

***Periclimenes sarkanae* sp. nov. a new pontoniine shrimp from Moreton Bay, Queensland (Crustacea: Decapoda: Palaemonidae)**

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Abstract

A new species of pontoniine shrimp, *Periclimenes sarkanae* sp. nov., from southern Queensland sea grass beds, is described and illustrated. The new species is a member of the *obscurus* species-group and is most closely related to *P. obscurus* Kemp. Its associations, if any, are unknown.

Key words : *Periclimenes sarkanae* sp. nov., Decapoda, Natantia, Pontoniinae, taxonomy, sea grass fauna, Australia

Introduction

The author had occasion to examine a number of collections of a small pontoniine shrimp species from a variety of localities from Western Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland and New South Wales. All were from shallow water seagrass flats. They proved to belong to an undescribed taxon, now being described elsewhere. The individuals from one lot were noticed to be extremely similar in their general appearance but of slightly larger size and with noticeably more robust second pereiopods. More detailed examination indicated that they were quite distinct and could not be satisfactorily referred to any of the described pontoniine species. The taxon is distinguished from all pontoniine shrimps by the unique armament of its thoracic sternites. It is now here described as a new species of the genus *Periclimenes* Costa, 1844.

The specimens are deposited in the collections of the Queensland Museum, Brisbane.

Abbreviations. CL, postorbital carapace length; QM, Queensland Museum.

Systematics

Order Decapoda Latreille, 1802

Family Palaemonidae Rafinesque, 1815

Sub-family Pontoniinae Kingsley, 1878

Genus *Periclimenes* Costa, 1844

***Periclimenes sarkanae* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 1–5)

Diagnosis: A species of *Periclimenes* with a convex transverse plate on the fourth thoracic sternite, with acute submedian processes separated by a subquadrate notch.

Material examined: ♀ holotype, QM W23963; ♂ allotype (dissected), QM W28223; 3 ♀ paratypes, QM W28224, Fisherman Island, near mouth of Brisbane River, Moreton Bay, 27°22'S, 153°10'E, 0.2–0.5 m, 2 & 4 June 1998, netted, coll. P. Davie & J.W. Short.