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***Laomenes albonigrus* sp. nov., (Crustacea: Decapoda; Pontoniinae) from Ashmore Reef, Western Australia**

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Abstract

One specimen of an un-described species of pontoniine shrimp of the genus *Laomenes* Clark, 1919, *Laomenes albonigrus* sp. nov., was collected from a crinoid host from Ashmore Reef, Western Australia, and is now described and illustrated.

Key words: *Laomenes albonigrus*, sp. nov., (Crustacea: Decapoda; Pontoniinae) from Ashmore Reef, Western Australia, from crinoid host

Introduction

The genus *Laomenes* was established by Clark (1919) and was treated as a synonym of *Periclimenes* Costa, 1844 until revised to generic level recently by Okuno & Fujita (2007). Prior to that date it included three species, *Periclimenes amboinensis* De Man, 1888, *P. cornutus* Borradaile, 1915, and *P. ceratophthalmus* Borradaile, 1915. Bruce (1968) had described *Parapontonia nudirostris* and this was also added to the revised genus. Bruce (2006) also described *L. jackhintoni* and Marin (2009) added *L. clarki* Marin, and *L. pardus* Marin and *L. tigris* Marin to the revised genus making a total of seven species. Three further species have recently been placed in this genus: *Laomenes holthuisi* Marin & Okuno, 2012; *L. pestrushka* Marin, Chan & Okuno, 2012, and *L. gyrophthalmus* Marin, Chan & Okuno, 2012, so that eleven species are now known. All are associated with crinoid hosts and are known only from the Indo-west Pacific region. Five of these have been reported from Australian waters (*L. amboinensis*, *L. ceratophthalmus*, *L. cornutus*, *L. jackhintoni*, *L. nudirostris*), and *L. pardus* has also been reported (as *Periclimenes amboinensis*) based on a photo (Bruce (1980)). Some species have been reported from numerous localities, e.g. *L. amboinensis* from the Maldivic Islands to the Marshall Islands, and it seems desirable that all these earlier records should be re-examined.

Marin (2009) divided the then known species of *Laomenes* into three species groups centered on *L. amboinensis*, *L. jackhintoni* and *L. ceratophthalmus*, respectively. The *L. amboinensis* group is distinguished by the presence of ventral rostral teeth, distoventral spines on third pereopod propod and a fixed tooth on distolateral margin of uropodal exopod.

The discovery of this new species of *Laomenes* in the course of the Western Australian Museum Kimberley 2013 expedition to Ashmore Reef, northwest Australia, funded by Woodside Energy, adds to our knowledge of this little known genus and its distribution. The shrimp specimen was collected simultaneously with specimens of *Nippontonia ashmorei* Bruce, 2014, from a sponge with an attached crinoid which proved to be the host of the present specimen.

Abbreviations used. CL, postorbital carapace length; R., rostral dentition; WAM, Western Australian Museum, Perth.

Systematics

Palaemonidae Rafinesque, 1815

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