

## GENUS *EUCHIRELLA*

Head usually fused with thorax. Fourth and fifth segments fused in most cases. Last thoracic segments with large round posterior corners. Rostrum rarely absent, not bifurcate. Abdomen quite short and thick, composed of four segments in female, five segments in male, but with very short anal segment. Genital segment and caudal bristles symmetrical in some cases. Antennule 23-jointed. Antennal endopodite corresponding to only  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the exopodite. Maxillar rami short, inner lobe with massive uncinata bristles. Mouth parts atrophied in male. Exopodite of 1<sup>st</sup> pair of legs 2-jointed, with two outer spines on proximal joint ; other exopodites 3-jointed, with two outer spines on proximal joint ; other exopodites 3-jointed. Endopodites of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> pairs of legs 1-jointed; other endopodites 3-jointed. First basipodite of 4<sup>th</sup> pair of legs usually with spinose inner margin, in male usually without spines. Fifth pair of legs biramous in male : left leg simple, linear, with rudimentary endopodite ; right leg with long endopodite, exopodite often with chelate distal joint.

Female often with two egg sacs. Head apex sometimes cristate in both sexes.

Many of the species described here have not yet been found in USSR waters. They are defined here according to Esterly, who has encountered them in California waters. Esterly points out that seven species have previously been found in other regions, mainly the Atlantic Ocean. The specimens from the Pacific Ocean differ in some respects. It may be assumed, therefore, that some species defined as Atlantic are closely related but not identical to the Pacific forms. Unfortunately, several species of this genus were absent from our collection. Thus, we were unable to make a thorough comparison as we did with most species of the other genera.

*Euchirella* comprises tropical and subtropical forms. The genus comprises more than 30 species.