

**A new species of *Parastenocaris* from Mindoro Island, Philippines:
Parastenocaris distincta sp. nov. (Crustacea: Copepoda:
Harpacticoida: Parastenocarididae)**

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Abstract

A new species of harpacticoid, *Parastenocaris distincta* sp. nov., is described and discussed. The new species was collected in a freshwater interstitial habitat near the mouth of a river in Western Mindoro Province, the Philippines. This is the second species of *Parastenocaris* described from this country. The medial ornamentation of P1 basis, the morphology of male P3 and the number and distribution of the integumental pores in the new species differ from those previously reported in other species of *Parastenocaris*. We review and discuss the more common arrangements of these features in recently described species, emphasizing the taxonomic discriminative value of their variations.

Key words: *Parastenocaris*, Philippines, interstitial habitat, Harpacticoida, groundwater

Introduction

The harpacticoid family Parastenocarididae Chappuis is composed of seven genera: *Parastenocaris* Kessler, *Forficatocaris* Jakobi, *Paraforficatocaris* Jakobi, *Remaneicaris* Jakobi, *Potamocaris* Dussart, *Murunducaris* Reid, *Simplicaris* Galassi and De Laurentiis. All of them are exclusive to freshwater subterranean waters, *Paraforficatocaris*, *Forficatocaris*, *Potamocaris*, and *Murunducaris* are neotropical with a more or less limited distribution, *Remaneicaris* is neotropical with a wide distribution (Corgosinho & Martínez Arbizou 2005), *Simplicaris* has very restricted distribution being known only for Central Italy (Galassi & De Laurentiis 2004; Ruffo and Stoch 2005). Only *Parastenocaris* has a wide distribution (Galassi & De Laurentiis 2004).

The genus *Parastenocaris* is the most species rich in the Parastenocarididae, with representatives on all continents except Antarctica (Karanovic 2004). The possible