



Description of three new species of *Ampelisca* (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Ampeliscidae) from Southwestern Atlantic, with a key of the genus for Brazilian species

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Abstract

Ampelisca species are inhabitant of soft bottom marine benthic communities of tropical to cold – temperate zones. Prior to this paper, 11 species of the genus were recognized from Brazilian coast. Three new species of *Ampelisca* are herein described: *Ampelisca longipropoda*, *Ampelisca meridionalis* and *Ampelisca youngi*. The specimens were dredged from the continental shelf of Southwestern Atlantic Ocean between the latitudes 22°06'S and 34°32'S. A key to the *Ampelisca* species of the Brazilian coast is provided.

Key words: Brazil, marine benthic crustaceans, *Ampelisca*, taxonomy

Introduction

The first taxonomy study of *Ampelisca* from the Brazilian waters recorded six species: *A. brevisimulata* Barnard, 1954; *A. cristata* Holmes, 1908; *A. aff. lobata*; *A. paria* Barnard & Agard, 1986; *A. pugetica* Stimpson, 1864 and *A. romigi* Barnard, 1954 (Serejo *et al.*, 2000). More recently four new species of the genus were described in two papers: *Ampelisca subtropicalis* Valério-Berardo *et al.*, 2005, *A. rodriguesi* Valério-Berardo *et al.*, 2005, *Ampelisca flabellicaudata* Valério-Berardo & Wakabara, 2006 and *A. moreirai* Valério-Berardo & Wakabara, 2006. Also, *A. burkey* Barnard & Thomas, 1989 was recorded for the first time from the Southwestern Atlantic Ocean (Valério-Berardo & Wakabara, 2006). Some species recorded from Brazil in previous ecological studies and catalogued in Wakabara and Serejo (1998) as *A. cucullata* Barnard, 1954, *A. identata* Barnard, 1954 and *A. soleata* Oliveira, 1954 were not found yet for a confirmation of the occurrence of these species in Brazilian waters. The type material of *A. soleata* is lost and neotypes are needed to better define this species. A re-examination of the specimens recorded as *A. panamensis* Barnard, 1954 registered erroneously for Valério-Berardo *et al.* (2000) and Wakabara and Serejo (1998) was described afterwards as *A. rodriguesi* Valério-Berardo *et al.* (2005). In this study, three new species of the genus, *A. longipropoda*, *A. meridionalis* and *A. youngi* are described. Samples were dredged from the continental shelf of Southwestern Atlantic Ocean between the latitudes 22°06'S and 34°32'S. A key for all *Ampelisca* species occurring on the Brazilian coast is provided. The type material is deposited in the Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo (MZUSP) and Museu Nacional/Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (MNRJ). Measurements of specimens indicate body length, is given in millimetres (mm). The crustacean setae classification proposed by Watling (1989) is here adopted. The following abbreviations are used on the figures:

Ep, Epimeron; **HA**, habitus; **Md**, mandible; **Mxl**, maxilla; **Mxlp**, maxilliped; **P**, pereopod; **Gnt**, gnathopod; **Urs**, urosomite; **U**, uropod; **T**, telson.