



A new shrimp species of the genus *Leptomenaeus* Bruce, 2007 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Pontoniinae) from Vietnam

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Abstract

A new species of pontoniine shrimp, *Leptomenaeus nhatrangensis* sp. nov., is described and illustrated. This new species is the second representative of the genus. It is distinguishable from *L. dolichosternum* (Okuno and Mitsuhashi 2003) by the straight dorsal outline of the carapace and rostrum (1), by the rostrum overreaching the basal antennular peduncle (2), a subacute lower orbital angle (3), serrate cutting edges on the first pereopod chela (4), fingers of the second pereopod chela not markedly longer than palm (5), and the sixth abdominal segment not distinctly longer than postorbital carapace length (6). A single specimen of this new species was found in shallows of the Nhatrang Bay, southeastern Vietnam, on the lower surface of a large boulder.

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, Caridea, Pontoniinae, *Leptomenaeus nhatrangensis*, new species, Vietnam, South China Sea, taxonomy

Introduction

Until now, the pontoniine shrimp genus *Leptomenaeus* has been represented by a single species, *L. dolichosternum* (Okuno & Mitsuhashi 2003), from the Ryukyu Islands, southern Japan. Although some specimens were collected at depths of 25–30 m on sandy bottoms with *Halimeda* algae, most specimens of *L. dolichosternum* were recorded in shallow waters beneath large pieces of coral rubbles; no invertebrates were detected as possible hosts (Okuno & Mitsuhashi 2003). A single specimen of a closely related but undescribed species has been collected recently in similar conditions from southeastern Vietnam. It is here described and illustrated as a new species. A comparison with the previous species has allowed us to make some changes and additions to the generic diagnosis given by Bruce (2006), and a modified diagnosis of the genus *Leptomenaeus* is provided.

A separate genus for *Periclimenes dolichosternum* Okuno and Mitsuhashi 2003 was established by Bruce (2006), first under the name *Leptomenes*, on a basis of a series of unique characters (elongated second and third thoracic segments and non-dentate finely serrate cutting edges of slender, scissor-like fingers of the second pereopod) that separate it from the large and heterogeneous genus *Periclimenes* Costa 1844. Later, since the proposed name was already in use for the hymenopterid insect genus, *Leptomenes* Soika 1939, the genus was renamed as *Leptomenaeus* (Bruce 2007).

Abbreviations used: CL (postorbital carapace length), RL (rostrum length) and TL (total body length) are used as standard lengths; all lengths are given in mm. P₁₋₅, first to fifth pereopods, respectively. CMNH, Coastal Branch of Natural History Museum and Institute, Chiba, Japan.