



Identities of three taxa of the hippolytid shrimp genus *Heptacarpus* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Caridea), with description of a new species from East Asian waters

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Abstract

Taxonomy of the two previously described species of the hippolytid shrimp genus *Heptacarpus* Holmes, 1900, *H. camtschaticus* (Stimpson, 1860) and *H. geniculatus* (Stimpson, 1860), are reassessed. It has been found that *Eualus geniculata longirostris* Kobjakova, 1936, which has been regarded as a junior synonym of *Heptacarpus geniculatus*, is a valid taxon, herein reinstated as a full species. It has been found that two species were confounded in previous literature under the name *H. camtschaticus*, and one of them is described as new, *H. acuticarinatus* **n. sp.** Three species, *H. camtschaticus*, *H. geniculatus* and *H. longirostris*, are redescribed. These four species all belong to an informal species group characterized by the lack of pereopodal epipods. Differences in morphology and distributional pattern among the four species are discussed. A key in aid of the identification of the Asian species belonging to the species group is provided.

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, Caridea, Hippolytidae, *Heptacarpus*, taxonomic identity, new species, East Asia

Introduction

Stimpson (1860) described a number of new species of hippolytid shrimps from shallow waters in the Pacific Ocean, amongst them were two species currently referred to the genus *Heptacarpus* Holmes, 1900, i.e., *H. camtschaticus* and *H. geniculatus* (originally assigned to *Hippolyte*). These two species belong to a group of species characterized by the absence of epipods on pereopods (Rathbun, 1904; Hayashi, 1979; Butler, 1980;