Freshwater decapods of Puerto Rico: a checklist and reports of new localities

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Abstract

An updated checklist of the freshwater decapod species of Puerto Rico is presented based on records of shrimp and crab species whose presence has been confirmed in Puerto Rico as a result of extensive field collections, examination of carcinological collections, literature review, and personal communications from researchers. The freshwater decapods fauna of Puerto Rico consists of 18 species of shrimps belonging to eight genera and three families, and one species of crab belonging to the family Pseudothelphusidae.

Key words: Atya, Macrobrachium, Micratya, Jonga, Potimirim, Xiphocaris, Epilobocera, Puerto Rico, Caribbean, taxonomic key, distribution

Introduction

The freshwater decapod fauna of Puerto Rico is relatively well known for their role in the ecological process as shredders and for nutrient cycling (Crowl et al. 2001). However, relatively little work has been done on shrimp and crab diversity, distributions and inventories in a systematic way in Puerto Rico.

Juan Gundlach (1887) reported many species of decapods on the island; but Schmitt (1935) in the Scientific Survey of Porto Rico and the Virgin Island was the first to report the presence of freshwater decapods. *Macrobrachium acanthurus* (Weigmann), *M. carcinus* as “*Periclimenes portoricencis*” (Linnaeus 1758), and *M. faustinum* (De Saussure), *Xiphocaris elongata* (Guérin-Méneville), *Atya scabra* (Leach, 1815), *A. innocuous* (Herbst) and *Micratya poeyi* (Guérin-Méneville) were reported by Schmitt. In 1954, Chace reported the first