

Three new species of *Lebbeus* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Hippolytidae) from the Northeastern Pacific

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Abstract

Three new species of hippolytid shrimps are described from the northeastern Pacific. *Lebbeus eludus* and *L. mundus* are often found at shallow depths (10–20 m) in the crevices of rock walls. Both have previously been mistaken for a western Pacific species, *L. schrencki* (Brashnikov) and are characterized by having an unusual, deep, transverse groove on the dorsal surface of the second abdominal somite, short rostrums, and epipods on the first three pereopods. The third shrimp, *L. acudactylus*, has been found at depths of 150–170 m and appears closely related to *L. grandimanus* (Brashnikov) and *L. balsii* Hayashi, but lacks a comb of spines on the mesial margin of the third maxillipeds that is characteristic of those two species. Color photos showing the unique patterns of all three new species are provided.

Key words: Caridea, Northeastern Pacific, new species, cleaner shrimp, Hippolytidae, *Lebbeus*

Introduction

The genus *Lebbeus* White consists of small to medium-sized hippolytid shrimps that occur primarily in the colder waters of the northern hemisphere. Although a few species are known from the Atlantic, South America, Africa and the Australia/Indo Pacific region, the vast majority of described species are found in the North Pacific, and nearly half of all described species are from the western North Pacific (Komai & Takeda 2004).

Many species of lebbeids have distinctive and often striking color patterns that greatly simplify identification in the field. While collecting shrimps from rock walls during night dives in Puget Sound, Washington, I frequently observed an unidentified lavender-colored shrimp that consistently eluded capture by rapidly retreating into deep crevices. I finally captured a number of specimens with the aid of a suction device and found they keyed out to the western Pacific species *Lebbeus schrencki* (Brashnikov 1907), yet clearly differed