



A second species of the genus *Manipontonia* Bruce, Okuno & Li, 2005 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Palaemonidae)*

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

Abstract

Manipontonia persiana n. sp., the second species of the genus, is described from the Persian Gulf. The species can be clearly distinguished from the type species *Manipontonia psamathe* (De Man, 1902) by a shorter and more robust carpus and a longer propodus of the major second pereopod. Similarities in other morphological features suggest a similar lifestyle for both species.

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, Caridea, Palaemonidae, Pontoniinae, *Manipontonia*, new species, Persian Gulf

Introduction

Up to now, the pontoniine shrimp, *Manipontonia psamathe* (De Man, 1902) was the only species of the genus *Manipontonia* Bruce, Okuno & Li, 2005, recorded throughout the tropical Indo-West Pacific region from the east coast of Africa to the Marshall and Caroline Islands (Bruce *et al.* 2005). Specimens of *M. psamathe* taken from widespread localities exhibit a high morphological similarity across their range. The species is known as a symbiont of several groups of cnidarian hosts such as hydroids, gorgonians, alcyonarians and antipatharians (Bruce 1976; 1978; 1979; 1991; Bruce *et al.* 2005). Although no thorough investigation of host specificity or ecology of the species has ever been carried out, such a wide host diversity is unusual for commensal palaemonid-pontoniine shrimps (e.g. Marin 2009) and could possibly suggest a complex of several sibling species (see remarks in Bruce *et al.* 2005).

During the study of the pontoniine collection deposited in the Senckenberg Natural History Museum (SMF), Frankfurt am Main, Germany, the holotype of *M. psamathe* (SMF 8530) was examined. At the same time, three ovigerous females of a *Manipontonia* species from the sublittoral of the Persian Gulf were found in the collection of the Museum. They clearly differ from the holotype of *M. psamathe* (De Man, 1902) and are herein described as a new species. Postorbital carapace length (pocl) is used as a standard measurement of size.

Systematics

Palaemonidae Rafinesque, 1815

Pontoniinae Kingsley, 1879

Manipontonia Bruce, Okuno & Li, 2005