

***Leslibetaeus coibita*, n. gen., n. sp., a new alpheid shrimp from the Pacific coast of Panama (Crustacea: Decapoda)**

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Abstract

A new alpheid shrimp, *Leslibetaeus coibita*, n. gen., n. sp., is described on the basis of two specimens extracted from crevices in a shale rock on the rocky intertidal shore in the Isla Coiba National Park, Pacific coast of Panama. *Leslibetaeus* is characterized by absence of rostrum and orbital teeth; eyes being only partially covered by carapace; sixth abdominal somite without articulated plate; first segment of the antennular peduncle without tooth on ventromesial carina; short scaphocerite; tip of third maxilliped with stout spines; and strap-like epipods present on third maxilliped and first to fifth pereopod; stout symmetrical chelipeds, with carpus distally strongly lobed and bearing two rows of setae mesially, and chela without snapping mechanism; carpus of second pereopod five-segmented, with second segment distinctly longer than first; ischium and merus of third pereopod unarmed. The new genus appears to be relatively basal and not closely related to any of the currently described alpheid genera. The finding of this new taxon in a relatively accessible habitat indicates a yet unexplored biological potential of the Isla Coiba National Park.

Key words: Alpheidae, new genus, new species, Panama, eastern Pacific, rocky intertidal

Introduction

The alpheid fauna of the eastern Pacific consists of 13 genera (Table 1) with almost 100 species ranging from southern Alaska to Cape Horn. The vast majority of species are concentrated in the subtropical and tropical waters, from the northern Gulf of California south to northern Peru and the Galápagos Islands. The Pacific coast of the Republic of Panama presents a high diversity of marine habitats, and may be one of the major hotspots of alpheid and other marine species diversity in the eastern Pacific. Surprisingly, only four genera, viz. *Alpheus* Fabricius, 1798, *Synalpheus* Bate, 1888, *Automate* De Man, 1888 and