



## A new species of *Pseudocoutiere* Holthuis from the Caribbean coast of Panama (Crustacea, Decapoda, Palaemonidae), with a key to the genus

S. DE GRAVE

Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PW,

### Abstract

A new species of pontoniid shrimp, *Pseudocoutierea dota* sp. nov. is described from Bocas Province (Caribbean coast of Panama), on the basis of a single specimen encountered on a whip-coral *Stichopathes lutkeni*. The new species is closely related to the eastern Atlantic species, *P. wirtzi*, with which it shares the presence of a post-hepatic tubercle. A key to the genus is presented.

**Key words:** Crustacea, Decapoda, Palaemonidae, *Pseudocoutierea* new species, Panama

### Introduction

The genus *Pseudocoutierea* Holthuis, 1951, until now comprises five species. The East Pacific *P. elegans* Holthuis, 1951 has been recorded from the Santa Barbara Channel (California) southwards to Peru, including the Malpelo and Galapagos Islands (Martin & Zimmerman, 1997; Wicksten & Hendrickx, 2003) and occurs on the gorgonians *Muricea californica* Aurivillius (Martin & Zimmerman, 1997) and *Lophogorgia chilensis* Verrill (Wicksten pers. comm. in d'Udekem d'Acoz, 2001). Three species are known from the Caribbean. *Pseudocoutierea antillensis* Chace, 1972 has been recorded from the Saba Bank (Chace, 1972), Curaçao (Criales, 1980), Colombia (Criales, 1984), off the Bahamas (Lemaitre, 1984), Guana Island (British Virgin Islands, Spotte et al., 1995), the Turks & Caicos Islands (Spotte & Bubucis, 1996) and now Honduras (see Material examined); the species is known to occur on several gorgonian species *Eunicea tourneforti* (H. Milne Edwards & Haime), *E. calyculata* (Ellis & Solander), *E. fuscata* (Duchassaing & Michelotti), *Plexaurasp.*, and *Pseudoptero gorgia americana* (Gmelin). Both *Pseudocoutierea concha* Criales, 1981 and *P. edentata* Criales, 1981, are only known from the Santa Marta region of Colombia, occurring on the gorgonian *Leptogorgia virgulata* (Lamarck) and *Ellisella barbadensis* (Duchassaing & Michelotti), as well as the antipatharian *Stichopathes gracilis* (Gray) (Criales, 1981; 1984). Finally, the eastern Atlantic species, *P. wirtzi* d'Udekem d'Acoz, 2001 is known from São Tiago island (Cape Verde), occurring on the gorgonian *Leptogorgia gaini* Stiasny and the antipatharian *Stichopathes lutkeni* (d'Udekem d'Acoz, 2001).

A single example of an undescribed species was discovered in 2005 on an antipatharian host during field-work in Bocas del Toro (Caribbean Panama). The new species is morphologically very close to *P. wirtzi*, with which it shares the presence of a blunt protuberance on the post-hepatic region, and is herein described. The single specimen has been deposited in the Natural History Museum (London) (NHM).