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## ***Nippontonia ashmoreiensis* sp. nov., (Crustacea: Decapoda; Pontoniinae) from Ashmore Reef, Western Australia**

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### **Abstract**

An undescribed species of pontoniine shrimp of the genus *Nippontonia* Bruce & Bauer, *N. ashmoreiensis* sp. nov., collected from a sponge from Ashmore Reef, Western Australia, is described and illustrated.

**Key words:** *Nippontonia ashmoreiensis*, sp. nov., (Crustacea: Decapoda; Pontoniinae) from Ashmore Reef, Western Australia, from sponge host

### **Introduction**

In the Indo-West Pacific region about 14 genera of pontoniine shrimps are known (or thought to be) associates of poriferan hosts. One of the lesser known genera, *Nippontonia* Bruce & Bauer, 1997, has had two species recently described. *Nippontonia minirostris* Bruce & Bauer, 1997, was described based on material from the Ryukyu Islands and from Taiwan by Fransen (2013), who also reported *N. christellae* from Sabah, Malaysia. None have been reported from Australian waters. The discovery of this new species in the course of the Western Australian Museum Kimberley 2013 Expedition to Ashmore Reef, northwest Australia, funded by Woodside Energy, adds to our knowledge of this little known genus and its distribution. The several shrimp specimens were collected simultaneously and not immediately segregated, resulting in the unfortunate loss of many appendages. The specimens were obtained from a to a sponge which was not preserved.

Abbreviations used. CL, postorbital carapace length; WAM, Western Australian Museum, Perth.

### **Systematics**

#### **Palaemonidae Rafinesque, 1815**

#### **Pontoniinae Kingsley, 1879**

#### **Genus *Nippontonia* Bruce & Bauer, 1997**

#### ***Nippontonia ashmoreiensis* sp. nov.**

(Figs 1–5)

**Material examined.** 1 ♂, holotype, Ashmore Reef, Western Australia, north side, lagoon middle entrance, 12° 11' 40.128"S 123° 3' 0.54"E, 7 m, 1 October 2013, coll. M. Ekins, WAM C54941. 3 ♀ (1 ovig.), paratypes, *idem*, WAM W54940.

**Description.** Medium-sized shrimp, male with slender subcylindrical anterior body shape, females with body swollen.

Holotype male with carapace (Fig. 1A) smooth, lacking one first pereopod, minor second pereopod and with one detached ambulatory pereopod only.

*Rostrum* (Fig. 4A) obsolescent, compressed, acute, with small acute dorsal tooth, intervening space to tip with five minute denticles, three simple setae, lateral carina undeveloped. Carapace (Fig. 1A) about twice as long as

## References

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