



## ***Periclimenes aqabai* sp. nov, a further species of the *aesopius* species group (Caridea: Pontoniinae) from the Red Sea**

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### **Abstract**

A new species of pontoniine shrimp from the Red Sea, *Periclimenes aqabai* sp. nov., is designated. A member of the *aesopius* species group, the species was originally identified as *Periclimenes holthuisi*.

**Keywords:** *Periclimenes aqabai* sp. nov., Crustacea, Decapoda, Pontoniinae, *aesopius* species group, Red Sea

### **Introduction**

The *Periclimenes aesopius* species group has expanded rapidly over recent years and now includes fourteen species. The first species to be described, as an *Anchistia*, was *Periclimenes aesopius* (Bate, 1863), followed subsequently by *P. tosaensis* Kubo, 1951, *P. holthuisi* Bruce, 1969, *P. magnificus* Bruce, 1979, *P. longicarpus* Bruce & Svoboda, 1983, *P. tonga* Bruce, 1989, *P. venustus* Bruce, 1990, *P. tenuirostris* Bruce, 1991, *P. kobayashii* Okuno & Nomura, 2002, *P. sarasvati* Okuno, 2002, *P. adularans* Bruce, 2003, *P. speciosus* Okuno, 2004, *P. grandidens* Bruce, 2005, and *P. amirantei* Bruce, 2007. A key for the identification of the species is provided by Bruce (2005).

The specimens from the Red Sea identified as *P. holthuisi* by Bruce and Svoboda (1983) are now clearly mis-identified as that species, which has not been reported from the Red Sea. The Red Sea species is distinct from all other species of the group is now named and further information on its morphology, colouration and systematic relations is provided. There have been no further records of this species, which is known only from the type material held in the collections of the Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum-Naturalis, Leiden.

Abbreviations used: CL, post-orbital carapace length; RMNH, Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum-Naturalis, Leiden.

### **Systematics**

**Family Palaemonidae Rafinesque, 1815**

**Sub-family Pontoniinae Kingsley, 1878**

**Genus *Periclimenes* Costa, 1844**

***Periclimenes aqabai* sp. nov.**

(Figs 1–4)

*Periclimenes holthuisi* Bruce and Svoboda, 1983: 10–12, fig. 3.