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The occurrence of *Pandalopsis spinosior* Hanamura, Kohno & Sakaji, 2000 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Caridea: Pandalidae) in Hokkaido, northern Japan, and reassessment of its diagnostic characters

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Abstract

Pandalopsis spinosior Hanamura, Kohno & Sakaji, 2000 (Decapoda: Caridea: Pandalidae) was originally described on the basis of material collected in the Urup Strait, South Kurile Islands, but there have been no subsequent records of the species since the original description. The Marine Science Museum, Fukushima Prefecture (Aquamarine Fukushima) has carried out investigations on deep-water animals in the Nemuro Strait, off Shiretoko Peninsula, Hokkaido, Japan, amongst the collections a large, commercially important pandalid shrimp routinely identified with *P. coccinata* Urita, 1941. Examination of the specimens from the collections, however, resulted in an unexpected identification with *P. spinosior*, instead of *P. coccinata*. In this short article, diagnostic characters of *P. spinosior* are reassessed, and comparison with *P. coccinata* is made. The validity of *P. zarenkovi* Ivanov & Sokolov, 2001, for which possible synonymy with *P. spinosior* was suggested, is maintained for the time being.

Key words: *Pandalopsis coccinata*, *Pandalopsis zarenkovi*, Nemuro Strait, Sea of Okhotsk

Introduction

The deep-water pandalid shrimp *Pandalopsis spinosior* Hanamura, Kohno & Sakaji, 2000 was originally described on the basis of 10 specimens from the South Kurile Islands (Hanamura *et al.* 2000). In the original description, comparison of *P. spinosior* was made only with *P. miyakei* Hayashi, 1986. Since the original description, there have been no additional records of the species. Hayashi (2007) suggested that *P. spinosior* and *P. zarenkovi* Ivanov & Sokolov, 2001, described from the western part of the Bering Sea, might be conspecific, because of the proximity of the collecting localities and the substantial morphological similarities. Indeed, Ivanov & Sokolov (2001) did not compare *P. zarenkovi* with *P. spinosior*.

Since 2004, the Marine Science Museum, Fukushima Prefecture (Aquamarine Fukushima) has made investigations on deep-water animals for permanent exhibition and reproductive studies in waters off Rausu, Shiretoko Peninsula, Hokkaido, using commercial shrimp traps. Amongst these animals was a large pandalid shrimp which was routinely identified with *Pandalopsis coccinata* Urita, 1941, a species known from the Sea of Okhotsk and the Pacific side of Hokkaido to the middle of Honshu (Chiba Prefecture), Japan (Komai 1994; Hayashi 2008; Komai & Komatsu 2009). This shrimp is a luxury sea food (vernacular name “Budou-ebi”, meaning red-grape-coloured shrimp), and it is ordered by mail from the Fisheries Cooperative Association of Rausu to consumers between July to September. However, examination of specimens resulted in an unexpected identification with *P. spinosior*, instead of *P. coccinata*. In this article, we reassess the diagnostic characters of *P. spinosior* in comparison with *P. coccinata*, with a supplemental description of the former species. Indeed, these two species are very similar in general morphology and living colouration, but characters derived from the third pereopod are useful in differentiating the two species. Comparison with the original description of *P. zarenkovi*