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A re-description of rare alpheid shrimp *Amphibetaeus jousseaumei* (Coutière, 1896) and description of a new species of the genus *Athanopsis* Coutière, 1897 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Alpheidae) from Iranian coast of the Persian Gulf

IVAN MARIN¹⁾, RAHELEH SHEIBANI²⁾ & ALIREZA SARI³⁾

¹⁾ A. N. Severtzov Institute of Ecology and Evolution of RAS, Moscow, Russia

Email: coralliodecapoda@mail.ru, vanomarin@yahoo.com

²⁾ Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH (AIT), Konrad-Lorenz-Strasse 24, 3430 Tulln, Austria

Email: raheleh.sheibani@ugent.be, rahel14350@yahoo.com

³⁾ School of Biology and Centre of Excellence in Phylogeny of Living Organisms, College of Science, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran

Email: sari@ut.ac.ir

Corresponding author—coralliodecapoda@mail.ru—Ivan Marin

Abstract

A new record of rare alpheid shrimp *Amphibetaeus jousseaumei* (Coutière, 1896) (Decapoda: Caridea: Alpheidae) is presented based on material collected from Qeshm Island, Iran, the Persian Gulf. This is the first record of the species for the Iranian waters as well as the second record and re-description of *A. jousseaumei* from its original description given by Coutière (1896). Besides, a new alpheid shrimp species *Athanopsis tarahomii* sp. nov. is described from the same locality. The new species can be clearly separated from all remaining species of the genus *Athanopsis* by deep rostrum curved downward and the presence of well marked blunt extra-cornea tooth on carapace.

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, Alpheidae, Amphibetaeus, Athanopsis, new records, new species, Persian Gulf, Iran

INTRODUCTION

The invertebrate fauna of the Northwest Indian Ocean including the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman are purely studied and crustaceans are not the exception in this regard. Several new species of caridean shrimp were recently described from Iranian waters (Marin, 2009; Anker et al, 2010). During the course of study on caridean shrimps of the Iranian intertidal zone (Sheibani, 2008) at Qeshm Island, the largest Iranian Island of the Persian Gulf located at the entrance of the Persian Gulf at the Hormoz Strait (26° 51' N, 56° 08' E), at January 2008, representatives of two rare genera of the family Alpheidae were found. Below, the first re-description of *Amphibetaeus jousseaumei* (Coutière, 1896), since its original description (Coutière, 1896) based on freshly collected material is given. Three Coutière's syntypes from Djibouti and southern Yemen, Gulf of Aden were deposited in the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHN). Presently, only the major cheliped of one of these specimens is designated as the lectotype of *A. jousseaumei* in MNHN (MNHN-Na 13677). The other record belongs to undescribed species of the relatively rare alpheid genus *Athanopsis* Coutière, 1897, which is described here in as a new species.

All shrimps were caught by small hand net at subtidal zone under rocks and coral boulders and were immediately preserved in 70% solution of ethanol. Carapace length (cl., in mm), the length from the tip of rostrum to the posterior margin of the carapace, and total length (tl., in mm), the length from the tip of rostrum to the distal margin of the telson, are used as the standard measurement of size. The material of *Amphibetaeus jousseaumei* and *Athanopsis tarahomii* sp. nov. is deposited at Senckenberg Museum (SMF), Frankfurt am Main, Germany and Zoological Museum, University of Tehran (ZUTC), Tehran, Iran.

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