



Allopontonia alastairi* sp. nov., a second species of the genus *Allopontonia* Bruce, 1972 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Pontoniinae), from the Australian Northwest Shelf

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Introduction

The pontoniine genus *Allopontonia* Bruce, 1972 has so far been represented by only a single species, *A. iaini* Bruce, 1972, a shallow water echinoderm associate (Bruce, 1972). First described from Zanzibar, it is one of the relatively few pontoniine species found in both the Indo-West Pacific and the Eastern Pacific regions (Wicksten 2000; Bruce 1987). The discovery of a second species is therefore of interest and an illustrated description is here provided. The single specimen was collected in the course of a CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research (CMAR) survey of the benthic fauna of the Australian Northwest Shelf region, Western Australia, by the fisheries research vessel *Southern Surveyor* and is held in the collection of the Museum Victoria. I am most grateful to Anna McCallum for the opportunity to study this specimen. Felicity McEnnulty provided the identification of the host echinoid.

Abbreviations used: CL post-orbital carapace length; NMV Museum Victoria, Melbourne.

Systematic account

Palaemonidae Rafinesque, 1815

Pontoniinae Kingsley, 1879

***Allopontonia* Bruce, 1972**

Allopontonia Bruce, 1972: 1–2; 1995: 19–20.

***Allopontonia alastairi* sp. nov.**

(Fig. 1)

Material examined. Holotype male, NMV J59419, North-western Australia, Imperieuse L23 transect, 18°25'31"S, 120°05'55" E to 18°26'12"S, 120°06'30"E, FRV *Southern Surveyor*, SS05/2007 085, 105–103 m, beam trawl, 19 June 2007, leg. M.F. Gomon.

Diagnosis. An *Allopontonia* with the mobile hepatic spine small, ambulatory pereopod dactyli simple, with bilateral distoventral fringe of divergent setae, ventral margin not serrate, propodus with single spine row, spines not distoventrally denticulate.

Description. Generally closely resembling *Allopontonia iaini*, the only other species of the genus.

Rostrum (Fig. 1A) damaged with distal portion missing, dorsal and ventral carinae well developed, dorsal carina with 7 similar small acute teeth, all pre-orbital, ventral border unarmed. Carapace (Fig. 1A) with orbit poorly defined, inferior orbital angle produced, antennal spine well developed, marginal, hepatic spine small,