

Pontoniine shrimps (Decapoda: Palaemonidae) from the island of Socotra, with descriptions of new species of *Dactyлонia* Fransen, 2002 and *Periclimenoides* Bruce, 1990

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Table of contents

Abstract	2
Introduction	2
Taxonomy	2
<i>Conchodytes meleagrinae</i> Peters, 1852	3
<i>Coralliocariss</i> sp.	3
<i>Dactyлонia carinacula</i> sp. nov.	4
Key to the Indo-West Pacific Species of <i>Dactyлонia</i> Fransen, 2002	13
<i>Harpiliopsis depressa</i> (Stimpson, 1860)	14
<i>Harpiliopsis spinigera</i> (Ortmann, 1890)	15
<i>Jocaste japonica</i> (Ortmann, 1890)	15
<i>Jocaste lucina</i> (Nobili, 1901)	16
<i>Kemponia elegans</i> (Paulson, 1875)	16
<i>Kemponia grandis</i> (Stimpson, 1860)	16
<i>Kemponia longirostris</i> (Borradaile, 1915)	17
<i>Odontonia sibogae</i> Bruce, 1972	17
<i>Palaemonella rotumana</i> (Borradaile, 1898)	18
<i>Periclimenaeus</i> ? sp.	19
<i>Periclimenaeus nobilii</i> Bruce, 1974	19
<i>Periclimenaeus</i> aff. <i>nobilii</i> Bruce, 1974	20
<i>Periclimenella petithouarsii</i> (Audouin, 1826)	21
<i>Periclimenes imperator</i> Bruce, 1967	21
<i>Periclimenes incertus</i> Borradaile, 1915	21
<i>Periclimenes soror</i> Nobili, 1904	22
<i>Periclimenoides socotrae</i> sp. nov.	22
Discussion	30
Acknowledgements	31
References	33

Abstract

The present report provides information on 20 pontoniine shrimp taxa from the island of Socotra, collected by Dr Michael Apel, including two new species, of the genera *Dactylonia* Fransen and *Periclimenoides* Bruce. Thirteen species are reported from Yemen for the first time, 8 are newly recorded from the north western Indian Ocean. The record of *Periclimenoides* is the first occurrence of this genus in the western Indian Ocean. The number of pontoniine shrimps known from the north west Indian Ocean is now increased from 32 to 44 taxa.

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, Pleocyemata, Pontoniinae, *Dactylonia carinacula*, *Periclimenoides socotrae*, new species, Indian Ocean, Yemen, Socotra

Introduction

The pontoniine shrimp fauna of the south western Indian Ocean, principally Kenya, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Moçambique, Comoro Islands, Madagascar, and the Seychelle Islands, with their extensive coral reefs, has attracted continuous study since the time of Miers (1884), who reported the first pontoniine shrimp, *Coralliocaris graminea*, from the Seychelle Islands. The north western Indian Ocean, north of the Equator but not including the Red Sea, with its limited coral reefs, has attracted much less attention. The first record was of *Periclimenes brevicarpalis* by Henri Coutière in 1898, from Jibuti, but subsequent studies were relatively sparse and the fauna still remains little known. Forty four taxa are now known from the north western Indian Ocean (Somalia, Jibuti, Yemen and Oman), of which 12 are new records.

The present collection was made in 1999 by Dr Michael Apel of the Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt. Full details of the of the present study are to be found in Simões *et al* (2001). The specimens are deposited in the collections of the Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt (SMF) and the Natural History Collection, Yemen (NHCY), which are temporarily held in the Senckenberg Museum. Restricted synonymies only are provided. Fuller synonymies are to be found in Kemp (1922), Holthuis (1952), Chace and Bruce (1993) and Li (2000). CL refers to the postorbital carapace length.

Taxonomy

Sub-phylum Crustacea Brünnich, 1772

Order Decapoda Latreille, 1802

Family Palaemonidae Rafinesque, 1815

Subfamily Pontoniinae Kingsley, 1878