



## Pontoniinae (Crustacea: Decapoda: Caridea) from Brazil with taxonomic key

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## Abstract

The subfamily Pontoniinae is represented by 116 genera in the world, of which *Ancylomenes*, *Cuapetes*, *Holthuisaeus*, *Lipkebe*, *Neopontonides*, *Periclimenaeus*, *Periclimenes*, *Pontonia*, *Pseudocoutierea*, *Pseudopontonides*, *Typton*, and *Urocaris* occur in Brazilian coast waters. This study presents distributional information, currents taxonomic and an identification key for species of Pontoniinae that occur in Brazilian coast.

**Key words:** Caridea, Palaemonidae, Pontoniinae, identification key, taxonomy, systematics, Brazil

## Introduction

The family Palaemonidae Rafinesque, 1815 is subdivided in two subfamilies: Palaemoninae Kingsley, 1878 and Pontoniinae Kingsley, 1878. The Pontoniinae are one of the most diverse groups of caridean shrimp taxa, worldwide there are presently 602 species distributed in 116 genera (De Grave *et al.* 2009; De Grave & Franssen 2011), occurring in almost all of the world oceans (exception Antarctic and Arctic regions). All species of Pontoniinae are marine. Have a small body shape, which is adapted to their way of living as commensals associated with other taxa as sponges, sea anemones, corals, through to large bivalve molluscs, ascidians and even holothuroidea while others are epizotic on corals and echinodermata and some species are free living (Holthuis 1951).

In Brazilian coast the Palaemoninae is represented by 40 species (Ferreira *et al.* 2010) and the Pontoniinae are represented by 24 species belonging to the genera *Ancylomenes* Okuno and Bruce, 2010 (two species); *Cuapetes* Clark, 1919 (one species); *Holthuisaeus* Anke and De Grave, 2010 (one species); *Lipkebe* Chace, 1969 (one species); *Neopontonides* Holthuis, 1951 (one species); *Periclimenaeus* Borradaile, 1915 (six species); *Periclimenes* Costa, 1844 (four species); *Pontonia* Latreille, 1829 (two species); *Pseudocoutiera* Holthuis, 1951 (one species); *Pseudopontonides* Heard, 1986 (one species); *Typton* O.G. Costa, 1844 (three species) and *Urocaris* Stimpson, 1860 (one species). The Pontoniinae may be distinguished by pleurobranch absent on third maxilliped and posterior margin of telson with three pairs of spines (Holthuis 1951).

The goal of study is provides the current taxonomic and distributional information of species of Pontoniinae that occur in Brazilian coast, as well as providing an identification key for the species. Such works are important tools for biogeographers, taxonomists and ecologists and also this may provide the basis for quick comparisons of species richness between geographic areas.

## Methods and material

We studied the shrimps of the subfamily Pontoniinae inhabiting Brazilian coast [i.e. from the mouth of Oiapoque (4°08'N, 051°40'W) to the Arroio Chuí (33°41'S, 053°27'W)]. The examined material is deposited in the collections of the following Brazilian Research Institutes: FURG – Fundação Universidade Federal do Rio Grande, Instituto de Oceanografia, Coleção de Crustáceos; MNRJ – Museu Nacional, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro; MZUSP—Museu de Zoologia da Universidade São Paulo.

The diagnosis was based on the morphological characters of the carapace, antennules, scaphocerite, maxilliped, mandible, pereopods, abdomen and telson.