



A new antipatharian-associated species of the genus *Cuapetes* Clark, 1919 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Palaemonidae) and a new record of *C. nilandensis* (Borradaile, 1915) from Japan*

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Abstract

Two antipatharian-associated species of the pontonine shrimp genus *Cuapetes* Clark, *C. lanceolatus* sp. nov. and *C. nilandensis* (Borradaile), are reported from the Ryukyu Islands, Japan. The new species appears closest to *C. akiensis* (Kubo) and *C. calmani* (Tattersall), but differs considerably from the latter two species in the shape of the rostrum and the length of upper antennular flagellum. *Cuapetes nilandensis*, the type species of the genus, is recorded from Japanese waters for the first time.

Key words: Decapoda, Palaemonidae, *Cuapetes*, new species, range extension, antipatharian associate

Introduction

Bruce (2004) established a new genus *Kemponia* for several species previously recognized as members of the “*Periclimenes grandis* (Stimpson, 1860) species group”. Following current nomenclatorial rules, Okuno (2009) resurrected *Cuapetes* Clark, 1919 as the senior synonym of *Kemponia*. At present, 25 species of *Cuapetes* are known worldwide (Okuno 2009).

An unfamiliar species of *Cuapetes* was reported in a field guide of decapod crustaceans from Kume Island, Ryukyu Islands (Kawamoto & Okuno 2003, 2006, 2009). This *Cuapetes* species is associated with an unidentified antipatharian living on the upper wall of large crevices. We herein describe it as new to science under the name of *C. lanceolatus* sp. nov.

During a marine biological survey under the KUMEJIMA 2009 Expedition, several specimens referred to *C. nilandensis* (Borradaile, 1915), the type species of *Cuapetes*, were also captured from Kume Island by trawling. Furthermore, the same species was collected from some diving sites at Okinawa Island by local divers. *Cuapetes nilandensis* is widely distributed in the Indo-West Pacific (Bruce 2004), but the present specimens represent the first occurrence of this species in Japanese waters.

Materials and methods

Illustrations were made with the aid of a drawing tube mounted on a Leica MZ12 stereomicroscope. Postorbital carapace length is abbreviated as CL in the text. The specimens examined in this study are deposited in the Coastal Branch of Natural History Museum and Institute, Chiba (CMNH), National Taiwan Ocean University, Keelung (NTOU), and the Ryukyu University Museum, Fujukan (RUMF).