



***Parapinnixa bolagnosi*, a new species of pinnotherid crab from Cubagua Island and Los Frailes Archipelago, Venezuela (Crustacea: Brachyura: Pinnotheridae)**

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Abstract

Parapinnixa bolagnosi **new species**, is described from Cubagua Island and Los Frailes Archipelago in the Caribbean Sea off Venezuela based on female specimens. The new species is distinguished from the other nominal species of the genus by having a third maxilliped with a biarticulated palp and by the absence of an exopod. The description of the genus *Parapinnixa* Holmes, 1894, is amended to accommodate these two distinctive characters.

Key words: Crustacea, Brachyura, Pinnotheridae, *Parapinnixa bolagnosi*, new species, Caribbean, Venezuela

Resumen

Sobre la base de especímenes hembras, *Parapinnixa bolagnosi*, nueva especie, es descrita de la Isla Cubagua y el Archipiélago Los Frailes en el Mar Caribe de Venezuela. La nueva especie se distingue de las otras especies nominales de este género por tener un tercer maxilípodo con un palpo biarticulado y la ausencia de su exópodo. El género *Parapinnixa* es enmendado para acomodar estos dos caracteres distintivos.

Palabras clave: Crustacea, Brachyura, Pinnotheridae, *Parapinnixa*, *Parapinnixa bolagnosi*, nueva especie, mar Caribe, Venezuela

Introduction

The genus *Parapinnixa* Holmes, 1894, comprises nine American species: four from the Eastern Pacific (California to Ecuador) and five from the Western Atlantic (North Carolina to Colombia) (Thoma *et al.* 2005). All of these species possess a transversally ovoid carapace, walking legs that decrease in size from first to fourth and a third maxilliped with a palp composed of three articles and an exopod that lacks a flagellum. During a recent bionomic study of Cubagua Is. in the Caribbean Sea off Venezuela, some pinnotherid crabs of the genus *Parapinnixa* were collected in shallow water beneath rocks and on the green alga *Halimeda opuntia* (Linnaeus) Lamouroux. Comparison of these specimens with the presently known nominal species of *Parapinnixa* shows that our material represents a distinctive new species, which can be distinguished by the maxilliped having a biarticulated palp and lacking of exopod.

The type material has been deposited in the Museo Marino de Margarita (MMM), Margarita Island, Venezuela. Abbreviations used are CL, carapace length; CW, carapace width; MXP3, third maxilliped; WL, walking legs. All measurements are in millimeters.