



Distribution of *Heterocarpus laevigatus* Bate, 1888 and *Plesionika escatilis* (Stimpson, 1860) along the Atlantic coast of South America (Crustacea: Caridea: Pandalidae)

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Abstract

The family Pandalidae has a cosmopolitan distribution, occurring from the coastal region to more than 3000 meters of depth, and includes some species of economic importance. Three genera occur from Brazil: *Heterocarpus* A. Milne Edwards, 1881, *Plesionika* Bate, 1888 and *Pandalus* Leach, 1814. During the collections of the Programa de Avaliação dos Recursos Vivos da Zona Econômica Exclusiva of Brazil (REVIZEE, Northeast Score) a male of *Heterocarpus laevigatus* was collected in Pernambuco State, at a depth of 500m and fourteen females and four males of *Plesionika escatilis* were collected off the States of Pernambuco, Alagoas and Bahia, in depths varying from 93 to 260m. These records supplement the information on the distribution of these species, and represent the first records of *H. laevigatus* and *P. escatilis* from the Atlantic coast of South America.

Key words: Caridea, Pandalidae, distribution, Southwestern Atlantic, deep sea

Introduction

The family Pandalidae has a cosmopolitan distribution from littoral shores to more than 3000m (Chace, 1985), and contains many species of economic importance.

Three genera are known from the Brazilian coast: *Heterocarpus* A. Milne Edwards, 1881, *Plesionika* Bate, 1888 and *Pandalus* Leach, 1814 (Ramos-Porto & Coelho, 1998). Two species of *Heterocarpus* are recorded from Brazil: *H. oryx* A. Milne Edwards, 1881, from Amapá, Pará, Rio Grande do Norte, Pernambuco and Sergipe States, and *H. ensifer* A. Milne Edwards, 1881, from Amapá, Pará and Maranhão States. *Plesionika* has four species recorded from Brazil: *P. acanthonotus* (Smith, 1882) and *P. martia* (A. Milne Edwards, 1883) from Amapá to Alagoas; *P. ensis* (A. Milne Edwards, 1881) reported from Maranhão, Paraíba and Alagoas, and *P. edwardsii* (Brandt, 1851) from Pernambuco and Sergipe.

The REVIZEE Program was designed to increase the knowledge of coastal and deep water species of the exclusive economic zone through sampling in the Brazilian shelf and slope.

This work summarizes information about the occurrence of two species from the western Atlantic contributing to the knowledge of the biodiversity of the Brazilian crustaceans.