



Article

***Periclimenaeus dactylodon* sp. nov. (Decapoda: Pontoniinae), from Heron Island, Queensland, Australia**

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Abstract

A new species of *Periclimenaeus* (Crustacea: Pontoniinae) from Heron Island, Queensland, Australia, is described and illustrated. *Periclimenaeus dactylodon* sp. nov., an ascidian associate, was collected from a coral reef at 25 m and increases to 17 the number of *Periclimenaeus* known from Heron Island and to 23 the number of species known from Australia.

Key words: *Periclimenaeus dactylodon*, new species, Crustacea, Decapoda, Pontoniinae, Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef, Australia, ascidian host

Introduction

The *Periclimenaeus* species of Heron Island, in the Capricorn Islands of the southern Great Barrier Reef were listed by Bruce (1981), when 15 species were recorded. Two species were subsequently transferred to other genera (Bruce 1982, 1990), leaving a total of 13 species. Further studies revealed the presence of a further 3 species: *P. arthrodactylus* Holthuis, 1952, *P. heronensis* Bruce, 2010 and *P. creffi* Bruce, 2010 (Bruce 2010a, b). The list continues to grow and a further species, collected in 1979, is now added to the list making a total of 17 species, out of a total of 28 other species now known from The recent addition of *P. parkeri* Bruce, 2010 to the Western Australian fauna, raises to 28 the number of species of this genus now known from Australia. The new species was collected from an unidentified ascidian host from 24.5 m, and is now described and illustrated. The specimens are deposited in the collections of the Queensland Museum, Brisbane.

Abbreviations used: CL, postorbital carapace length; QM, Queensland Museum, Brisbane. Measurements are in millimetres (mm).

Taxonomy

Palaemonidae Rafinesque, 1815

***Periclimenaeus dactylodon* sp. nov.**

(Figs 1–7)

Material examined. Ovig. ♀, holotype (QM W29142), 1 ♂ allotype (QM W29143); 1 ovig. ♀, damaged, paratype (QM W29144), Wistari Reef, Heron Island, Queensland, coll. R. Boer & Thompson, 8 May 1979, reef front spur, 24.5 m.

Diagnosis. Rostrum with dentition 4-5/0; slender, carapace without supraorbital spines or tubercles, first abdominal tergite without anterior dorsal lobe, scaphocerite reduced, incisor process of mandible bidentate, first pereopod fingers spatulate, edges entire, second pereopod chelae smooth, major dactyl with well developed molar process, cutting edge distally finely denticulate, merus with acute tubercles ventrally, minor second pereopod dactyl semicircular, cutting edge strongly dentate, about 20 teeth, third pereopod with dactyl lacking distal