



## ***Periclimenes nevillei* sp. nov. (Crustacea: Decapoda: Pontoniinae) from Vanuatu**

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### **Abstract**

A new species of pontoniine shrimp, *Periclimenes nevillei*, from Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu, is described and illustrated. The species is an associate of an antipatharian host, *Cirripathes* sp. A member of the *Periclimenes brevicarpalis* species group, to which a key is provided, it most closely resembles *Periclimenes albolineatus* Bruce & Coombes, 1997.

**Key words:** Caridea, Palaemonidae, new species, Antipatharia, commensal

### **Introduction**

The pontoniine shrimp fauna of Vanuatu has been little studied and no such shrimps have so far been reported from its surrounding reefs. Recent photographic studies of the marine fauna of these coral reefs by Mr Neville Coleman, Curator of the Australian Marine Photographic Index, have revealed the presence of a species of *Periclimenes* in association with an antipatharian host, a whip coral, *Cirripathes* sp. No *Periclimenes* species have been reported in association with these, which are well known as hosts for other pontoniine shrimps such as *Dasycaris zanzibarica* Bruce, 1973 and *Pontonides* spp. (Bruce 1973; Marin 2007). Fortunately two specimens were collected, from hosts about 1.0 m apart. These could not be identified with any known species of the re-defined genus *Periclimenes* (Bruce 2007) and are now described as a new species of that genus. The specimens are deposited in the collections of the Queensland Museum, Brisbane.

Abbreviations used: AMPI, Australian Marine Photographic Index; CL, post-orbital carapace length; QM, Queensland Museum, Brisbane; R., rostral dentition, dorsal teeth/ventral teeth.

### **Systematics**

#### **Family Palaemonidae Rafinesque, 1815**

#### **Sub-family Pontoniinae Kingsley, 1879**

#### **Genus *Periclimenes* Costa, 1844**

#### ***Periclimenes nevillei* sp. nov.**

(Figs 1–6)

**Material examined.** Ovigerous ♀ holotype, QM W28767, 1 ♂ paratype, QM W28768, AMPI 1499, Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu, 8 m, coll. N. Coleman, September 2004.

**Diagnosis.** A small *Periclimenes* with rostrum well developed, straight, horizontal, with dorsal carina with 7 teeth, ventral carina with 2. Carapace without supraorbital spines, inferior orbital angle without reflected inner flange. Third abdominal segment not strongly postero-dorsally produced. Median ophthalmic process absent. Cornea well developed, globular. Fingers of first pereopods simple, compressed. Second