

FAMILY PARACALANIDAE

Small, monolithic family of small copepods, measuring about 1 mm. Cephalothorax oval, slightly elongate. Abdomen of usual length in proportion to cephalothorax, or very short. Prosome fused with thorax; 4th thoracic segment fused with the 5th. Prosome extremity rounded. Terminal thoracic segment with rounded, nonelongate posterior corners. Abdomen of female 4-segmented, sometimes reduced to two segments. Abdomen of male 5-segmented. Symmetry impaired only by structure of 5th pair of legs of male and in one case by unequal length of caudal bristles. Caudal rami bearing 4 apical bristles. Rostrum always present consisting of two thin filaments with rather spaced bases. Antennules 25-jointed, bearing numerous sense organs in male; several joints showing traces of fusion; terminal and penultimate bristles without hairs. Antenna with subequal branches; exopodite with short terminal joint. Mouth parts normal in female, strongly reduced in male. Swimming legs often with spinulose posterior surface. Exopodites of 1st four pair of legs 3-jointed; endopodites 2-jointed in first pair, 3-jointed in remaining pairs. Exopodite with narrow, smooth, nonserrate apical spines. Distal joint of exopodite of 3rd and 4th pairs of legs frequently with serrate margin. Fifth pair of legs strongly reduced and uniramous in both sexes, in female symmetrical, 2- or 4-jointed, rarely absent; fifth pair of male with longer, 5-jointed left leg and with 2- or 4-jointed right leg; this pair is sometimes absent in the male.

The family comprises with 3 genera: *Paracalanus*, *Acrocalanus* and *Calocalanus*.