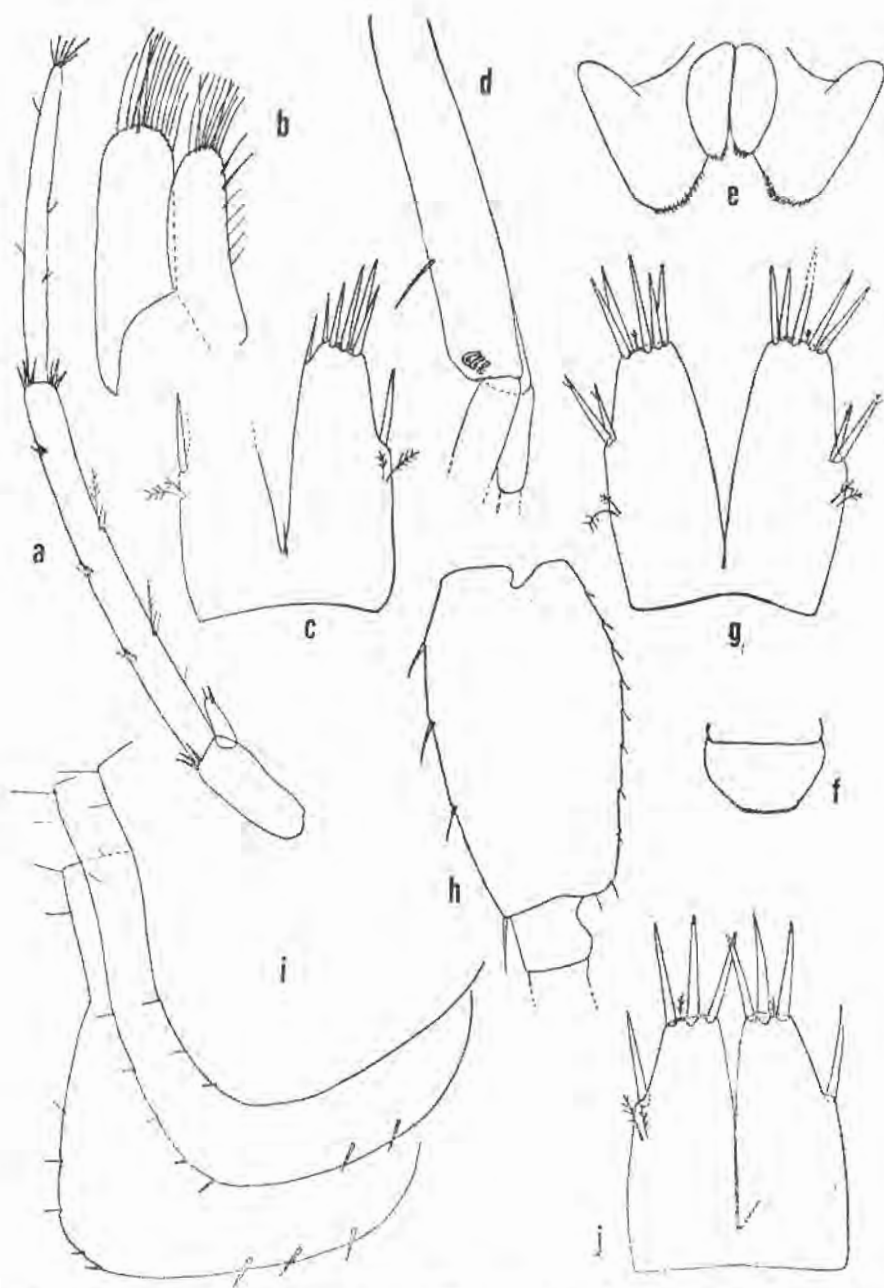


Fig. 5. *Niphargus carniolicus* Sket 1960, cave near Luknja, male 7 mm: a = uropod 3; b = maxilla 2; c = telson; d = peduncle of pleopod 3; e = labium; f = labrum; g = telson, female 6.5 mm; h = pereopod 7, female 6.5 mm; i = epimeral plates 1-3, female 6.5 mm; j = telson, female 5.5 mm.

kochianus-type of gnathopods 1—2, telson with lateral and distal spines. But, this taxon differs from *N. carniolicus* by presence of pluritoothed spines on outer plate of maxilla 1.

G. Karaman & S. Ruffo recently described (1988, in press) a new subspecies *Niphargus strouhali alpinus*, n. ssp. from Tridentine Alps and in the Dolomites over 2000 meters over sea level (Italy); this taxon differs from *N. carniolicus* by presence of several strong lateral teeth on some of spines of outer plate in maxilla 1, narrower segment 6 of gnathopods 1—2, etc.

The taxa *Niphargus galvagnii galvagnii* Ruffo 1953, known from Val Sugana in Italy, and *N. galvagnii similis* G. Karaman & S. Ruffo 1988 (in press), known from Prealps of Venetia (Bus del Sasso Cave, Italy), are very close to *N. carniolicus* by numerous characters (shape of gnathopods 1—2, mouthparts, uropods 1—2, telson, pereopods 3—7), but these taxa differ from *N. carniolicus* by angular epimeral plates 1—3 and by short uropod 3 in males.

Schellenberg described (1934) very briefly a new subspecies *Niphargus foreli gebhardti*, n. ssp. from Hungary (Abaliget cave in Mecsek Mt.), provided with kochianus-type of gnathopods 1—2, telson with lateral and distal spines and with elevated number of retinacula on pleopods. Based on scarce description of this taxon, it differs from *N. carniolicus* by angular epimeral plates 1—3 and by segment 2 of pereopods 5—7 provided with ventro-posterior lobe.

G. Karaman described (1975) a new species *Niphargus ambulator*, n. sp., from subterranean waters of Como region in Italy (cave Rana del Falco, etc.). This species agree with *N. carniolicus* by numerous characters (almost transverse palm of segment 6 in gnathopods 1—2, elevated number of retinacula on pleopods, presence of lateral and distal spines on telson, subequal rami of uropod 1 in males, elongated uropod 3 in males, unlobed segment 2 of pereopod 7).

But, this species differs clearly from *N. carniolicus* by distinctly angular epimeral plates 1—3, by kochianus-type of gnathopods 1—2, etc.

Carausu, Dobreanu, Manolache (1955) mentioned several distinct species as subspecies of *N. foreli* Humb. 1877: *N. foreli transsylvanicus* Schell. 1934, *N. foreli effosus* Dudich 1943, *N. foreli bihorensis* Schellenberg 1940, *N. foreli korosensis* Dudich 1943 and *N. foreli somesensis* Motas, Dobreanu, Manolache 1948. All these taxa differ from *N. carniolicus* by angular epimeral plates 1—3 and by numerous other characters.

The taxa *Niphargus carpathicus romanicus* Dobreanu & Manolache 1942, known from Romania (Fagii — Tirnave), and *N.*

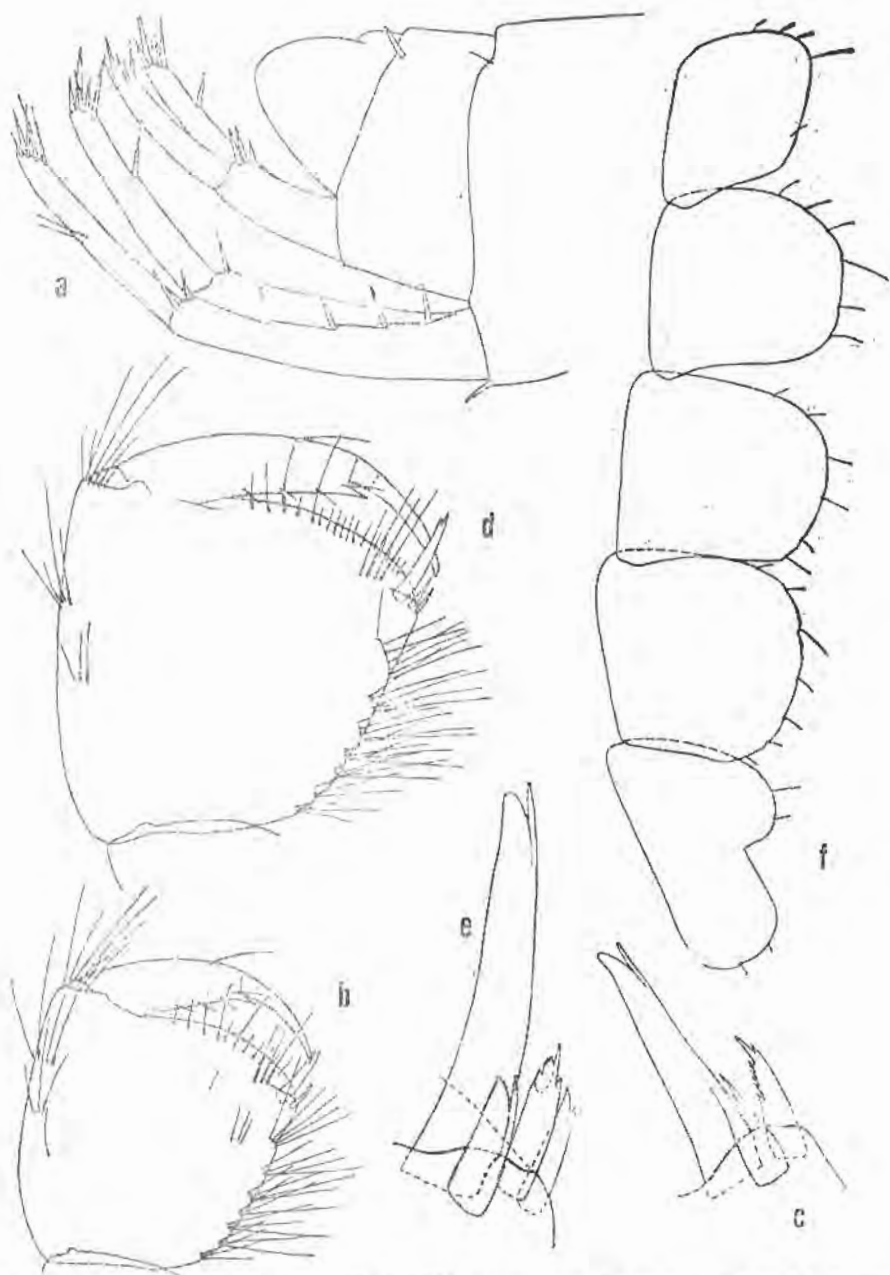


Fig. 6. *Niphargus carniolicus* Sket 1960, cave near Luknja, female 6.5 mm:
 a = urosome with uropods 1-2; b-c = gnathopod 1; d-e = gnathopod 2;
 f = coxae 1-5.

carpathicus variabilis Dobreanu, Manolache, Puscariu 1953, known from several localities in Romania, are provided with segment 6 of gnathopods 1 — 2 like these in *N. carniolicus*, as well as by elevated number of retinacula, lateral and distal spines on telson, similar mouthparts; but, these taxa differ from *N. carniolicus* by angular epimeral plates 1 — 3, and short uropod 3 in males.

All these established differences indicated that *N. carniolicus* is not a subspecies of *N. tauri* Schell, 1933, but a distinct good species.

Ecology: *Niphargus carniolicus* was found in the subterranean waters of the cave, accompanied by *Niphargus stenopus* Sket 1960 and *Niphargus pachytelson* Sket 1960.

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REZIME

OPIS NIPHARGUS CARNIOLICUS SKET 1960
(FAM. NIPHARGIDAE) SA OSVRTOM NA NJEGOV NOVI
TAKSONOMSKI POLOŽAJ
(195. PRILOG POZNAVANJU AMFIPODA)

Rod *Niphargus* Schiödte 1849 (Amphipoda Gammaridea, fam. Niphargidae), zastupljen je na teritoriji Jugoslavije mnogobrojnim taksonima (preko 100, koji naseljavaju različite podzemne vode (pešine, bunari, izvori, itd.).

Među tim vrstama, ima mnogo taksona koji su bili veoma slabo ili nepotpuno opisani, tako da se na osnovu tih opisa nije

mogao tačno odrediti njihov taksonomski status. Među tim taksonima je i vrsta koju smo analizirali u ovom radu.

Sket je opisao (1960) podvrstu *Niphargus tauri carniolicus*, n. ssp. iz pećine »Jama pri gradu Luknja« kod Novog Mesta u Sloveniji. Kako je opis tog taksona bio veoma kratak i praćen sa vrlo malo slika, taksonomski položaj ovog taksona je ostao nejasan. Stoga smo ponovo opisali ovaj takson, i na osnovu analize njegovih taksonomskih karaktera utvrdili da on ne pripada vrsti *Niphargus tauri* Schell. 1933, već predstavlja samostalnu vrstu, *Niphargus carniolicus*, Sket 1960.

Ova vrsta je dosta srodna vrstama *Niphargus strouhali* Schell. 1933 i *Niphargus galvagnii* Ruffo 1953, ali se od njih razlikuje nizom taksonomskih karaktera.