



First record of *Prionocrangon* Wood Mason & Alcock, 1891 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Caridea: Crangonidae) in the East Pacific and description of a new species from western Mexico

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Abstract

A new species of the rare genus *Prionocrangon* is described from the central Gulf of California, Mexico. This is the first record for this genus of Crangonidae in the east Pacific which is otherwise widely distributed in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans. *Prionocrangon incisum* **sp. nov.** differs from all other known species of *Prionocrangon* by the presence of a deep notch near the posteroventral margin of the sixth abdominal somite. Presence of post-embryonic larvae in one partly spent female indicates that *P. incisum* **sp. nov.** exhibits abbreviated larval development.

Key words: Crangonidae, *Prionocrangon incisum* **sp. nov.**, Pacific Mexico

Introduction

Crangonid shrimps are distributed worldwide and, in some regions, are an important fishery resource (Holthuis 1980). East Pacific species of Crangonidae include both shallow and deep-water species. Shallow water crangonids are particularly diverse and important along the west coast of the United States (Rathbun 1904; Word & Chawart 1976; Hendrickx 2012). Deep-water crangonids are relatively well known from a systematic view-point, but their bathymetric distribution, abundance and geographic distribution are still in need of complementary information.

Although a few records have been reported in the literature, Mexican crangonids are not well known at all as a group. Several Californian shallow-water species might prove to be present in the California Current, all the way to the tip of the Baja California Peninsula, but are still undetected. Also, the Gulf of California shallow-water crangonids have been very superficially studied and little is known about their distribution and abundance. Thanks to a recent deep-water sampling program, more emphasis has been given to Mexican deep-water Crangonidae and Glyphocrangonidae, and one new species and several new records have been reported in recent literature. Heretofore, seven species of shallow water and five species of deep-water Crangonidae have been reported in Pacific Mexico, belonging to the genera *Argis*, *Crangon*, *Mesocrangon*, *Metacrangon*, *Neocrangon*, *Paracrangon*, *Parapontophilus*, and *Sclerocrangon* (Hendrickx 1993, 2001, 2010, 2012).

According to Chace (1984: 55) and Holthuis (1993: key) diagnostic characters of the genus *Prionocrangon* Wood Mason & Alcock, 1891 include a triangular, laterally unarmed rostrum; a longitudinal suture on the carapace extending posteriorly from near the branchiostegal spine; eye reduced (vestigial) and without cornea, ending in a small, pointed process; antennal scale without a blade; 1st pereopod without exopod and 2nd pereopod present, simple (not chelate), marginally setose and overreaching the distal end of the merus of the anteriorly extended 1st pereopod. The material collected in the northern Gulf of California combines all these features and can therefore safely be assigned to *Prionocrangon*.

The genus *Prionocrangon* was recently reviewed by Kim & Chan (2005) who described three new species from the West Pacific (Taiwan, New Caledonia, Indonesia and the Philippines), and redescribed the four previously