



Descriptions of four new species of *Caridina* (Decapoda: Atyidae) from China

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Abstract

Four new species, *Caridina maculata* **sp. nov.**, *C. venusta* **sp. nov.**, *C. tumida* **sp. nov.** and *C. meridionalis* **sp. nov.** are described from Guangdong Province, China. *Caridina maculata* **sp. nov.** and *C. venusta* **sp. nov.** are popular in the commercial pet markets as ornamental shrimp.

Key words: *Caridina*, new species, ornamental shrimp, China

Introduction

The genus *Caridina* was erected by H. Milne-Edwards (1837) with the type species *C. typus*. The species of *Caridina* are widely distributed in Indo-Pacific Ocean and Africa. They often inhabit freshwater habitats in tropical and subtropical areas with some in the temperate zone. *Caridina* is the genus with the most species in the family Atyidae. To date about 240 species have been recorded world-wide with over 80 species in China.

Atyidae shrimp is small in body size and commonly used as food for economic fish. In recent years, some Atyidae shrimps with beautiful colors and dapple are sold as ornamental aquatic animals. Two of the four new species described herein, *Caridina maculata* **sp. nov.** and *C. venusta* **sp. nov.** were found in commercial markets. They have also been exported to Japan and Singapore, with the trade name of “bee shrimp” (Figs. 2, 4). All specimens of the four new species were collected in Guangdong Province and the type specimens are deposited in Shanghai Fisheries University.

Caridina maculata **sp. nov.**

Figs. 1–2

Material examined: Holotype: male (06-3-1), total length 17 mm. Paratypes: 12 male and 11 female, total length 15–18 mm. Female with eggs measured 0.6 – 0.65×0.86–0.96 mm in diameter. Type locality: Examined specimens were collected in Yingde County, Guangdong Province (N.23°54.5', E113°13.6') on July 15, 2006.

Habitat: They inhabit a clear brook in the mountains, with few aquatic macrophytes and some residual tree leaves in a rocky bottom.

Description: Rostrum short and straight, nearly reaching the end of 1st segment of antennal peduncle; with 9–12 dorsal teeth, of which 1–3 are behind the orbit; 2–3 ventral teeth located on distal end of rostrum. Pterygostomian margin rounded, without spine. Telson with 1 short cone-shaped posteromedian projection, 6 pairs of dorso-lateral spines, and 4 pairs setae-like spines on distal margin which similar in size, length and