



***Triacanthoneus akumalensis*, a new species of alpheid shrimp (Crustacea: Caridea: Alpheidae) from an anchialine cave in Quintana Roo, Mexico**

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Abstract

A new species of *Triacanthoneus* Anker, 2010 is described from an anchialine cave near Akumal, Quintana Roo, Mexico. *Triacanthoneus akumalensis* **sp. nov.**, is the fourth species in the genus and can be distinguished from the previously described species by the position of the sharp lateral teeth on the carapace, the length and shape of the rostrum, the eyes being completely concealed by the carapace, the dentition of the major chela fingers, and the shape of the telson. The presence of a pleural process in the new species represents a new character for the genus. The description of *T. akumalensis* **sp. nov.** increases the number of caridean genera having representatives in the anchialine systems of the Yucatan Peninsula to 11.

Key words: Caridea, Alpheidae, *Triacanthoneus*, new species, Mexico, Yucatan, anchialine cave

Introduction

The genus *Triacanthoneus* Anker, 2010, was erected to accommodate three species of alpheid shrimps characterized by the presence of three sharp teeth on the carapace, one epigastric tooth and two lateral teeth varying in arrangement from the post-hepatic region to an almost cardiac position (Anker 2010). In most other morphological characters, *Triacanthoneus* appears to be close to *Salmones* Holthuis, 1955, especially in the general configuration of the chelipeds and the presence of appendix masculina in all individuals. The three known species of *Triacanthoneus* are found in the open marine shallow waters of the tropical America: *T. toro* Anker, 2010 is presently known only from Bocas del Toro, Panama; *T. pacificus* Anker, 2010 was described from two localities on the Pacific coast of Panama and Colombia; *T. alacrane* Anker, 2010 is currently known from a single specimen collected on Alacrane Reef, Yucatán, Mexico. In this study, we describe a fourth species of the genus from an anchialine cave near Akumal, Quintana Roo, Mexico, and discuss the presence of a pleural process above the coxa of the fifth pereopod that represents a new character for the genus. The type specimens of the new species are deposited in the Colección Nacional de Crustáceos, Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Ciudad de México, Mexico (CNCR). Other abbreviations used are: cl, carapace length; tl, total length.

Taxonomy

Family Alpheidae Rafinesque, 1815

Genus *Triacanthoneus* Anker, 2010