

A strikingly coloured new species of *Paragiopagurus* Lemaitre, 1996 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Anomura: Parapaguridae) from French Polynesia

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Abstract

A new deep-water hermit crab species, *Paragiopagurus fasciatus*, is described from the Austral Islands, French Polynesia. This new species has a distinct colour pattern consisting of red stripes on the shield and ambulatory legs, and is also distinguished by having short antennal peduncles, strongly armed carpus of the left cheliped, and in females, laterally armed telson. This new species is the fourth of the genus, and the twelfth of the family, recorded from French Polynesia. The closest morphological affinities of *P. fasciatus* n. sp. are with *P. bougainvillei* (Lemaitre, 1994) and *P. wallisi* (Lemaitre, 1994), two species also known so far exclusively from French Polynesia. A taxonomically updated list of species from French Polynesia is presented.

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, Anomura, Parapaguridae, *Paragiopagurus*, deep-water, hermit crab, French Polynesia, Austral Islands, systematics, new species

Introduction

A new species of Parapaguridae of the genus *Paragiopagurus* Lemaitre, 1996, with distinctly coloured shield, chelipeds, and pereopods, has been discovered while studying deep-water collections from a French expedition to the Austral Islands, the southernmost islands of French Polynesia. While a number of other parapagurids have striped colour patterns on the ambulatory legs, no other member of this family for which coloration is known, has the striking, striped colour pattern seen on the shield of this new species. This new species is the fourth in this genus known from French Polynesia, and the third, along with *P. bougainvillei* (Lemaitre, 1994) and *P. wallisi* (Lemaitre, 1994) to be known so far