

Keynote paper

CLADISTICS OF **THE ANTHESSIUS** DELLA VALLE, 1880: A MAJOR GENUS
OF POECILOSTOME COPEPODS PARASITIC IN MOLLUSCA

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ABSTRACT

The result of a cladistic analysis of the *genus Anthessius* Della Valle, 1880 failed to support Nair's (1988) proposal to create a new genus *Tridacnophilus* to accommodate four species of *Anthessius* living in the mantle cavities of the giant clams (Tridacnidae). Nevertheless, the obtained most parsimonious cladograms (phylogenetic trees) indicate that coevolution occurred between certain species of *Anthessius* and their notaspidean (Gastropoda: Opisthobranchia) hosts.