



## ***Pseudopontonides plumosus* sp. nov., a new cnidarian-associated pontoniine shrimp (Crustacea, Decapoda, Palaemonidae) from Curaçao\***

NICOLETTE SNIJDERS & CHARLES H.J.M. FRANSEN

Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, P.O. Box 9517, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands. E-mail: fransen@naturalis.nl

\* In: De Grave, S. & Fransen, C.H.J.M. (2010) Contributions to shrimp taxonomy. *Zootaxa*, 2372, 1–414.

### **Abstract**

During a study of the associated fauna of gorgonians and black corals on the reefs of Curaçao (Netherlands Antilles, Caribbean Sea) by the first author, a new species of *Pseudopontonides* Heard, 1986: *P. plumosus* sp. nov. was discovered, which is here described and figured.

**Key words:** Crustacea, Decapoda, Palaemonidae, Pontoniinae, *Pseudopontonides*, new species, Antipatharia, Curaçao

### **Introduction**

The genus *Pseudopontonides* was erected by Heard (1986) for *Neopontonides principis* Criales, 1980. *Pseudopontonides* is distinguished from *Neopontonides* Holthuis, 1951 by (1) the absence of an exopodal flagellum on the caridean lobe of the first maxilliped; (2) the presence of a vestigial arthrobranch on the third maxilliped; (3) a well-developed rostral hood, which extends anteriorly to partially cover the statocysts; (4) a reduced movable spine on the exopod of the uropod; (5) the armature of the antennular peduncle, which has two distolateral teeth instead of a single tooth; (6) the presence of a well-developed pterygostomial notch; and (7) short flagella on the antennula and antenna. The only species so far known in the genus is known to associate with species of the antipatharian genera *Stichopathes* and *Virgularia* (Heard 1986). It has been recorded from Curaçao, Bonaire and the Gulf of Mexico.

During field work of the first author in Curaçao, a single specimen of *Pseudopontonides* was discovered, which did not appear to belong to *P. principis*. The new species can be easily distinguished from *P. principis* by characters on the rostrum, antennular peduncle, and pereopods.

### **Systematic Account**

#### ***Pseudopontonides* Heard, 1986**

#### ***Pseudopontonides plumosus* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 1–6)

**Material examined.** RMNH D 51661, ov. female holotype, pocl 2.0 mm, stn. CUR.22, south coast, Otrobanda, harbour, Superior Producer, Curaçao, Lesser Antilles, 12°05'21.5"N, 068°56'35.5"W, on *Antipathes* spec.; depth 29 m; 2.VI.2005, leg. N. Snijders.

**Comparative material examined.** *Pseudopontonides principis* (Criales, 1980): RMNH D 32017, ov. female holotype pocl 3.3 mm, Awa di Oostpunt, Curaçao, Lesser Antilles, on *Stichopathes gracilis*, depth 18 m, 3.VII.1977, leg. M.M. Criales; RMNH D 32688, paratypes, 1 ov. female pocl 3.0 mm, 1 male pocl 1.8 mm,