



First record of the genus *Thetispelecaris* Gutu & Iliffe, 1998 (Crustacea: Peracarida: Bochusacea) from a submarine cave in the Pacific Ocean*

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Abstract

A new species of *Thetispelecaris* is described from a submarine cave in Japan as the first record of the genus from the Pacific Ocean. *Thetispelecaris kumejimensis* n. sp. differs from its congeners in the following combination of characters: carapace 1.1 times as long as wide; antennal scale with 3–4 setae; maxilliped dactylus with 4 slender setae; basis of pereopod 1 with 2 long setae ventrodistally; exopod of pereopods 4 and 5 4-segmented; basis and ischium of pereopod 3 separated; basis and ischium of pereopods 4–6 partly fused; and pleopods 4 and 5 with 2 setae apically. This study represents the sixth species of the order Bochusacea.

Key words: new species, *Thetispelecaris*, submarine cave, Kumejima Is., Bochusacea

Introduction

Bochusacea Gutu, 1998, is a small order that includes five species in three genera. The first bochusacean, *Hirsutia bathyalis* Sanders, Hessler & Garner, 1985, was discovered from bathyal depths in the western Atlantic Ocean off Suriname (Sanders *et al.* 1985). Between 1988 and 2002, three additional species were described from anchialine, submarine caves and deep-sea habitats: *Hirsutia sandersetalia* Just & Poore, 1988, from bathyal depths off south-eastern Australia, *Thetispelecaris remex* Gutu & Iliffe, 1998, from anchialine and submarine caves of Bahamas, and *T. yurikago* Ohtsuka, Hanamura & Kase, 2002, from a submarine cave on Grand Cayman Island, the Caribbean Sea. The most recently described species, *Montucaris distincta*, is from the continental slope off Brazil (Jaume *et al.* 2006). Bochusacea was distinguished from the other peracaridan orders mainly by the combination of the following features (Jaume *et al.* 2006): body comprising cephalothorax incorporating only first thoracomere, pereon composed of seven somites, pleon of five somites, and pleotelson comprising sixth pleonite plus telson; eyes and eyestalks lacking; antennule with three-segmented peduncle and two flagella; antenna located on well-defined pedestal, biramous, with two-segmented protopod, four-segmented endopod with terminal segment annulated forming flagellum, and marginally setose exopodal scale on basis; pereopods 1–6 biramous, with plumose, locomotory exopods originating anterolaterally on proximal part of basis; oostegites on female pereopods 2–6, located posteromedially on coxa, fringed with long plumose setae; pleopods vestigial in female; uropods biramous, with undivided protopod and stenopodial, non-foliaceous rami; exopod two-segmented, endopod annulated, apparently five-segmented.