



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4000.4.8>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:1391F594-6751-477F-B94F-E2DA9C0B3DD5>

The rare mantis shrimp *Areosquilla indica* (Hansen, 1976) (Crustacea, Stomatopoda) from the Great Barrier Reef: first Australian records of the genus and species

SHANE T. AHYONG¹ & THEODORE J. WASSENBERG²

¹*Australian Museum, 6 College St., Sydney, NSW 2010, Australia, and School of Biological, Earth & Environmental Sciences, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. e-mail: shane.ahyong@austmus.gov.au*

²*10 Joseph Place, Ormiston, QLD 4160, Australia. e-mail: twassenberg@optusnet.com.au*

Abstract

The rare mantis shrimp genus *Areosquilla* is recorded from Australia for the first time based on nine specimens of *A. indica* (Hansen, 1926) collected from the Great Barrier Reef. Morphological variation beyond that observed in previous accounts is reported. The present record and other recent discoveries bring the Australian stomatopod fauna to 152 species and 68 genera.

Keywords: Great Barrier Reef, Australia, Queensland, Squillidae

Introduction

The rare mantis shrimp genus *Areosquilla* Manning, 1976, currently comprises three species, all from the Indo-West Pacific (Manning 1976). *Areosquilla* belongs to the *Oratosquilla*-group of genera within Squillidae Latreille, 1802, sharing fixed apices of the submedian telson teeth and bilobed lateral processes of thoracic somites 5–7, and is most closely related to *Quollastria* Ah Yong, 2001 (Ahyong 2005). Known species of *Areosquilla* are small (total length < 50 mm) relative to members of *Quollastria* (total length usually exceeding 100 mm), and are rarely encountered. Indeed, the type species of *Areosquilla*, *A. indica* (Hansen 1926), is recorded from a total of only seven specimens (Hansen 1926; Chopra 1934, 1939; Moosa 1991; Nguyen & Pham 1995; Ahyong & Moosa 2004).

Benthic sampling conducted by the CSIRO on the inter-reefal zones during the *Great Barrier Reef Seabed Biodiversity Survey* in 2003–2005 collected a small series of *Areosquilla indica* (Hansen, 1926), representing the first records of not only the species, but also of the genus from Australia. These specimens, reported herein, are deposited in the collections of the Queensland Museum, Brisbane (QM). Morphological terminology and size descriptors follow Ahyong (2001, 2012a). Total length (TL), in millimetres (mm), is measured from the tip of the rostral plate to the apices of the submedian teeth of the telson. Carapace length (CL) is measured along the dorsal midline and excludes the rostral plate. The corneal index (CI) is given as $100 \times \text{cornea width/CL}$.

Systematics

Squillidae Latreille, 1802

Areosquilla Manning, 1976