

A new species of *Alvinocaris* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Caridea: Alvinocarididae) and a new record of *A. muricola* from methane seeps on the Blake Ridge Diapir, Northwestern Atlantic

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Abstract

Two species of the alvinocaridid shrimp genus *Alvinocaris*, *A. methanophila* n. sp. and *A. muricola* Williams, are reported from a cold seep site on the Blake Ridge Diapir, northwestern Atlantic, at a depth of 2155 m. *Alvinocaris methanophila* is described and illustrated on the basis of 33 adult specimens. It is most similar to the sympatrically found *A. muricola* Williams, but differs in the comparatively stout second segment of the antennular peduncle and smaller size at maturity in females. Available data suggest that *A. muricola* is rare at this site. Brief notes on habitat and distribution of the two species are provided.

Key words: Crustacea; Decapoda; Caridea; Alvinocarididae; *Alvinocaris*; new species; cold seeps; Blake Ridge; northwestern Atlantic

Introduction

Shrimps of the genus *Alvinocaris* are almost exclusively associated with chemosynthetic communities influenced by hydrothermal vents or hydrocarbon seeps (Komai & Segonzac, 2005). Recently, Escobar-Briones & Villalobos-Hiriart (2003) recorded an indeterminate species of *Alvinocaris* from non-chemosynthetic environments on the Banco Chinchorro in the northern Caribbean at depths of 176–203 m, although no information on morphology of the voucher specimens was provided. Komai & Segonzac (2005) revised *Alvinocaris*, and recognized eight named species in the genus, *A. lusca* Williams & Chace, 1982 (type species of the genus), *A. markensis* Williams, 1988, *A. muricola* Williams, 1988, *A. stactophila* Williams, 1988, *A. longirostris* Kikuchi & Ohta, 1995, *A. brevitelsonis* Kiku-