

**A review of the genus *Apocepon* Nierstrasz & Brender à Brandis
(Isopoda: Epicaridea: Bopyridae) parasitic on purse crabs
(Decapoda: Brachyura: Leucosiidae) from Chinese waters,
with description of a new species**

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Abstract

Description of a new species *Apocepon leucosiae* **sp. nov.** of genus *Apocepon* Nierstrasz & Brender à Brandis, 1930 from Chinese waters, a redescription of *Apocepon pulcher* Nierstrasz & Brender à Brandis, 1930 from the type locality and the second record of *Apocepon digitatum* Stock, 1959 are presented. All hosts are in the brachyuran family Leucosiidae. Four purse crab species, i.e. *Philyra carinata* Bell, *Philyra heterograna* Ortmann, *Leucosia sinica* Shen et Chen and *Leucosia anatum* (Herbst), are recorded for the first time as hosts of parasitic isopods of this genus. A brief differential diagnosis, data on the distribution and a key to the three species in the genus *Apocepon* are provided.

Key words: Chinese waters, Isopoda, Epicaridea, Bopyridae, *Apocepon*, new species

Introduction

The genus *Apocepon* Nierstrasz & Brender à Brandis, 1930, was erected for the single species *Apocepon pulcher* Nierstrasz & Brender à Brandis, 1930, found infesting *Philyra pisum* de Haan (Leucosiidae) from Tsingtau (currently written Qingdao), China. Examination of leucosiid crabs collected in shallow water mainly from Cangkou, Qingdao, revealed parasites of the genus *Apocepon*. Most of them were *Apocepon pulcher* Nierstrasz & Brender à Brandis, 1930, and this is its second record from Qingdao. In addition, *Apocepon digitatum* Stock, 1959 was found in six host specimens of *Leucosia sinica* Shen et Chen, a new record from Chinese waters. *Apocepon digitatum* was previously recorded from Siglap, Singapore, infesting *Leucosia craniolaris* (Herbst). A