



## Specimens of Galatheidae (Crustacea: Decapoda) collected by N.Pq. “Soloncy Moura” off the Southern Coast of Brazil under the Revizee Program

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### Abstract

The purpose of this work was to analyze the distribution patterns of the species belonging to the family Galatheidae collected under the Revizee Program (Living Resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone) off the Brazilian Southern Coast. The study area extended from the Baía da Guanabara (Rio de Janeiro; 23°43'S) south to Ilha de Santa Catarina (Santa Catarina; 27°22'S). The collections were made during several cruises of N.Pq. “Soloncy Moura” between August 2001 and April 2002 over the shelf and slope (101–604 m). One species of the genus *Agononida*, five species of *Munida*, and one species of *Munidopsis* were collected. The general distribution patterns of the species are discussed.

**Key words:** Crustacea, Decapoda, Galatheidae, *Agononida*, *Munida*, *Munidopsis*, Revizee Program, Brazilian Southern coast

### Introduction

According to Macpherson & Segonzac (2005), the deep-sea galatheid fauna in the Atlantic is very rich, emphasizing the necessity of further studies. One species of the genus *Agononida* Baba & de Saint Laurent, 15 species of the genus *Munida* Leach, and four species of the genus *Munidopsis* Whiteaves were previously recorded from off the Brazilian coast (Melo-Filho 1998, 2006; Tavares & Campinho 1998; Melo 1999; Melo-Filho & Melo 2001b; 2006; Melo-Filho & Coelho-Filho, 2004). *Munida* and *Munidopsis* have a wide geographical and bathymetric distribution. Members of the genus *Munida* are generally confined to the continental shelf and upper part of the continental slope, occurring in the tropical and temperate zones of all oceans (Pequegnat & Pequegnat 1970). The genus *Munidopsis* is distributed worldwide in all deep-sea habitats, commonly found living on the continental slope, usually deeper than 500 m, and on the abyssal plain below 2000 meters (Baba 1988). The genus *Agononida* Baba & de Saint Laurent 1996, includes *A. longipes* (A. Milne-Edwards, 1880), previously reported for the Brazilian coast as *Munida longipes* A. Milne-Edwards (Melo 1999).

Following the recommendation of United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), in 1994, the Brazilian government established the national Revizee Program (Living Resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone). This program had several specific objectives to be accomplished within 10 years. These objectives included the estimation of the distribution, seasonal variation, abundance and potential sustainable yield of fishery stocks; obtaining general information on the structure and dynamics of the marine ecosystem where the living resources inhabit; and the evaluation and monitoring of the potential sustainable yield and prospects for the future exploitation of marine resources and, finally, the definition of new research fields for conservation and monitoring purposes.