

A new species of *Palaemon* (Crustacea, Decapoda, Palaemonidae) from Qatar

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Abstract

A new species of palaemonid shrimp, *Palaemon khori* sp. nov. is described from Qatar. The new species is closely related to *Palaemon debilis* Dana, but can be distinguished from that species by its rostral shape, the near quadrate fifth pleuron, a wider and less elongate telson, longer mesial telson spines, as well as details of the male first and second pleopods. A number of other morphological features are recorded here for the first time in a species of *Palaemon*, notably the marginal setation of the distal half of the telson.

Key words: Crustacea, Palaemonidae, *Palaemon*, new species, Qatar

Introduction

Palaemon debilis Dana, 1852 was briefly described by Dana (1852a) on the basis of specimens from Hawaii, with the Latin diagnosis repeated and translated into English by Dana (1852b). The description is very brief, and mentions few taxonomically useful characters, although it does mention the long and slender rostrum, bifid at the apex, with the two flagella of the inner antenna (dorsolateral flagellum of the antennule?) united for a considerable distance. Subsequently, an illustration of the frontal region was given in Dana (1855). This illustration confuses matters further, as the rostrum (see Plate 38, fig. 6) does not appear noticeably longer than in the closely related *P. concinnus* (see Plate 38, fig. 8), whilst no details of the upper flagellum of the antennule are discernable. Dana (1852b) described a further form as var. *attenuatus*, as having the rostrum much longer, illustrated in Dana (1855, Plate 38, fig. 7). This situation has led to considerable confusion over the years, not helped by the absence of type material, which was either destroyed in the sinking of the Peacock or the great Chicago fire (Dana, 1852b; Manning, 1993). On the basis