



***Crosniera wenerae*, a new species of thalassinidean (Crustacea: Decapoda: Thomassiniidae) from the South Atlantic Bight**

RICHARD W. HEARD¹ & RACHAEL A. KING²

¹Department of Coastal Sciences, University of Southern Mississippi, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Campus Ocean Springs, MS 39566-7000, USA. E-mail: richard.heard@usm.edu

²Southeastern Regional Taxonomic Center, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Charleston, South Carolina, 29422-2559. E-mail: KingR@dnr.sc.gov

Abstract

Crosniera wenerae **sp. nov.** is described from a depth of 318 m in the South Atlantic Bight off North Carolina, USA. The species, based on a female specimen 20 mm in length, is distinguished from the other four nominal species of the genus by a combination of characters, including smooth uropodal lateral margins, well-developed exopods on maxillipeds 2 and 3, the smooth inner margin of the merus of maxilliped 3, and the presence of long, simple setae on the uropods, telson, and posterior margin of sixth abdominal somite. *Crosniera wenerae* **sp. nov.** represents the second member of the genus described from the western Atlantic. A key is presented for the separation of the species of *Crosniera*.

Key words: Thalassinidea, Thomassiniidae, *Crosniera*, *wenerae*, South Atlantic Bight

Introduction

During an examination of thalassinidean material from the South Atlantic Bight (United States east coast between Cape Hatteras, NC and Cape Canaveral, FL) housed in the collections of the National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian Institution), a new species belonging to the thalassinidean genus *Crosniera* Kensley and Heard, 1991 was discovered. This species is described and illustrated here.

Crosniera belongs within the family Thomassiniidae, originally established by de Saint Laurent (1979) as a subfamily (Thomassiniinae) on the basis of a single species, *Thomassinia gebioides* de Saint Laurent, 1979 (Kensley and Heard, 1991; Poore, 1997). Manning and Felder (1991) suggested the elevation of Thomassiniinae to family rank for *Callianassa minima* Rathbun 1901 and later Poore (1994) firmly established it in his phylogenetic examination of the Thalassinidea. In their examination of the Callianideidae, Kensley and Heard (1991) reestablished two monotypic genera that were later added to the Thomassiniidae, *Crosniera* and *Mictaxius*, with *Callianassa minima*, and *Mictaxius thalassicola* Kensley and Heard, 1991, respectively, as their type species. At present *Thomassinia* de Saint Laurent, 1979 and *Mictaxius* Kensley and Heard, 1991 each contain two species (see Poore, 1997; Ngoc-Ho, 2005). The genus *Crosniera* presently contains four nominal species (*C. minima* (Rathbun 1901) from the western Atlantic, *C. corindon* Poore, 1997, *C. panie* Poore, 1997, and *C. dayrati* Ngoc-Ho, 2005 from the southwestern Pacific). Poore (1997) noted two further possible species (from Indonesia and the Gulf of California) based on two specimens in poor condition, but these have never been formally described.