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The "*Hamopontonia corallicola*" Bruce, 1970 species complex (Crustacea, Decapoda, Palaemonidae): new records and new species from the Great Barrier Reef, Australia

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Abstract

The "*Hamopontonia corallicola*" Bruce, 1970 species complex is partly revised. The type species of the genus, *H. corallicola* Bruce, 1970, is redescribed based on material from Northern Australia. Additionally, two new species of the genus associated with hard corals are described from Lizard Island, the Great Barrier Reef, Australia. *Hamopontonia fungicola* **sp. nov.** is associated with fungiid coral *Heliofungia actiniformis* (Quoy & Gaimard, 1833) and *H. physogyra* **sp. nov.** is associated with caryophyllid coral *Physogyra lichtensteini* Milne-Edwards & Haime, 1851. Both species clearly differ from their congeners in distinctive coloration and morphological features. A differential key and remarks on coloration of all described species of the genus are provided.

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, Palaemonidae, Pontoniinae, *Hamopontonia*, *corallicola*, new species, new records, the Great Barrier Reef, Australia

Introduction

The pontoniine shrimp genus *Hamopontonia* Bruce, 1970 presently includes two species, *H. corallicola* Bruce, 1970 (the type species) and *H. essingtoni* Bruce, 1986. The latter species, *H. essingtoni*, is known only from Port Essington, Northern Australia in association with scleractinian coral *Stylophora pistillata* Esper, 1797. The species is a small-sized shrimp with a generally transparent body covered with numerous tiny red spots (Bruce 1986). The type species of the genus, *H. corallicola* is a larger species reported from different localities throughout the Indo-West Pacific region in association with different cnidarian hosts such as stony poritid corals *Goniopora* spp. (e.g. Bruce 1970, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1983; De Grave 1998), fungiids *Heliofungia actiniformis* (Quoy & Gaimard, 1833) (Bruce & Coombes 1995; De Grave 1998) and *Fungia* spp. (Bruce 1983), caryophyllid coral *Euphyllia glabrescens* (Chamisso & Eysenhardt, 1821) and actinian *Entacmaea quadricolor* (Leuckart in Rüppel & Leuckart, 1828) (Suzuki & Hayashi 1977; De Grave 1998). The species possess two types of coloration of body and abdomen. Thus, coloration with large reddish-white dorsal patches on carapace and first four abdominal somites and small white spot in the orbital angle of carapace (e.g. Bruce 1970, p. 47: "*… female is largely transparent with a transverse 8-shaped white patch over the gastric region and a smaller oval white patch laterally behind each orbital region. The rostrum, pterygostomial and branchiostegal regions of the carapace are finely dotted with red. The first four abdominal segments each have a transverse white band posterodorsally. Similar transverse bars are also present ventrally where each is bordered by a narrow band of red …*") is reported for the type specimens associated with poritid coral *Goniopora stokesi* Milne-Edwards & Haime**,** 1851 (Poritidae). In the other hand, commonly found specimens from *Heliofungia actiniformis* (Fungiidae) are generally transparent with two large uniformly white or greenish-white patches on dorsal and lateral margins of carapace and medial abdominal somites respectively (e.g. De Grave 1998, p. 15: "*… females with figure eight shaped white patch on gastric region, posterodorsal aspect of abdominal segments with transverse white bands ...*").

During a survey of pontoniine shrimp diversity of the north-west part of the Great Barrier Reef in the course of the CReef 2010 Lizard Island expedition several new caridean shrimps were found (Marin 2011a, b, 2012; Marin &

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