



A new species of *Palaemonella* Dana, 1852, (Crustacea: Decapoda; Pontoniinae) from the Red Sea

A.J. BRUCE

Crustacea Section, Queensland Museum, P.O. Box 3300, South Brisbane, Queensland, 4101 Australia. E-mail: abruce@broad.net.au

Abstract

A new species of the pontoniine shrimp genus *Palaemonella* Dana, 1852, from the Red Sea is described and illustrated. Found from 519–544m; this is the greatest depth from which this genus has so far been reported. It is a species of the Indo-West Pacific *P. dolichodactylus* species complex, to the taxa of which a key is provided.

Key words: *Palaemonella meteorae* sp. nov., Crustacea, Decapoda, Pontoniinae, 500m, Red Sea

Introduction

The pontoniine shrimp *Palaemonella rotumana* (Borradaile, 1898) is one of the commonest and most ubiquitous shallow water Indo-West Pacific pontoniine shrimps, found from the northern Red Sea to the Hawaiian Islands. The genus *Palaemonella* was established by Dana (1852) for *P. tenuipes*, a much less common species, known from the Red Sea to the Line Islands. The Indo-West Pacific species were reviewed by Bruce (2002). Twelve other species of the genus *Palaemonella* are also known from the Indo-West Pacific region, mainly from shallow waters. The most recently described species of the genus are *P. maziwi* Bruce, 2002, from Tanganyika, a shallow water species, and *P. komaii* Li & Bruce, 2006, from Tonga and the Fijian Islands, from depths of over 300m.

Two small specimens of *Palaemonella* from the Red Sea, unfortunately both rather incomplete or damaged, were recently provided for study by Dr Michael Türkay. These were initially identified as *P. komaii* but on more detailed examination, despite their incomplete state, a number of small morphological differences were found indicating that the species were not conspecific. Like *P. komaii*, the Red Sea specimens were also found in deep water and they are now described and illustrated as a new species. Thirteen species of this genus are now known from the Indo-West Pacific region. The only species reported from over 100m depths are *P. rotumana* at 100m (Bruce, 1981), 107m (Bruce, 1981a) and 128m (Bruce, 1979b), *P. dolichodactylus* Bruce, 1991 at 250m (Bruce, 1991b), and *P. komaii* at 350–365m (Li & Bruce, 2006). The present specimens, from over 500m, therefore represent the greatest depth from which the genus *Palaemonella* has so far been reported.

Of the 13 thirteen named Indo-West Pacific species of *Palaemonella* only the two shallow water species. *P. rotumana* and *P. tenuipes* have been previously recorded from the Red Sea.

Abbreviations used: CL, postorbital carapace length; QM, Queensland Museum, Brisbane; SMF, Forschungsinstitut und Natur-Museum Senckenberg, Frankfurt-am-Main.