



Checklist of the Decapods (Crustacea) from the Fernando de Noronha Archipelago, Brazil

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Abstract

This work presents a list of crustacean decapods species collected around Fernando de Noronha Archipelago, between November 1991 and August 1993, and also January 2000. This report lists others species reported in the area from records in the literature as well as those collected during the Almirante Saldanha Expedition. A total of 133 species are recorded belonging to 45 families from the Suborder Dendrobranchiata and the Infraorders Stenopodidea, Caridea, Astacidea, Thalassinidea, Palinura, Anomura and Brachyura of the Suborder Pleocyemata.

Key words: Checklist, Crustacea, Decapods, Fernando de Noronha Archipelago

Introduction

Fernando de Noronha is an isolated volcanic archipelago in the South Equatorial Atlantic; the main island is the visible part of a submerged mountain chain (the “Dorsal Mediana do Atlântico”), situated 03° 51’ S–32° 25’ W, approximately 345 Km from Cabo de São Roque, in Rio Grande do Norte State, and the 545 Km from Recife, in the State of Pernambuco. The Archipelago consists of 21 islands, islets and crags (Almeida 1958).

This archipelago is in the boundaries of the Exclusive Economic Zone (ZEE) of Brazil. According to Amil (1990), its geographic position to the South American continent and its nearness to the Equatorial South Current, allows it to congregate specific niches for a rich marine fauna, by offering adequate conditions for the settlement of diverse groups of animals. With respect to decapod crustaceans one of the first works was published by Pocock (1890), which bears great relevance to the present study.

Prior studies had occurred in the following century by Fausto Filho (1969; 1974), Viana et al. (2003) and Coelho-Filho (2006), among others.

As part of “Atlas da Biodiversidade do Estado de Pernambuco”, Coelho et al. (2002) had published a list of the carcinofauna registered for the region; although the biological relevance of the decapod crustaceans, was still, insufficiently know for this Archipelago. The present study aims to contribute to the knowledge of the diversity of the decapods crustaceans in the Fernando de Noronha Archipelago.