



Eupontonia oahu* sp. nov., a second species of the genus *Eupontonia* Bruce, 1971, (Crustacea: Decapoda: Pontoniinae) from Oahu, Hawai'ian Islands

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

Abstract

A new species of the pontoniine shrimp genus *Eupontonia* Bruce, 1971. *E. oahu* sp. nov., from the Hawai'ian island of Oahu, is described and illustrated. *Eupontonia oahu* is the second species of the genus and was found in association with *Pocillopora meandrina* L., confirming the association of this genus with scleractinian corals.

Key words: *Eupontonia oahu* sp. nov., Crustacea, Decapoda, Pontoniinae, Oahu, Hawai'i, taxonomy

Introduction

The genus *Eupontonia* Bruce, 1971, was described on the basis of a single ovigerous female specimen from 0.3m on a coral reef on Mahé, Seychelle Islands (Bruce 1971). It has since been reported only from Jinyin Isand, Xisha Islands, in the South China Sea (Li 1997), again from a single ovigerous female found among corals in the island lagoon, indicating a wide but sparse distribution. Intensive studies of the pontoniine shrimp fauna of scleractinian corals has failed to produce any further specimens (Bruce 1998).

The present specimens were collected in the course of a survey of the fauna associated with scleractinian coral heads in shallow waters around Oahu, in the course of a study by S.L. Coles for the Environmental Department of the Hawaiian Electric Company. (A. Fielding, S.L. Coles, pers. com.) and reported upon by Coles (1980). Forty six specimens were collected, unfortunately all in a rather damaged condition with almost all pereopods detached. One specimen has a single second pereopod still attached and two detached second pereopods were preserved. Thus a full description can still be prepared. Initially thought to represent an undescribed genus, the specimens were found to be a second species of the genus *Eupontonia*.

The specimens are deposited in the collections of the Bishop Museum, Honolulu (BPBM), with two specimens in the Queensland Museum, Brisbane (QM). The numbers, 6B#3, etc., identify the coral colonies from which the specimens were obtained.

Abbreviations: CL = carapace length; R (rostrum) = dorsal teeth/ventral teeth; P = pereopod,

Systematics

Palaemonidae Rafinesque, 1815

Pontoniinae Kingsley, 1879

***Eupontonia* Bruce, 1971**