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Ctenocheloides almeidai sp. nov., a new ghost shrimp from Brazil (Decapoda, Ctenochelidae)

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Abstract

A second species of the ctenochelid genus *Ctenocheloides* Anker, 2010 is described based on a single female specimen collected on a rocky reef in front of Maceió, Alagoas, northeastern Brazil. *Ctenocheloides almeidai* sp. nov. represents the first record of *Ctenocheloides* in the Atlantic Ocean. The new species differs from *C. attenboroughi* Anker, 2010, the type species from Madagascar, in the number of teeth in the crista dentata of the third maxilliped, the proportions and armature of the major and minor chelipeds, and several other characters. The microhabitats of *C. almeidai* sp. nov. and *C. attenboroughi* are remarkably similar: both species inhabit burrows made in rock crevices cemented by compact clay-like silt, at very shallow depths (1–1.5 m). A key to the western Atlantic species of the family Ctenochelidae is provided.

Key words: *Ctenocheloides*, new species, decapod, pectinate fingers, West Atlantic, Brazil

Introduction

The decapod infraorder Axiidea de Saint-Laurent, 1979 includes lobster shrimps (family Axiidae) as well as several families of burrowing ghost shrimps (Dworschak et al. 2012). Within this group, only two genera of the family Ctenochelidae, viz. *Ctenocheles* Kishinouye, 1926 and *Ctenocheloides* Anker, 2010, are characterised by the so-called pectinate cheliped fingers (Tshudy & Sorhannus 2000). The former genus currently includes six species worldwide, whilst the latter genus was hitherto known from the type species, *C. attenboroughi* Anker, 2010, from Nosy-Bé, Madagascar (Anker 2010 and references therein). *Ctenocheloides* can be separated from *Ctenocheles* by the broadly rounded frontal margin of the carapace (vs. forming a carinate and usually dentate rostrum in *Ctenocheles*), the major cheliped with moderately elongate fingers (vs. strongly elongate in *Ctenocheles*), and the uropod without a distinct lateral notch (vs. with a lateral notch in *Ctenocheles*) (Anker 2010).

In August 2012, the authors were sampling decapod crustaceans on a shallow rocky reef in front of the city of Maceió, in the Brazilian state of Alagoas, targeting primarily alpheid shrimps associated with rock crevices and coral rubble. During this process, a single specimen of an unusually looking ghost shrimp was extracted from a deep, partly silt-cemented crevice in a coral rock brought to the surface from the bottom of one of the deeper tide pools. Upon a closer inspection, this specimen was recognised as an undescribed second species of *Ctenocheloides*, a genus hitherto known only from the Indian Ocean (Anker 2010). This new species is described and illustrated herein. The holotype is deposited in the crustacean collection of Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo (MZUSP). Carapace length (CL) was measured from the frontal margin to the posterior margin of the carapace. Abbreviations used for the gill/exopod formula: Arb, arthrobranch; Ep, epipod; Ex, exopod; Mxp, maxilliped; P, pereopod; Plb, pleurobranch; Pod, podobranch; ru, rudimentary.