



A new species of *Chaceon* Manning & Holthuis, 1989, from the southwestern Atlantic, with a key to the western Atlantic species (Crustacea, Decapoda, Geryonidae)

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Abstract

A new species of the deep-water crab genus *Chaceon* Manning & Holthuis, 1989 (Geryonidae Colosi, 1923), is described from southwestern Atlantic. It is the ninth species of the genus known from the western Atlantic. It is most closely related to *C. eldorado* Manning & Holthuis, 1989, *C. notialis* Manning & Holthuis, 1989, and *C. ramosae* Manning, Tavares & Albuquerque, 1989, from which it can be readily differentiated in having the dactyli of P2-P5 laterally compressed, instead of being dorsoventrally depressed. A key to the western Atlantic species of *Chaceon* is provided.

Key words: western Atlantic, Brazil, deep sea, seamounts, fishery, Brachyura, *Chaceon*

Introduction

Four species of the deep-water crab *Chaceon* Manning & Holthuis, 1989, are currently referred to the Atlantic coast of South America: *Chaceon eldorado* Manning & Holthuis, 1989, *Chaceon fenneri* (Manning & Holthuis, 1984), *Chaceon notialis* Manning & Holthuis, 1989, and *Chaceon ramosae* Manning, Tavares & Albuquerque, 1989.

However, during many decades *Chaceon quinquedens* (Smith 1879) was the only species referred to the southwestern Atlantic (Chace 1940; Rathbun 1937; Smith 1879), until Manning & Holthuis (1989) and Manning *et al.* (1989) showed that the South American representatives actually belong to three species: *Chaceon eldorado*, *C. notialis*, and *C. ramosae*.

Chaceon fenneri had long been identified with both *C. affinis* (A. Milne-Edwards & Bouvier, 1894) from the eastern Atlantic and *C. quinquedens* (Smith 1879) (Manning & Holthuis 1984). *Chaceon fenneri* is actually a western Atlantic species (occurring from eastern Florida to the Gulf of Mexico), mistakenly referred from off northeastern Brazil (Cunha *et al.* 1999; Oliveira *et al.* 1999; Sankarankutty *et al.* 2001; Carvalho *et al.* 2009).

Distinguishing between *C. eldorado*, *C. notialis*, and *C. ramosae* can be a very difficult undertaking as these three species closely resemble each other and can be locally sympatric. Furthermore, because *C. eldorado*, *C. notialis*, and *C. ramosae* were traditionally identified with *C. quinquedens*, attention has been focused in the differences between those three species and *C. quinquedens* (Manning & Holthuis, 1989; Manning *et al.* 1989). Indeed, *C. eldorado*, *C. notialis*, and *C. ramosae* have not been directly compared with one another and, therefore, there is no information in the literature on how these three species can be separated from each other. Distinguishing among these species is critical because *C. notialis* and *C. ramosae* are the target of a growing fishery in the southwestern Atlantic (Soares & Scheidt 2005; Perez & Wahrlich 2005; Perez & Pezzuto 2006; Perez *et al.* 2009; Pezzuto *et al.* 2006; Valentini & Pezzuto 2006).

A comparative study between the western Atlantic species of *Chaceon*, with special reference to *C. eldorado*, *C. notialis*, and *C. ramosae*, including their type material, is undertaken herein. A key to the western Atlantic spe-