



Redescription of *Pylocheles (Bathycheles) cubensis* Ortiz & Gómez, 1986, the senior synonym of *Pylocheles (B.) chacei* Forest, 1987 (Decapoda, Anomura, Paguroidea, Pylochelidae)

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Abstract

A reexamination of the holotypes of *Pylocheles cubensis* Ortiz & Gómez, 1986 and *Pylocheles (Bathycheles) chacei* Forest, 1987 has shown that these two deep-water taxa are identical. *Pylocheles cubensis* is the senior synonym and is assigned to the subgenus *Bathycheles* Forest, 1987, replacing *P. (B.) chacei* as the single Western Atlantic representative of the subgenus. *Pylocheles (Bathycheles) cubensis* is redescribed and illustrated.

Key words: Anomura, Paguroidea, Pylochelidae, *Pylocheles*, *Bathycheles*, *P. (B.) cubensis*, *P. (B.) chacei*, deep-water, Western Atlantic

Introduction

In the little known Cuban journal *Revista de Investigaciones Marinas*, Ortiz & Gómez (1986) described a new species of the paguroid genus *Pylocheles* A. Milne-Edwards, 1880, collected during the Joint Soviet-Bulgarian-Cuban Expedition in deep waters off the southern coast of Cuba. To the four species of the genus known at the time, *Pylocheles miersi* Alcock & Anderson, 1899 and *P. rigidus* Yokoya, 1933 from the Indo-Pacific, and *P. agassizii* A. Milne-Edwards, 1880 and *P. partitus* Benedict, 1901 from the western Atlantic, Ortiz & Gómez (1986) added *P. cubensis* Ortiz & Gómez, 1986, and presented a key to the species of the genus. The description of *P. cubensis* may have gone unnoticed by the majority of the scientific community, not only because of the limited circulation of the journal, but also because the genus was inadvertently and incorrectly assigned to the superfamily Galattheoidea.

The following year, Forest's (1987) monographic revision of the family Pylochelidae was published, in which he divided the genus *Pylocheles* into three subgenera, *Pylocheles* A. Milne-Edwards, 1880, *Xylocheles* Forest, 1987, and *Bathycheles* Forest, 1987. Additionally, Forest placed *P. rigidus* in synonymy with *P. (P.) mortenseni* Boas, 1926 and *P. partitus* in synonymy with *P. (P.) agassizii*. To the subgenus *Bathycheles*, Forest (1987) assigned *Cheiroplatea macgilchristi* Alcock, 1905 and described five new species, four from the Indo-Pacific and *P. (B.) chacei* Forest, 1987 from the Western Atlantic. The latter species, based on a single damaged female, exhibited two characters that set it apart from all other members of the subgenus, i.e., the quadrate notch in the posterior margin of the sixth pleonal tergite and the presence of two membranous circular patches on the dorsal surface of the anterior lobe of the telson. Although Ortiz & Gómez (1986) made no men-