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Additions to thalassinidean fauna (Crustacea: Decapoda) off Mauritania (NW Africa) with the description of a new genus and a new species

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Abstract

The Mauritanian surveys along the Mauritanian coast revealed the small collection of thalassinideans examined in this work. A total of four species were identified, of which *Ezaxius ferachevali* n. gen., n. sp. is described and figured here. *Calocaris macandreae* Bell, 1853 is the most abundant species, while the presence of *Calocarides coronatus* (Trybom, 1904) is confirmed on the West African coast. *Trypaea oblonga* n. comb. is proposed for *Callianassa oblonga* Le Loeuff & Intès, 1974 and it has been recaptured for the first time since its original description, with the addition of a female specimen. We also include remarks on the current status of thalassinidean systematics.

Key words: Thalassinideans, *Calocaris*, *Calocarides*, *Trypaea*, *Ezaxius ferachevali* new genus, new species, Mauritanian waters

Introduction

Thalassinideans, known as mud lobsters and mud and ghost shrimps, are mostly reported from bottom sediments shallower than 200-m depth, but also in the deep sea (Dworschak *et al.* 2012). Thalassinideans comprise about 600 species (Dworschak 2005, Sakai 2011) and their highest species diversity is found in the Indo-West Pacific and in regions of the Southwest Atlantic (Dworschak 2005).

Recently, Sakai *et al.* (2015) compiled and updated all known findings on thalassinideans from Mauritanian waters, and also described a new genus and five new species amongst the samples collected south of Banc d'Arguin to Cape Timiris, during the MSM 16/3 PHAETON cruise onboard R/V Maria S. Merian, raising the number of known species in this area to 14.

Present work further contributes to knowledge of the thalassinidean fauna off Mauritania with the study of a small collection obtained onboard R/V Vizconde de Eza during the series of Mauritanian surveys carried out along the entire Mauritanian coast from Cape Blanc to the Senegalese border. The reporting of the species *Calocarides coronatus* and *Trypaea oblonga* n. comb., and the description of *Ezaxius ferachevali* n. gen. n. sp., bring the number of thalassinidean species now known from Mauritanian waters up to 17.

Material and methods

During the Mauritanian surveys carried out annually onboard the Spanish R/V Vizconde de Eza in November and December from 2007 to 2010, thalassinidean fauna was captured at 12 stations (see Fig. 1). Of these 12 stations, 10 were sampled by means of a rock dredge and two with a commercial bottom trawl (Lofoten type). Sampled depths ranged from 322 to 637 m.

Onboard, all specimens were carefully sorted from the total catch, photographed, counted, weighed and preserved in 70% ethanol for further studies in the laboratory.