

{rokbox title=|Zoea I - microscopio electrónico :: Photo credit: Guillem Guerao (IRTA)|  
thumb=|images/stories/ieo/imagenespublicaciones/centro-oceanografico-baleares-polycheles-stage-I-asvin-p-torres-et-al-2014-thumb.jpg|}images/stories/ieo/imagenespublicaciones/centro-oceanografico-baleares-polycheles-stage-I-asvin-p-torres-et-al-2014.jpg{/rokbox}

**Asvin P. Torres**, Ferran Palero, Antonina Dos Santos, Pere Abelló, **Edurne Blanco**, Alexandra Boné, Guillermo Guerao, 2014.

[Larval stages of the deep-sea lobster](#)

[\*Polycheles typhlops\*](#)

[\(Decapoda, Polychelida\) identified by DNA analysis: morphology, systematic, distribution and ecology](#)

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Abstract: A total of 25 specimens of *Eryoneicus* larvae were collected near the Balearic Archipelago (Western Mediterranean Sea) in 2009 and 2010. Detailed morphological examination indicated that the smallest individual corresponded with the first zoea (ZI) stage of *Polycheles typhlops* hatched from a berried female by Guerao and Abelló (J Nat Hist 30(8):1179–1184, 1996). Only two species of deep-sea polychelid lobster, namely

*P. typhlops*

and

*Stereomastis sculpta*

, are known to occur in the Mediterranean. Genetic distance comparisons and phylogenetic analysis of the mitochondrial 16S rDNA and Cox I genes of this early larva together with adults from several

*Polycheles*

and

*Stereomastis*

species allowed us to assign it to

*P. typhlops*

. This is the first wild-caught larval stage of a polychelid lobster being identified using molecular techniques. The remaining specimens were attributed to zoeal stages II–III and decapodid stage based on morphological comparison. The arrangement of spines along the anterior part of the middorsal line (R, 1, 1, 1, 2, C1), characteristic of the former species

*E. puritanii*

, discriminates these larvae from other

*Eryoneicus*

found in the Mediterranean. The clear presence of epipods on the third maxilliped and pereopods of the decapodid stage gives further support to the identification of

*E. puritanii*

as the larval stages of

*P. typhlops*

. Additionally, information on the ecology of these larvae, their abundances during different seasons, as well as their bathymetric distribution is reported.

Keywords: *Eryoneicus*, DNA barcoding, Crustacea, Western Mediterranean, Vertical distribution