



Records of the crangonid shrimp genus *Pontocaris* Bate, 1888 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Caridea) from Chinese waters, with notes on biology of *P. pennata* Bate, 1888

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Abstract

Based on the material collected mainly by the National Comprehensive Oceanography Survey (1959) and the China-Vietnam Comprehensive Oceanographic Survey to Beibu Gulf (Gulf of Tonkin) (1959–1960, 1962) from coastal waters of the mainland of China, four *Pontocaris* species, *P. hilarula* (De Man, 1918), *P. major* Chan, 1996, *P. pennata* Bate, 1888 and *P. sibogae* (De Man, 1918), are reported in the present paper, of which the former two are reported for the first time from Chinese waters. The seasonal changes of the population of the most common species, *P. pennata*, are discussed.

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, Caridea, Crangonidae, *Pontocaris*, Chinese waters, new records

Introduction

The crangonid shrimp genus *Pontocaris* Bate, 1888 is distributed in the Indo-West Pacific, and the species are mostly concentrated in the Indo-Malay region (Chan, 1996). Chan (1996) thoroughly revised *Pontocaris*, and recognized ten species and one subspecies in the genus. From Chinese waters, only *Pontocaris pennata* Bate, 1888 and *P. sibogae* (De Man, 1918) have been known with certainty (Liu, 1963; Liu & Zhong, 1994; Chan, 1996).

In this paper, four *Pontocaris* species are reported, based on the collections of the Marine Biological Museum (MBM) in the Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IOCAS), from coastal waters of the mainland of China in the East and South China Seas by the National Comprehensive Oceanography Survey in 1959 and the China-Vietnam Comprehensive Oceanographic Survey to Beibu Gulf (Gulf of Tonkin) in 1959–1960 and 1962. Besides *P. pennata* and *P. sibogae*, two other species, *P. hilarula* (De Man, 1918) and *P. major* Chan, 1996 are newly recorded from Chinese waters. The majority of the specimens examined belong to *P. pennata* for which the specimen numbers, average size (indicated by carapace lengths), population densities and ratios of the males, non-ovigerous females and ovigerous females were analyzed.

The following abbreviations are used in the text: AT, Agassiz trawl; BT, beam trawl; cl, carapace length, referring the postorbital carapace length; CN (collection number), the preliminary registration number of collection for each specimen(s); coll., collector(s); ovig., ovigerous; juv., juvenile(s). In the systematic account, species are arranged in alphabetical order.