



A new species of *Periclimenes* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Palaemonidae) from Guarapari, Espirito Santo, Brazil

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Abstract

A new species of pontoniine shrimp, *Periclimenes guarapari* sp. nov., is described from Espirito Santo, Brazil. The new species belongs to the *P. iridescens* complex and is closely related to *P. iridescens*, from which it may be distinguished by the armature of the second pereopod and differences in the spination of the third pereopod. The hosts of *P. guarapari* sp. nov. are the plexaurid gorgonians, *Muricea flammea* and *Plexaurella grandiflora*.

Key words: *Periclimenes*, new species, Pontoniinae, Alcyonacea, Brazil, symbiosis

Introduction

Although the caridean shrimp fauna of the Western Atlantic can be considered reasonably well known, compared to many other areas of the world, in recent years several new species have been described, mainly within the palaemonid subfamily Pontoniinae, and in the Alpheidae, raising the total number of Caridea well above the 218 species covered in Chace (1972). As each year new species continue to be found (e.g. De Grave & Anker, in press), as well as species not previously encountered in the area (e.g. Hale & De Grave, 2007), it is clear that we are some way from knowing the total decapod biodiversity in the Western Atlantic, a somewhat surprising notion given the long history of exploration in the area.

Many of the discoveries come from localities which had never been sampled or at that only poorly, such as Panama (De Grave, 2007) and Honduras (De Grave & Anker, in press), although some were from rather well studied islands, like Tobago (Hale & De Grave, 2007), from which many species were recorded by Chace (1972). One such relatively understudied area is Brazil, which by virtue of its extremely long coastline, spanning tropical to temperate climates, contains a multitude of different habitats. Here a new species of *Periclimenes*, associated with shallow water gorgonians is described from Guarapari, Espirito Santo, Brazil. The new species can be placed in the *P. iridescens* complex, a complex currently restricted to the Western Atlantic and comprised of the following species: *P. iridescens* Lebour, 1949; *P. patae* Heard & Spotte, 1991; *P. antipathophilus* Spotte, Heard & Bubucis, 1994; *P. mclellandi* Heard & Spotte, 1994; *P. siankaanensis* Martínez-Mayén & Román-Contreras, 2006, and a further species from Honduras (De Grave & Anker, in press).

Type material of the new species has been deposited in the collections of the Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil (MZUSP), the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, U.K. (OUMNH-ZC) and the Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum (Naturalis), Leiden, the Netherlands (RMNH).