

A new genus *Pontoniopsides*, for *Pontoniopsis paulae* Gore, 1981 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Pontoniinae)

A.J. BRUCE¹

¹Crustacea Section, Queensland Museum, P.O. Box 3300, South Brisbane, Queensland, Australia 4101,
abruce@broad.net.au

ABSTRACT

A new monospecific genus, *Pontoniopsides*, is designated to include *Pontoniopsis paulae* Gore, 1981. *Pontoniopsides paulae* is an echinoid associate occurring in the western Atlantic region. *Pontoniopsis* now includes only a single species, *P. comanthi* Borradaile, 1915, a crinoid associated species found throughout the Indo-West Pacific region..

Key words. *Pontoniopsides* gen. nov., *Pontoniopsides paulae* (Gore 1981) comb. nov., Crustacea, Decapoda, Pontoniinae, Florida, western Atlantic, echinoid host

Introduction

The recent study of some specimens of *Pontoniopsis comanthi* Borradaile 1915, from Papua New Guinea and Heron Island, Queensland, prompted comparison with the only other species so far referred to this genus, *Pontoniopsis paulae* Gore, 1981. This indicated the presence of numerous significant differences, many listed by Gore (1981, tab. 3). Re-examination of these showed that several were of sufficient importance to warrant the separation of *P. paulae* and its placement in its own genus. *Pontoniopsis* is therefore a monospecific Indo-West Pacific genus associated with crinoids. Some comparative illustrations of *Pontoniopsides paulae* and *Pontoniopsis comanthi* are provided. *Pontoniopsides* is also a monospecific genus, associated with echinoids, occurring in the western Atlantic region. *Pontoniopsides paulae* has not been further reported since its original discovery and is known only from the holotype specimen. Gore (1981) has provided a detailed and well illustrated description of the holotype specimen, which was not readily available for further examination.

Abbreviations. RCL, rostral carapace length. QM, Queensland Museum, Brisbane.