



A new species and two new record species of genus *Allokepon* Markham, 1982 (Isopoda: Epicaridea: Bopyridae) from China

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Abstract

Descriptions of a new species and two new records of species of the genus *Allokepon* Markham, 1982 from Chinese waters are presented. The host species were portunid crabs. *Allokepon hendersoni* (Giard & Bonnier 1887) was found infesting *Charybdis bimaculata* (Miers), *A. monodi* (Bourdon, 1967) infesting *Portunus pelagicus* (L), *Portunus trituberculatus* (Miers), and *Thalamita* sp. and *A. longicauda* n. sp. infesting *Portunus pulchricristatus* (Gorden). Three of the host species were recorded for the first time harboring isopod parasites, and the male of *A. monodi* is presented. *Allokepon longicauda* n. sp. is distinguished from the other four species found in China by the long slender uropods of females.

Key words: Isopoda, Epicaridea, Bopyridae, *Allokepon*, China

Introduction

Markham (1982) established the genus *Allokepon* for *Portunicepon hendersoni* Giard & Bonnier, 1887, a junior synonym. The genus *Allokepon* included four species, i.e. *Allokepon hendersoni* (Giard & Bonnier, 1887) (formerly *Portunicepon hendersoni*), *A. sinensis* (Danforth, 1971) (formerly *Grapsicepon sinensis*), *Allokepon goetici* (Shiino, 1934) (formerly *Portunicepon goetici*), and *A. monodi* (Bourdon, 1967) (formerly *Portunicepon monodi*). Boyko (2003) discussed the genus *Allokepon* and other related genera in terms of their species composition and phylogenetic relationships, and transferred *Allokepon goetici* to *Megacepon*, and *Portunicepon tiariniae* Shiino, 1937, to *Allokepon*.

Allokepon is distinguished from related bopyrid genera parasitic on brachyuran crabs in having females with well-developed endopodites, prominent middorsal projections only on the pereomeres and the males having midventral tubercles on all seven pereomeres. Additionally, *Allokepon* differs from the related genera *Leidya*, *Megacepon* and *Cardiocepon* by the shape of the first oostegite. Markham (1982) recorded a single species from China, i.e. *A. sinensis*. Examination of five species of portunid crabs collected in Chinese waters has revealed one new species and two species of *Allokepon* not previously reported from China.

Materials and methods

All specimens examined in this study have been deposited in the Institute of Oceanology of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Qingdao, China (IOCAS). Terminology follows Markham (1985, 1988). Specimens were examined and drawn under a dissection microscope (Zeiss Stemi SV II Apo); and the measurements of the parasites were recorded with the software Axiovision 4.1.