



Article

***Apocuma* (Cumacea: Bodotriidae): two new species from the West-Atlantic and a significant extension of the known distribution of this genus in the Atlantic Ocean**

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Abstract

Two new species of the genus *Apocuma* are described and illustrated: *A. gerkenae* **n. sp.** and *Apocuma iorgui* **n. sp.** Both species were found off the coast of Brazil, but *A. gerkenae* was also recorded off the coasts of Georgia and Florida (both on the Atlantic Ocean and in the Gulf of Mexico). Additionally, specimens of *A. brasiliense* collected off the coast of Rio de Janeiro were examined. These three species differ mainly by (1) the presence / absence of a rudimentary exopod on the third pereopod of the female, (2) the sculpture of the carapace, and (3) the uropod setation. The distribution of this genus in the Atlantic Ocean is substantially extended based mainly on an unpublished database compiled by the late Norman S. Jones.

Key words: *Apocuma*, new species, taxonomy, distribution, Atlantic Ocean

Introduction

The genus *Apocuma* was erected by Jones (1973) to include a single species, *A. brasiliense*, collected off the coast of Recife, Brazil at 587–805 m. Since then, four other species have been added to this genus, viz., *A. australiense* (Hale, 1949), *A. mauritaniense* Ledoyer, 1997, *A. poorei* Petrescu, 2004 and *A. pacificum* Corbera, 2008. Furthermore, Jones (1990) reported *Apocuma* sp. n. DJ, an unidentified species from the Strait of Gibraltar that Ledoyer (1997) suggested could be conspecific with *A. mauritaniense*.

More recently, Heard *et al.* (2007) have reported a species from the waters of Florida that was provisionally designated as *Apocuma* sp. A. This species, which is now named *A. gerkenae* **n. sp.**, is herein fully described and reported from off the coasts of Florida and Georgia in the USA, and from off the coasts of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Paraná in Brazil. Besides, *A. iorgui* **n. sp.** is described and illustrated based on specimens collected off the coast of Rio de Janeiro, and *A. brasiliense* is first recorded from this area as well.

The distribution of this genus in the Atlantic Ocean is substantially extended based on an unpublished database prepared by the late Norman S. Jones. In particular, *Apocuma brasiliense*, previously reported by Jones (1973) from Recife at 587–805 m, is also recorded in this database from Surinam at 523–2076 m and Argentina at 1676 m. Additionally, *Apocuma* sp. n. DJ originally recorded from Gibraltar at 1870–2035 m by Jones (1990) is also listed in this database from the British Isles and the Bay of Biscay at 1271–1993 m, and the Canary Islands at 1934 m. Finally, specimens from the Gulf of Mexico collected at a depth of 1032–1232 m, which were identified by Norman S. Jones as *Apocuma* sp. and are deposited in the USNM, are also reported herein.