Laomenes albonigrus sp. nov., (Crustacea: Decapoda; Pontoniinae) from Ashmore Reef, Western Australia

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Abstract

One specimen of an un-described species of pontoniine shrimp of the genus Laomenes Clark, 1919, Laomenes albonigrus sp. nov., was collected from a crinoid host from Ashmore Reef, Western Australia, and is now described and illustrated.

Key words: Laomenes albonigrus, sp. nov., (Crustacea: Decapoda; Pontoniinae) from Ashmore Reef, Western Australia, from crinoid host

Introduction

The genus Laomenes was established by Clark (1919) and was treated as a synonym of Periclimenes Costa, 1844) until revised to generic level recently by Okuno & Fujita (2007). Prior to that date it included three species, Periclimenes amboinensis De Man, 1888, P. cornutus Borradaile, 1915, and P. ceratophthalmus Borradaile, 1915. Bruce (1968) had described Parapontonia nudirostris and this was also added to the revised genus. Bruce (2006) also described L. jackhintoni and Marin (2009) added L. clarki Marin, and L. pardus Marin and L. tigris Marin to the revised genus making a total of seven species. Three further species have recently been placed in this genus: Laomenes holthuisi Marin & Okuno, 2012; L. pestrushka Marin, Chan & Okuno, 2012, and L. gyrophthalmus Marin, Chan & Okuno, 2012, so that eleven species are now known. All are associated with crinoid hosts and are known only from the Indo-west Pacific region. Five of these have been reported from Australian waters (L. amboinensis, L. ceratophthalmus, L. cornutus, L. jackhintoni, L. nudirostris), and L. pardus has also been reported (as Periclimenes amboinensis) based on a photo (Bruce (1980). Some species have been reported from numerous localities, e.g. L. amboinensis from the Maldive Islands to the Marshall Islands, and it seems desirable that all these earlier records should be re-examined.

Marin (2009) divided the then known species of Laomenes into three species groups centered on L. amboinensis, L. jackhintoni and L. ceratophthalmus, respectively. The L. amboinensis group is distinguished by the presence of ventral rostral teeth, distoventral spines on third pereiopod propod and a fixed tooth on distolateral margin of uropod exopod.

The discovery of this new species of Laomenes in the course of the Western Australian Museum Kimberley 2013 expedition to Ashmore Reef, northwest Australia, funded by Woodside Energy, adds to our knowledge of this little known genus and its distribution. The shrimp specimen was collected simultaneously with specimens of Nippontonia ashmorei Bruce, 2014, from a sponge with an attached crinoid which proved to be the host of the present specimen.

Abbreviations used. CL, postorbital carapace length; R., rostral dentition; WAM, Western Australian Museum, Perth.

Systematics

Palaemonidae Rafinesque, 1815

http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3846.3.7
Acknowledgements

I am most grateful to Andrew Hosie for bringing this shrimp to my attention and for the use of his colour photograph. The specimen was collected by the Western Australian Museum Kimberley 2013 expedition to Ashmore Reef, funded by Woodside Energy. The host was provisionally identified by Loisette Marsh. This study was also supported by the Australian Biological Resources Study.

References


Bruce, A.J. (2014) *Nippontonia ashmoreiensis* sp. nov., (Crustacea: Decapoda; Pontoniinae) from Ashmore Reef, Western Australia. *Zootaxa*. [In press]


