Redescription of Pylocheles (Bathycheles) cubensis Ortiz & Gómez, 1986, the senior synonym of Pylocheles (B.) chacei Forest, 1987 (Decapoda, Anomura, Paguroidea, Pylochelidae)

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Abstract

A reexamination of the holotypes of Pylocheles cubensis Ortiz & Gómez, 1986 and Pylocheles (Bathyscheles) chacei Forest, 1987 has shown that these two deep-water taxa are identical. Pylocheles cubensis is the senior synonym and is assigned to the subgenus Bathycheles Forest, 1987, replacing P. (B.) chacei as the single Western Atlantic representative of the subgenus. Pylocheles (Bathycheles) cubensis is redescribed and illustrated.

Key words: Anomura, Paguroidea, Pylochelidae, Pylocheles, Bathycheles, P. (B.) cubensis, P. (B.) chacei, deep-water, Western Atlantic

Introduction

In the little known Cuban journal Revista de Investigaciones Marinas, Ortiz & Gómez (1986) described a new species of the paguroid genus Pylocheles A. Milne-Edwards, 1880, collected during the Joint Soviet-Bulgarian-Cuban Expedition in deep waters off the southern coast of Cuba. To the four species of the genus known at the time, Pylocheles miersi Alcock & Anderson, 1899 and P. rigidus Yokoya, 1933 from the Indo-Pacific, and P. agassizii A. Milne-Edwards, 1880 and P. partitus Benedict, 1901 from the western Atlantic, Ortiz & Gómez (1986) added P. cubensis Ortiz & Gómez, 1986, and presented a key to the species of the genus. The description of P. cubensis may have gone unnoticed by the majority of the scientific community, not only because of the limited circulation of the journal, but also because the genus was inadvertently and incorrectly assigned to the superfamily Galatheoidea.

The following year, Forest’s (1987) monographic revision of the family Pylochelidae was published, in which he divided the genus Pylocheles into three subgenera, Pylocheles A. Milne-Edwards, 1880, Xylocheles Forest, 1987, and Bathyscheles Forest, 1987. Additionally, Forest placed P. rigidus in synonymy with P. (P.) mortenseni Boas, 1926 and P. partitus in synonymy with P. (P.) agassizii. To the subgenus Bathyscheles, Forest (1987) assigned Cheirolepatea macgilchristi Alcock, 1905 and described five new species, four from the Indo-Pacific and P. (B.) chacei Forest, 1987 from the Western Atlantic. The latter species, based on a single damaged female, exhibited two characters that set it apart from all other members of the subgenus, i.e., the quadrate notch in the posterior margin of the sixth pleonal tergite and the presence of two membranous circular patches on the dorsal surface of the anterior lobe of the telson. Although Ortiz & Gómez (1986) made no men-