

## ***Smenispa irregularis* (Bleeker, 1857) (Crustacea: Isopoda: Cymothoidae), a Buccal-attaching Fish Parasite from Australia**

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**ABSTRACT.** *Smenispa irregularis* (Bleeker, 1857) is reported from the host *Acanthopagrus latus* (Sparidae) from Western Australia. The nomenclatural change from *Enispa* Schioedte and Meinert, 1884 to *Smenispa* Özdikem, 2009 is discussed and a full description provided for *Smenispa irregularis*. The species is identified by the strongly vaulted body shape, pereonites 1 and 2 arching anteriorly, cephalon embedded in pereonite 1, lateral margins of pereonites subparallel, and the lateral margins of pleonites subparallel and arching posteriorly.

**KEYWORDS.** Crustacea, Isopoda, Cymothoidae, *Smenispa irregularis*, taxonomy, Western Australia, *Acanthopagrus latus*

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The genus *Smenispa* Özdikem, 2009 (previously known as *Enispa* Schioedte & Meinert, 1884) is one of the smaller and least known of the cymothoid genera with only two species listed in *The World Register for Marine Species* (Bruce, 2013). There have been few records of *Smenispa* since its original description (as *Enispa* Schioedte & Meinert, 1884) and its host preferences and geographical distribution remain little known.

*Smenispa convexa* (Richardson, 1905) was first recorded from Panama from an unknown host (Richardson, 1905). Fifty years later, Menzies *et al.* (1955) thoroughly reviewed the life history and host-parasite relationship of *Smenispa convexa* (as *Livoneca convexa*). The species was reported from Pacific bumper *Chloroscombrus orqueta* Jordan & Gilbert, 1883 from the Gulf of Panama, Gulf of Guayaquil and Gulf of Fonseca (Fig. 1). Brusca (1981) designated

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