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Redescription of *Microprosthema semilaeve* (von Martens, 1872) (Decapoda: Stenopodidea: Spongicolidae) and description of a new species of *Microprosthema* from Dry Tortugas, Florida

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Abstract

Microprosthema semilaeve, a fairly common spongicolid shrimp of reefal habitats in the Western Atlantic and Caribbean is redescribed and figured based on type material and an additional 78 specimens from the majority of its known zoogeographical range. It is distinguished from the Indo-Pacific species of *M. validum* and an undescribed species of *Microprosthema* with which it has been confused in the literature by a number of morphological characters. A new species of *Microprosthema* from deeper waters off the Dry Tortugas and closely related to *M. inornatum* Manning & Chace, 1990, is described and illustrated. *Microprosthema jareckii* Martin, 2002 is synonymized with *M. manningi* Goy & Felder, 1988. A key to the Western Atlantic species of *Microprosthema* is presented.

Key words: *Microprosthema*, Spongicolidae, Western Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, Dry Tortugas, color pattern, new species

Introduction

Microprosthema semilaeve was first described by E. von Martens (1872) from two specimens he found undescribed in the Berlin Museum and which he called *Stenopus semilaevis*. The same species was later described as new by Pocock (1890) under the name *Stenopusculus spinosus*. Balss (1915) showed that *Stenopusculus* was identical to *Microprosthema* Stimpson (1860). Holthuis (1946) was the first to show that the descriptions of von Martens and Pocock represented the same species, *Microprosthema semilaeve*. Several authors have identified *Microprosthema* from the coasts of India and Pakistan as either *M. validum* (Pillai 1962; Tirmizi & Kazmi 1979) or *M. semilaeve* (Mahadevan *et al.* 1962; Ranade 1973; Raje & Ranade 1978). These above-mentioned Indian and Pakistani specimens are neither *M. validum* nor *M. semilaeve* but represent an undescribed species of *Microprosthema* (de Saint-Laurent & Cleva 1981; Felder *et al.* 1985; Goy 1987; Goy & Felder 1988; Martin & Goy 2004). Due to this confusion in the literature, the short descriptions given by von Martens (1872), Pocock (1890) and Rankins (1898), and the absence of complete illustrations of *M. semilaeve*, a more thorough redescription is warranted.

This paper redescribes *M. semilaeve* based on the two original type specimens and 78 additional specimens collected from the majority of the species' known zoogeographical range. While examining 13 specimens of *M. semilaeve* collected off the Dry Tortugas, two specimens were found to differ morphologically, and they are here described as a new species. The distributions of the species of *Microprosthema* known from the Western Atlantic are reviewed, *M. jareckii* is synonymized with *M. manningi*, and a key to the Western Atlantic species in the genus is presented.

The specimens examined are deposited in the collections of the Zoologisches Museum, Berlin (ZMB); American Museum of Natural History, New York (AMNH); Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge (MCZH); Florida Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Marine Research, Marine