



Description of a new species of Aeglidae, and new records of related species from river basins in Argentina (Crustacea, Anomura)

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Abstract

The anomuran crustacean *Aegla saltensis* new species, from the Province of Salta in northwest Argentina is described and illustrated, and its morphological differences from other related species are discussed. The 13 species that occur in Argentina are analyzed in the light of new available samples. The geographical distributions of the species are updated and new localities are recorded for eight of the thirteen species.

Key words: Aeglidae, diversity, drainage basin, Argentina, new species

Introduction

Aeglid crabs are the only family of anomuran decapods endemic to river basins in Neotropical South America. Collecting efforts in South American aquatic habitats have intensified in the past decade, because of rapid degradation in water quality which has resulted in the disappearance of some species from localities where they had previously been recorded. This has underlined the necessity of improving knowledge of the Neotropical fauna, as a basis for the establishment of public policies for the conservation of waterbodies and their biodiversity.

Within the territory of Argentina, 13 species of aeglids have been recorded by Bond-Buckup & Buckup (1994): *Aegla affinis* Schmitt, *A. humahuaca* Schmitt, *A. intercalata* Bond-Buckup & Buckup, *A. jujuyana* Schmitt, *A. neuquensis* Schmitt, *A. platensis* Schmitt, *A. ringueleti* Bond-Buckup & Buckup, *A. riolimayana* Schmitt, *A. sanlorenzo* Schmitt, *A. scamosa* Ringuelet, *A. septentrionalis* Bond-Buckup & Buckup, *A. singularis* Ringuelet, and *A. uruguayana* Schmitt. The present contribution, 14 years after the last revision of the Aeglidae (see Bond-Buckup & Buckup 1994) in Argentinian river basins, has the objective of describing a new species, recording new localities, and providing updated information on species distributions.

Material and methods

The specimens examined were obtained from sampling campaigns in hydrographic basins of Argentina, carried out by the authors in the years 2001, 2003 and 2007, in several watercourses of the provinces of Jujuy, Salta, Catamarca, Tucuman, San Juan, Mendoza, and Buenos Aires. The collections in southern Brazil were made in the last decade by several persons, and records come from the Crustacean Collection of the