

**PONTONIINE SHRIMPS OF THE GENUS *APOPONTONIA* BRUCE, 1976  
(CRUSTACEA: DECAPODA: PALAEMONIDAE)  
FROM THE PHILIPPINES PANGLAO 2004 EXPEDITION, WITH  
DESCRIPTION OF ONE NEW SPECIES**

**Masako Mitsuhashi**

*Laboratory of Biology, Osaka Institute of Technology, Ohmiya, Asahi-ku,  
Osaka 535-8585, Japan*

**Tin-Yam Chan**

*Institute of Marine Biology, National Taiwan Ocean University, 2 Pei-Ning Road, Keelung 20224, Taiwan, Republic of China  
Email: tychan@mail.ntou.edu.tw (Corresponding author)*

**ABSTRACT.** – Three species of the rarely-recorded pontoniine genus *Apopontonia*, previously unknown from the Philippines, were collected in the recent Philippines PANGLAO 2004 expedition. One of the species is described as new to science. The new species differs from congeners in the presence of triangular teeth on the distal part of the fixed finger of the second pereopods. A key to the species of *Apopontonia* is provided.

**KEY WORDS.** – *Apopontonia*, new species, Palaemonidae, Pontoniinae, Panglao Island, Philippines.

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**INTRODUCTION**

The expedition PANGLAO 2004, organized by the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, yielded an abundant coral reef fauna from and around Panglao Island in the central Philippines. Amongst the decapod crustaceans collected, six specimens of small sponge-associated pontoniine shrimps were found belonging to the rarely recorded genus *Apopontonia* Bruce, 1976 [i.e. lateral rostral carinae broadly expanded, dactyl of minor chela without bilateral laminar expansions, and uropods armed with many movable spines on distolateral and diaeresis margins but without fixed tooth (see Bruce, 1988b; Chace & Bruce, 1993; Bruce, 1996)]. At present four species are known in *Apopontonia*, namely *A. orbitospinata* (Bruce, 1969), *A. falcistrostris* Bruce, 1976, *A. dubia* Bruce, 1981 and *A. seticauda* Bruce, 2008. None of them have been reported from the Philippines. Careful examination of the Philippines material revealed that they are composed of three different species. Two of the specimens belong to *A. dubia*, while two other specimens are *A. orbitospinata*. The remaining two Philippine specimens differ from all the known species of the genus by having triangular teeth on the distal part of the fixed finger of the second pereopods, and it is herein described as a new species.

The specimens examined are deposited in the Philippines National Museum, Manila (NMCR) and the National

Taiwan Ocean University (NTOU). The abbreviation CL is the postorbital carapace length, and TL is the total length measured from the tip of the rostrum to the end of the telson.

**SYSTEMATICS**

**PALAEMONIDAE Rafinesque, 1815**

**PONTONIINAE Kingsley, 1878**

***Apopontonia* Bruce, 1976**

***Apopontonia dubia* Bruce, 1981  
(Figs. 1, 2)**

*Apopontonia dubia* Bruce, 1981: 225, Figs. 1–3; 1983: 210, Fig. 1; 1991: 258; De Grave, 2000: 121.

**Material examined.** – PANGLAO 2004, the Philippines: Stn T29, Biking, 9°34.5'N 123°50.6'E, beam trawl, mud, 77–84 m, 1 Jul.2004, 1 male (CL 1.2 mm, TL 4.8 mm) (NTOU); Stn T1, Bolod, 9°32.4'N 123°47.3'E, beam trawl, mud and many sponges, 83–102 m, 30 May.2004, 1 female (CL 1.5 mm, TL 6.9 mm) (NTOU).

**Description.** – Body small, subcylindrical. Carapace (Fig. 1A) smooth; antennal spine acute, hepatic spine absent. Rostrum

(Fig. 1A) almost reaching distal end of antennular peduncle; rostrum unilobed, but proximolateral parts broadly expanded, forming lateral rostral carinae as single carina extending to tip of rostrum (Fig. 1A); rostrum with four or five low but acute teeth over distal two-thirds of dorsal margin and zero or one subdistal small tooth on ventral margin, three to five short setae present anterior to each dorsal tooth.

Fourth thoracic sternite with small median projection.

Abdomen smooth; anterior three pleura broadly rounded, fourth and fifth pleura slightly angled posteriorly; fifth pleuron slightly shorter than sixth pleuron, almost as long as fourth somite; posteroventral angle of sixth pleuron acute.

Telson with two pairs of dorsolateral spines in female (Fig. 1C), two pairs of dorsolateral spines and one extra posterior tooth in male (Fig. 1B); posterior margin of telson produced triangularly, with three pairs of terminal spines, lateral spines

about third length of median spines, submedian spines slightly shorter than median spines.

Eyes (Fig. 1A) well developed, with small posterodorsal ocellus, base of eyestalk slightly wider than cornea.

Antennular peduncle (Fig. 1A) robust; basal segment broad, distolateral tooth acute, with one spine on ventromedial surface; stylocerite broad, acute, reaching to half length of medial margin; middle and distal segments short, stout; upper flagellum distally biramous, proximal three segments fused.

Antenna with robust basicerite, unarmed; scaphocerite with distal acute tooth, slightly overreaching distal margin of scaphocerite, lateral margin almost straight.

Mouthparts not dissected. Second and third maxillipeds agree well with Bruce (1981).

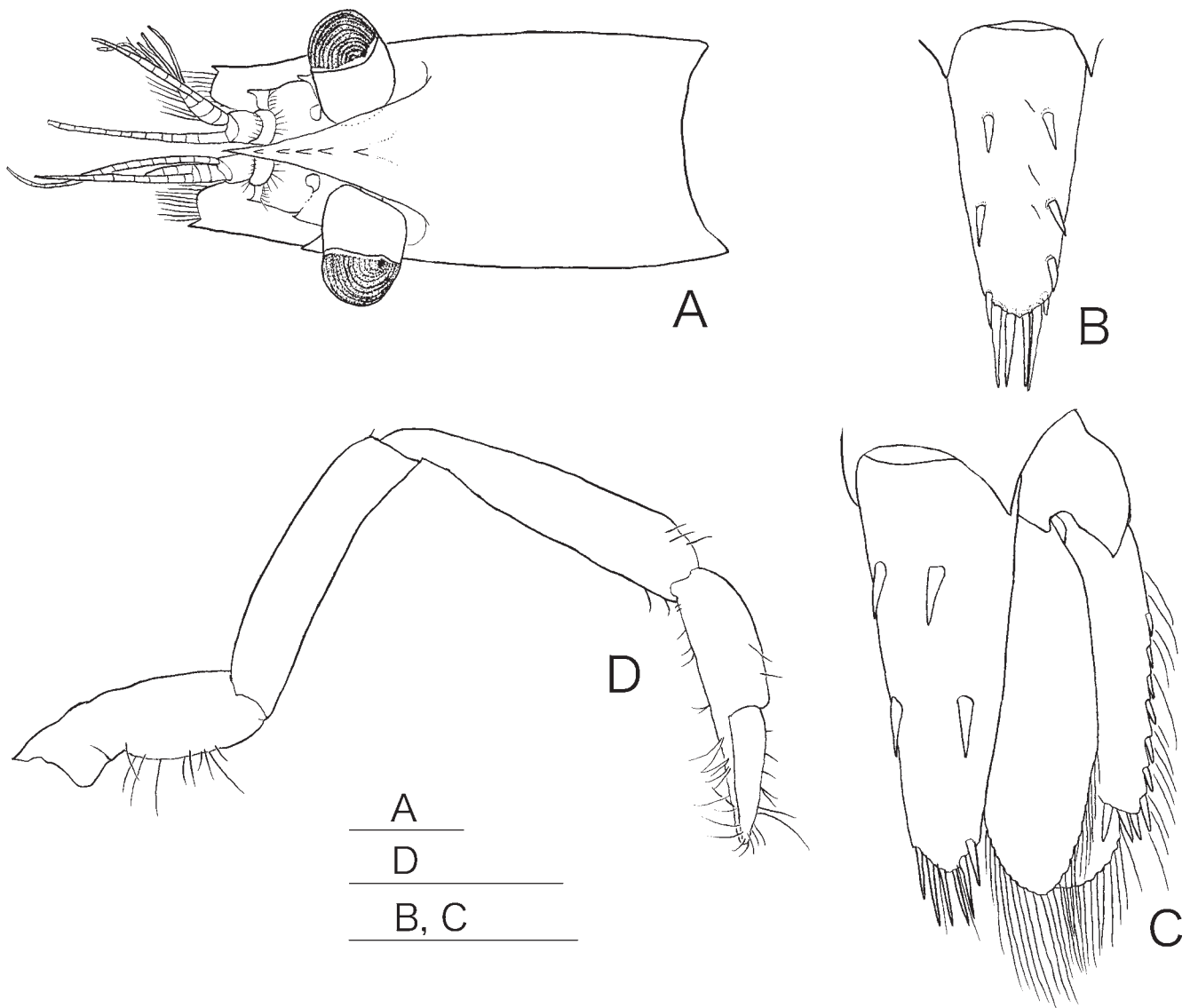


Fig. 1. *Apopontonia dubia* Bruce, 1981: A–B, male (CL 1.2 mm); C–D, female (CL 1.5 mm). A, carapace and anterior appendages, dorsal view; B, telson, dorsal view; C, telson and uropods, dorsolateral view; D, right first pereiopod, lateral view. Scale bars = 0.5 mm.

First pereiopod (Fig. 1D) moderately robust, exceeding scaphocerite by fingers when extended anteriorly; chela feebly setose, posteroventral part of medial side with tufts of short setae; fingers tapering, slightly longer than palm; tip hoof-shaped; carpus longer than chela, slightly longer than merus; ischium 0.7 times of merus length.

Second pereiopods (Fig. 2A–D) robust, exceeding scaphocerite by half length of chela. Right cheliped (Fig. 2A–C) slightly

larger than left in the male specimen, missing in the female specimen, finely tuberculate; fingers flattened, feebly setose, tips acute, strongly hooked; cutting edge of movable finger with fossa at middle and flat tooth on proximal half; palm subcylindrical, slightly compressed dorsoventrally, about twice longer than deep, 1.5 times of finger length, dorsolateral and ventrolateral surfaces each with one longitudinal shallow concavity near base of movable finger; carpus short, stout, distally expanded, slightly shorter than distal width, quarter

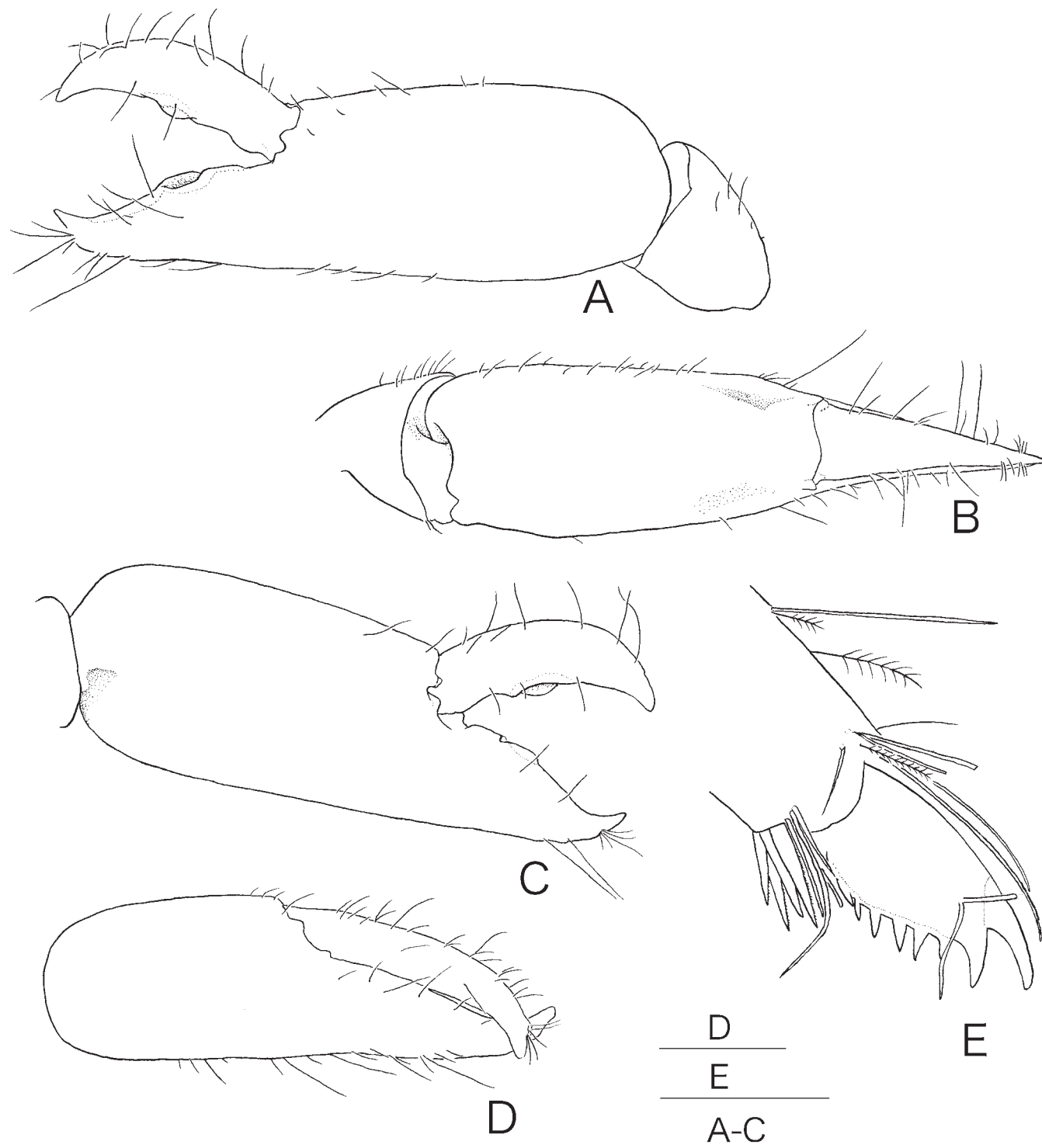


Fig. 2. *Apopontonia dubia* Bruce, 1981: A–C, male (CL 1.2 mm); D–E, female (CL 1.5 mm). A, chela and carpus of major right second pereiopod, dorsal view; B, same, lateral view; C, same, ventral view; D, minor left second pereiopod, dorsal view; E, dactylus and distal part of propodus of right third pereiopod, lateral view. Scales bars: A–D = 0.5 mm; E = 0.1 mm.

length of propodus; merus and ischium laterally compressed; merus 1.7 times as long as carpus, slightly longer than ischium. Left minor cheliped (Fig. 2D) finely tuberculate with relatively long fingers; fingers slightly longer than palm, feebly setose, cutting edges entire, tip strongly hooked; palm subcylindrical, moderately compressed ventrally, 1.5 times longer than deep; carpus similar to that of right major cheliped, as long as distal width; merus 1.4 times as long as carpus, 0.8 times as long as ischium.

Third to fifth pereopods robust, compressed, moderately setose; dactylus of third pereopod (Fig. 2E) short, fifth of propodus length, corpus 1.7 times longer than greatest width, with hooked acute unguis, unguis about half length of corpus, distal accessory tooth acute, two-thirds of unguis length, four to six acute ventral teeth present, distal most ventral tooth smaller than the distal second ventral tooth, proximal two teeth smaller than other teeth, two simple long setae on lateral surface, one simple long seta on medial surface, all at about distal third of corpus; propodus length 5.5 times of its depth, ventral margin with regularly spaced eight or nine groups of movable spines, distal most group at distoventral angle, distal two groups each with four spines, distal third and fourth groups each with three spines, distal fifth and/or sixth groups each with two spines, most proximal group with one spine; carpus about 0.6 times as long as propodus, about three times of its depth; merus almost as long as propodus; ischium slightly longer than carpus; fourth and fifth pereopods similar to third.

Male appendix interna of second pleopod with a long apical spine, spine overreaching appendix masculina.

Uropods (Fig. 1C) slightly exceeding terminal margin of telson; exopod with lateral margin armed with seven or eight movable spines, diaeresis bearing three to six movable spines, middle spines of diaeresis thicker and longer than lateral and median spines, almost twice longer than other spines.

**Distribution and habitat.** – *Apopontonia dubia* has been collected from depths of 12–43 m in Queensland, Australia (Bruce, 1981, 1983), New Caledonia (Bruce, 1991) and the northern coast of Papua New Guinea (De Grave, 2000). The present study extends its range to the central Philippines. Bruce (1981, 1983) recorded *Ircinia* cf. *echinata* and *Spongia* sp. as hosts of *A. dubia*, but no information on the host sponge was recorded for the present specimens. The single female recorded from station T1 (Bolod, Philippines, 83–102 m) represents the deepest record of the species.

**Remarks.** – The specimens collected from the Philippines generally agree well with the original description and the additional reports of *A. dubia* by Bruce (1981, 1983, 1991) and De Grave (2000) except for the shape of the lateral rostral carina and the male major cheliped. Bruce (1981) described the lateral rostral carina of the holotype female as “broadly expanded, ...but not extending to the tip of the rostrum”. The present specimens, however, have the lateral rostral carina extending to the tip of the rostrum (Fig. 1A). The major cheliped of the male specimen from the

Philippines (CL 1.2 mm, Fig. 2A–C) has rather elongated fingers comparing to the male reported by Bruce (1983: CL 1.9 mm, Fig. 1A–C).

***Apopontonia orbitospinata* (Bruce, 1969)**  
(Fig. 3)

*Periclimenaeus orbitospinatus* Bruce, 1969: 160.

*Apopontonia tridentata* Bruce, 1988a: 1270, Figs. 4–7.

*Apopontonia orbitospinata*: Bruce, 2001: 152, Fig. 4; 2007: 120.

**Material examined.** – PANGLAO 2004, Philippines: Stn T4, Bolod, 9°33.0'N 123°48.5'E, beam trawl, many large sponges, 82 m, 1 Jun.2004, 1 male (CL 1.4 mm, TL 6.6 mm), 1 female (CL 1.4 mm, TL 7.1 mm) (NTOU).

**Description.** – Body small, subcylindrical. Carapace (Fig. 3A) smooth; antennal spine acute, hepatic spine absent. Rostrum (Fig. 3A) trilobed, lateral lobes forming large triangular supraocular teeth, reaching middle of basal segment of antennular peduncle; median lobe longest, reaching distal end of antennular peduncle, dorsal and ventral margins entire and almost straight; distal end bifid in lateral view, lower tip directed downwards, almost twice longer than dorsal tip, ventral margin concave at base of lower tip.

Fourth thoracic sternite with small median projection.

Abdomen smooth; anterior three pleura broadly rounded, fourth and fifth pleura slightly angled posteriorly; fifth pleuron slightly shorter than sixth pleuron, subequal to fourth somite; posteroventral angle of sixth pleuron acute.

Telson (Fig. 3B) with two pairs of dorsolateral spines; posterior margin of telson produced triangularly, with three pairs of terminal spines; lateral spines about half length of median spines, submedian spines slightly shorter than median spines.

Eyes (Fig. 3A) well developed, with a small posterodorsal ocellus, base of eyestalk as wide as cornea.

Antennular peduncle (Fig. 3A) robust; basal segment broad, distolateral tooth acute, with one spine on ventromedial surface; stylocerite broad, with acute tip, not exceeding half length of medial margin; middle and distal segments short, stout, upper flagellum biramous distally, proximal three segments uniramous.

Antenna with robust basicerite, unarmed; scaphocerite with blunt distolateral tooth, distinctly overreaching distal margin of scaphocerite, base of tooth with feeble depression, lateral margin almost straight.

Mouthparts not dissected. Second and third maxillipeds agree well with Bruce (1988a).

First pereopod (Fig. 3C) moderately robust, exceeding scaphocerite by chela; chela feebly setose, posteroventral part of medial side with tufts of short setae; fingers tapering,

distinctly longer than palm; tip weakly hoof-shaped; carpus longer than chela, slightly shorter than merus; ischium about half length of merus.

Second pereiopods robust, smooth; left major cheliped (Fig. 3D–F, missing in the female specimen) larger than right cheliped, exceeding scaphocerite by distal four-fifths of chela, 1.3 times as long as right minor chela, maximum width in dorsal view 2.5 times of that of right minor chela;

fingers strongly compressed, tips acute, strongly hooked; cutting edge of movable finger proximally with oval fossa; fixed finger with round projection on proximal part of cutting edge; palm subcylindrical, 2.5 times longer than deep, 2.7 times of finger length, ventrolateral surface with longitudinal shallow concavity near base of movable finger; carpus short, stout, distally expanded, cup-shaped, slightly shorter than distal width, about quarter of palm length; merus and ischium compressed, merus 1.7 times as long as carpus, 1.2 times as

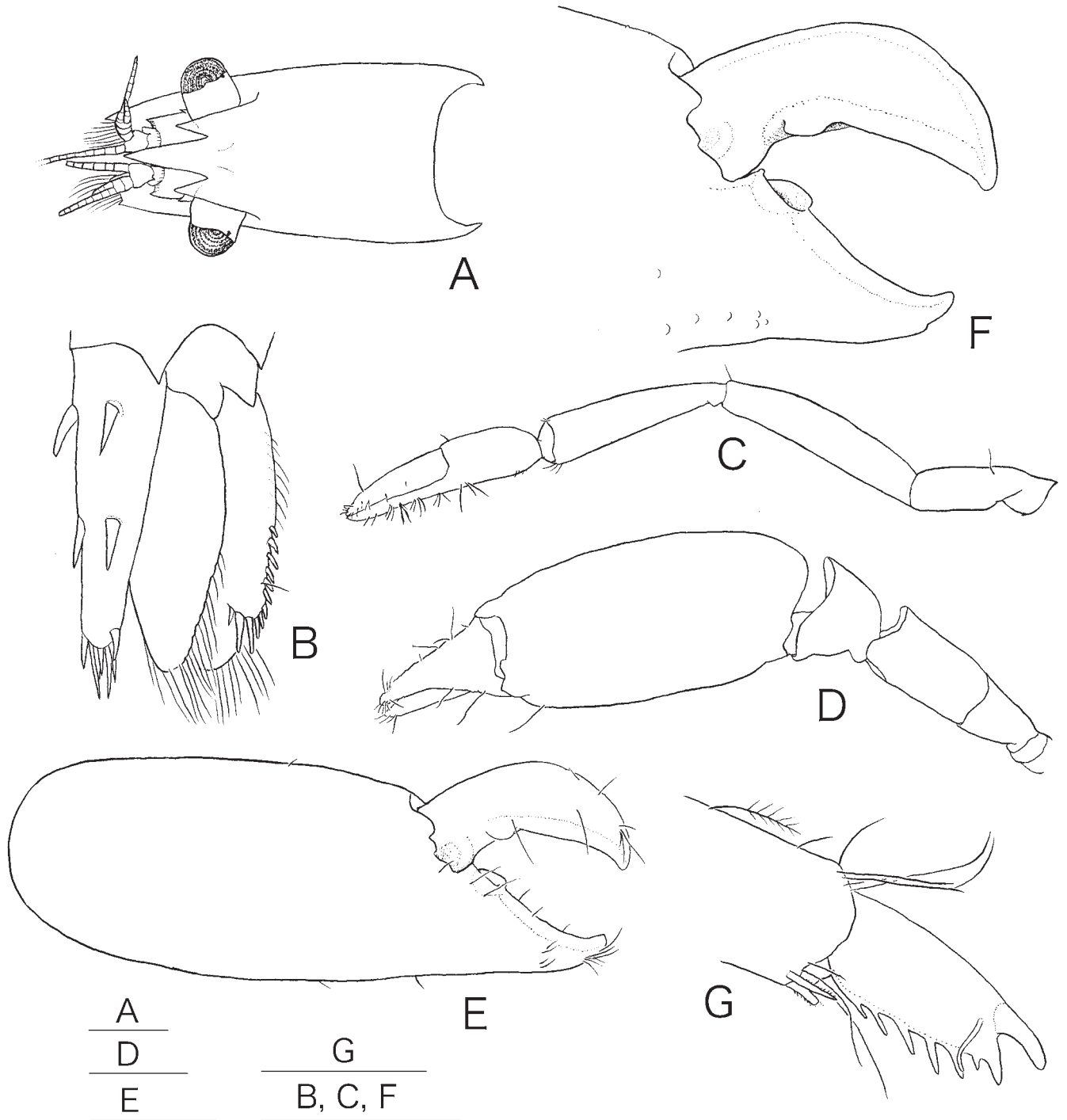


Fig. 3. *Apopontonia orbitospinata* (Bruce, 1969): A–F, male (CL 1.4 mm); G, female (CL 1.4 mm). A, carapace and anterior appendages, dorsal view; B, telson and uropods, dorsolateral view; C, left first pereiopod, lateral view; D, major left second pereiopod, lateral view; E, same, dorsal view; F, same, dorsal view; G, dactylus and distal part of propodus of right third pereiopod, lateral view. Scale bars: A–F = 0.5 mm; G = 0.1 mm.



long as ischium. Right minor cheliped with elongated fingers; fingers 1.2 times longer than palm, cutting edges entire, tip strongly hooked; dorsolateral margin of movable finger carinate; palm subcylindrical, moderately compressed, 1.6 times longer than deep; caprus similar to that of left major cheliped, about as long as distal width; merus 1.5 times as long as carpus, 0.9 times as long as ischium.

Third to fifth pereopods robust, compressed, moderately setose; dactylus of third pereopod (Fig. 3G) short, eighth of propodus length; corpus 1.9 times longer than greatest width, with hooked acute unguis, unguis two-fifths of corpus length; distal accessory tooth about half of unguis length; four to six acute ventral teeth present, distal most tooth and proximal two teeth thinner than other teeth; propodus length about 5 times of its depth, distoventral angle with two movable spines, followed by 10 or 11 evenly spaced movable spines along entire ventral margin; carpus about 0.6 times of propodus length, four times its depth; merus almost same as propodus length; ischium almost same length with carpus; fourth and fifth pereopods similar to third pereopod except for having fewer propodal spines (7 or 8).

Appendix masculina of second pleopod with two long apical spines.

Uropods (Fig. 3B) slightly exceeding terminal margin of telson; diaeresis and distal half of lateral margin of exopod armed with three or four and six to nine movable spines, respectively; middle spines of diaeresis thicker and longer than lateral and medial spines, almost twice longer than lateral spines.

**Distribution and habitat.** – Known previously only from the Northwest shelf and Gulf of Carpentaria of Australia at 18–54 m depth, now extended to the central Philippines at a depth of 82 m. The host sponge species was not recorded.

**Remarks.** – Bruce (1988a) described *Apopontonia tridentata* from Australian North West Shelf, but later was synonymized under *A. orbitospinata* (Bruce, 1969). This species differs from other congeners by having a trilobed rostrum with smooth dorsal and ventral margins except for the bifid tip of the median lobe (Bruce, 1969; 1988a; 2001). *Apopontonia falcistrotris* also has large triangular supraocular tooth, but is different from *A. orbitospinata* in having four or five dorsal teeth on the rostrum (Bruce, 1976; De Grave, 2000). In addition, the lateral margin of the uropodal exopod is unarmed (vs. distal half armed with spines in *A. orbitospinata*).

The present female has right second pereopod only while both second pereopods are present in the male. The major chela in the male agrees well with that of the holotype female of *A. orbitospinata* (see Bruce, 1969; 2001) and has an opposing fossae-like structure, which is equally present in *A. dubia*, *A. dentimanus* and *A. seticauda*. The type species of the genus, *A. falcistrotris*, lacks such “opposing fossae” structure and only bears a weak tooth on the movable finger (see De Grave, 2000: 121, Fig. 1e, f). In general, the opposing fossae are suspected of having a sound producing

function and are known to occur in some free living species of *Periclimenella*, *Coralliocaris* (coral associates) and others (see Bruce, 1983), but it is not known if the structure in *Apopontonia* (generally sponge associates) is also related to sound production.

***Apopontonia dentimanus*, new species**  
(Figs. 4–7)

**Material examined.** – PANGLAO 2004, Philippines: Stn B36, North of Doljo, Panglao Island, 9°35.9'N 123°44.5'E, reef wall brushing, 24 m, 1 Jul.2004, 1 male (CL 1.9 mm, TL 8.6 mm), holotype (NMCR). Stn B11, Pamilacan Island, 9°29.4'N 123°56.0'E, coral rubble brushing, 2–4 m, 11 Jun.2004, 1 ovig. female (CL 2.4 mm, TL 11.5 mm), paratype (NTOU).

**Description.** – Body (Fig. 4) small, subcylindrical, stouter in female. Carapace smooth. Rostrum in holotype male (Figs. 4A; 5A, B) reaching half length of distal segment of antennular peduncle, straight, dorsal margin with four acute teeth, posterior most tooth situated before orbital notch and separated from other teeth, other three teeth evenly distributed, ventral margin with one acute tooth at level between distal two dorsal rostral teeth; base broadly expanded, unarmed, adjoining the well developed orbit; rostrum slightly damaged in female (Figs. 4B; 5C), reaching base of middle segment of antennular peduncle, slightly curved downward, dorsal margin with four small shallow teeth, posterior most tooth closer to second posterior teeth, ventral margin with one acute tooth at level between distal most rostral tooth and tip of rostrum. Antennal spine acute, hepatic spine absent.

Fourth thoracic sternite with small median projection.

Abdomen (Fig. 4A, B) smooth, fifth somite slightly shorter than sixth somite, 0.7 times of fourth somite length in males but slightly longer than fourth somite in females; posteroventral angle of sixth somite acute; pleura of anterior three somites broadly rounded, fourth and fifth pleura slightly angled posteriorly; females with pleura more expanded.

Telson (Fig. 5D, E) with two pairs of dorsolateral spines; posterior pair at third of telson length, distal pair at two-thirds of telson length. Three pairs of terminal spines along slightly produced posterior margin, lateral spines about half length of intermediate spines, submedian spines slightly shorter than intermediate spines.

Eyes (Figs. 4A, B; 5A) well developed, with small posterodorsal ocellus, base of eyestalk subequal to diameter of cornea.

Antennular peduncle (Fig. 5A) robust; basal segment broad, with acute distolateral tooth, a spine on ventromedial surface; stylocerite broad, acute, reaching half of medial margin; intermediate and distal segments short and stout, subequal in length, upper flagellum biramous, proximal three segments fused; females with relatively blunt distolateral tooth and stylocerite.

Antenna with robust basicerite, unarmed; scaphocerite with acute distolateral tooth, reaching level of distal margin of scaphocerite, lateral margin almost straight.

Mandible (Fig. 6A) without palp; molar process relatively robust, with five blunt distal teeth; incisor process slender with three small teeth distally, middle tooth smaller than others. Maxillula (Fig. 6B) with feebly bilobed palp, lower lobe without seta in paratype female, with one curved seta in holotype male; upper lacinia with short setae medially; lower lacinia slender, tapering distally and with dense short setae on medial margin. Maxilla (Fig. 6C) with broad, distally tapering palp, a few setae on lateral basal margin; distal endite well developed, bilobed, medial margin with numerous setae; scaphocerite well developed, twice longer than width. First maxilliped (Fig. 6D) with slender, nonsetose palp; basal endite broad, with numerous setae on medial border; coxal endite separated from basal endite by shallow

notch; caridean lobe well developed; exopod with four long plumose setae; epipod deeply bilobed. Second maxilliped (Fig. 6E) normal; dactylar segment about four times longer than broad, densely covered with spines and setae on medial border; propodal segment not produced medially, with spines and setae on anteromedial border; coxa produced medially and with several setae on medial margin; exopod with six long plumose setae distally; epipod subrectangular, podobranch absent. Third maxilliped (Fig. 6F) without arthrobranch; endopod slender, ischiomeral segment fused with basis; dactyl length about three times of width; carpus length 3.5 times of width; ischiomeral segment length about five times width; coxa with rounded nonsetose epipod.

First pereiopod (Fig. 7A) moderately robust, exceeding scaphocerite by quarter of chela length when extended anteriorly; fingers of chela with many distally curved long setae, cutting edges entire; fingers moderately tapering

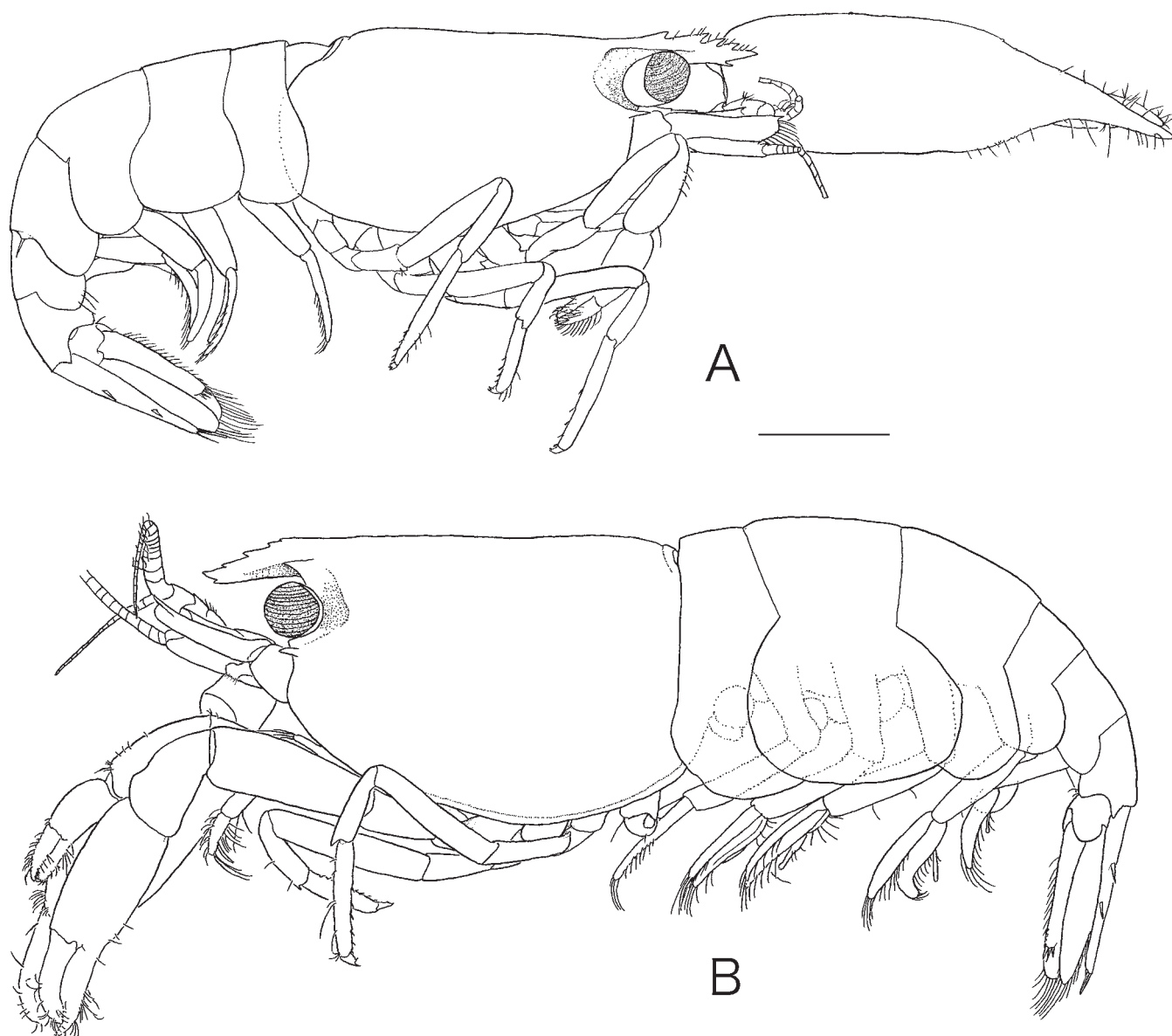


Fig. 4. *Apopontonia dentimanus*, new species: A, holotype male (CL 1.9 mm); B, paratype female (CL 2.4 mm). Right second pereiopod missing in holotype male; left fifth pereiopod missing in paratype female. Scale bar = 1.0 mm.

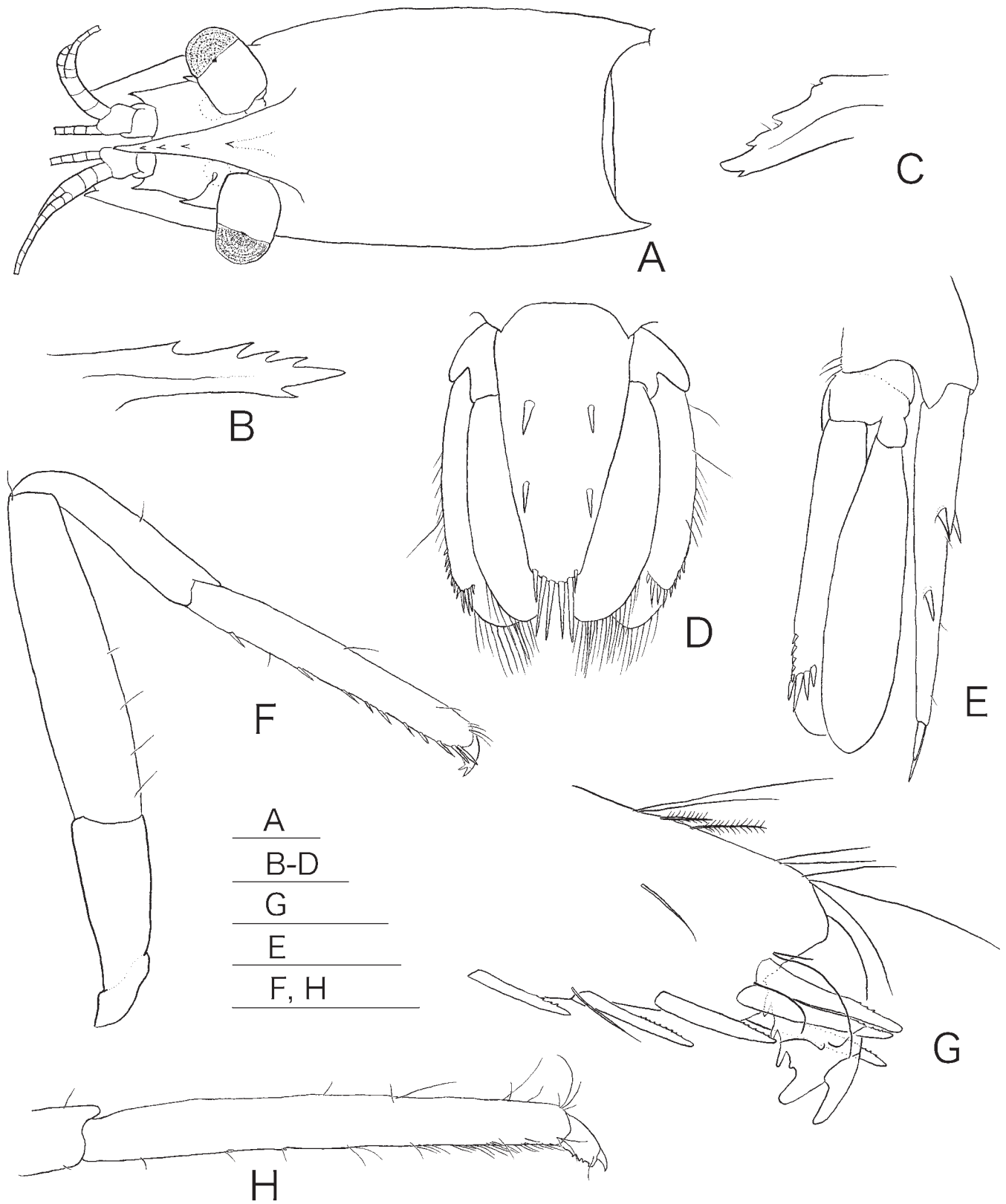


Fig. 5. *Apopontonia dentimanus*, new species: A, B, D, F, G, holotype male (CL 1.9 mm); C, E, H, paratype female (CL 2.4 mm). A, carapace and anterior appendages, dorsal view; B, C, rostrum, lateral view; D, telson and uropods, dorsal view; E, same, lateral view, setae on distal margin of uropods omitted; F, right third pereiopod, lateral view; G, same, dactylus and distal part of propodus; H, dactylus and propodus of right fifth pereiopod, lateral view. Scale bars: A–F, H = 0.5 mm; G = 0.1 mm.



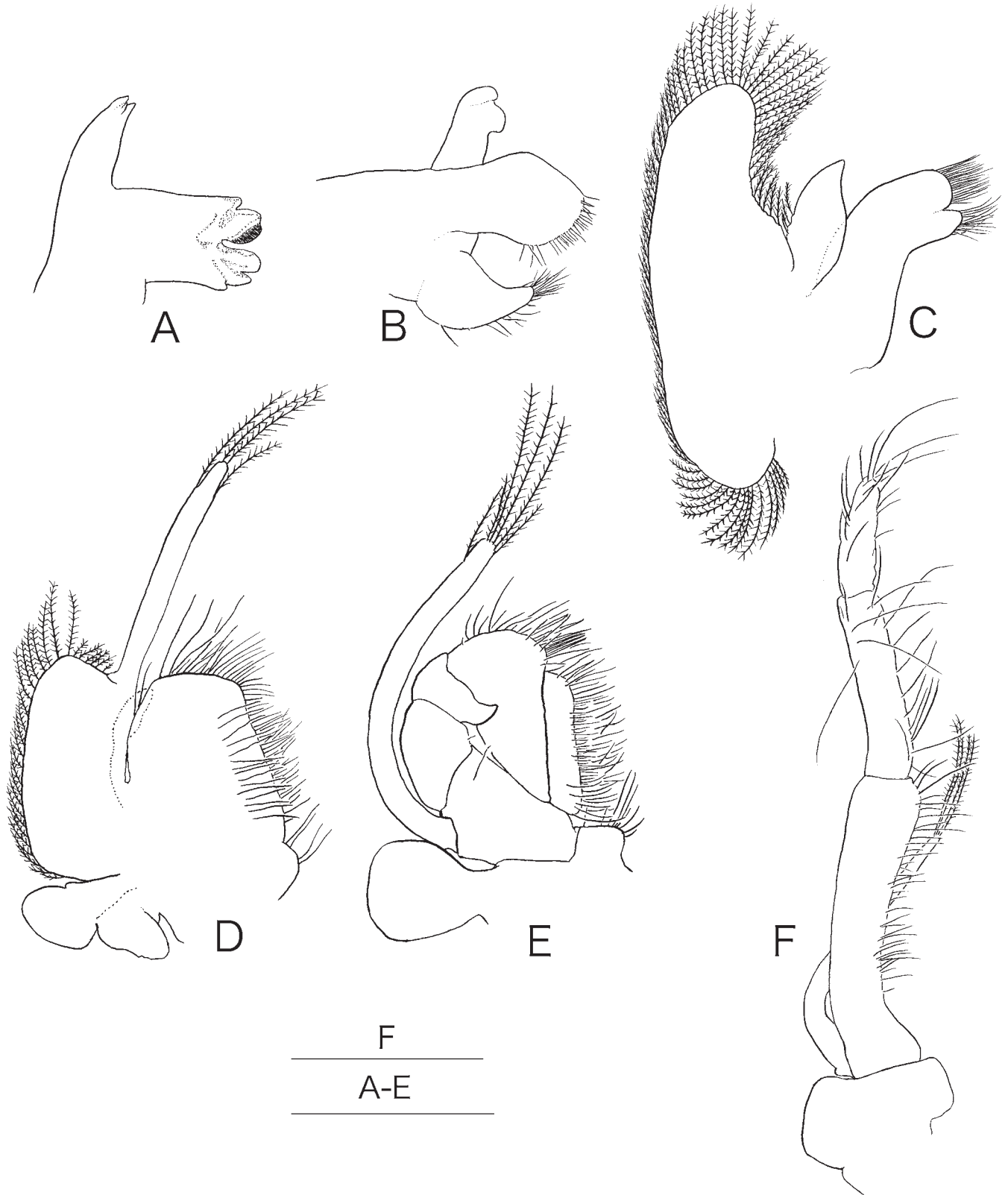


Fig. 6. *Apopontonia dentimanus*, new species, paratype female (CL 2.4 mm). A, right mandible; B, right maxillula; C, right maxilla; D, right first maxilliped; E, right second maxilliped; F, right third maxilliped. Scale bars = 0.5 mm.

distally, as long as palm; tip of movable finger terminating in two small teeth, these two teeth oppose one small tooth on fixed finger when fingers closed; carpus as long as chela, widened distally, moderately shorter than merus; ischium about half length of merus.

Second pereiopod (Fig. 7B–E) only with left major cheliped present in holotype male; chela robust, with sparse minute tubercles, overreaching scaphocerite by chela (Fig 4A); fingers strongly depressed, tip strongly hooked, acute; cutting edge of movable finger with oval concavity at proximal

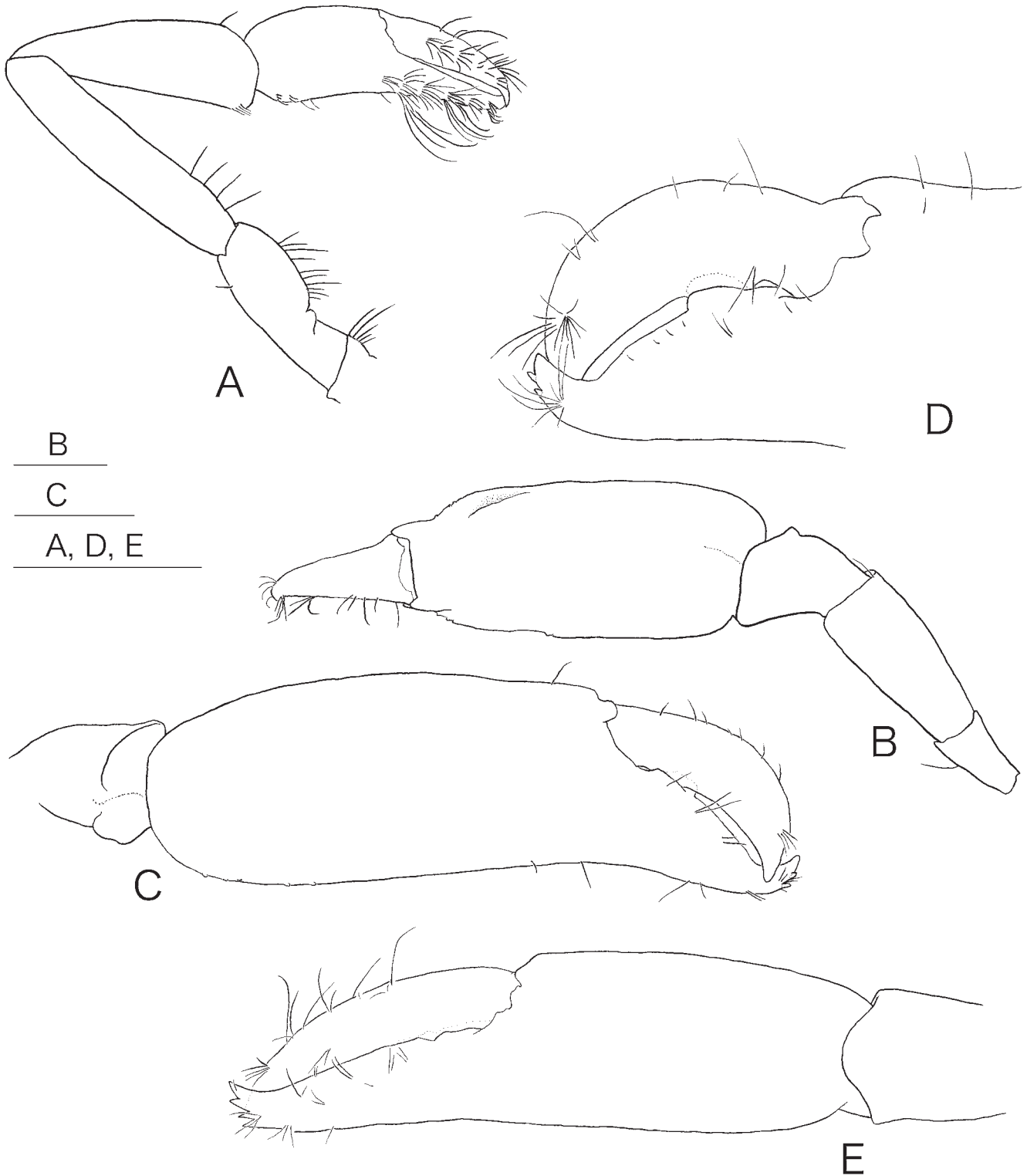


Fig. 7. *Apopontonia dentimanus*, new species: A–D, holotype male (CL 1.9 mm); E, paratype female (CL 2.4 mm). A, right first pereiopod, lateral view; B, right major second pereiopod, lateral view; C, same, dorsal view; D, same, fingers, ventral view; E, left minor second pereiopod, medial view. Scale bars = 0.5 mm.

third, margin somewhat projecting; distal part of fixed finger hooked, with round blunt projection at proximal two-fifths of cutting edge, mediolateral part with two small, acute triangular fixed teeth; palm subcylindrical, depressed, about 2.3 times longer than deep, twice finger length, ventrolateral surface with longitudinal shallow groove on distodorsal part; carpus short and stout, distally expanded, slightly longer than distal width, about third of palm length; merus and ischium compressed, merus 1.7 times as long as carpus, 2.3 times ischium length. Paratype female having both second pereopods (Fig. 4B); right cheliped larger than left, chela length 1.1 times of that of left, maximum width in dorsal view 1.7 times of that of left, generally similar to that of holotype, but smaller. Right minor cheliped (Fig. 7E) with elongated and compressed fingers; movable fingers 1.2 times longer than palm, cutting edge with small triangular tooth at proximal quarter, tip strongly hooked; fixed finger almost as long as movable finger, cutting edge with small concavity at level of triangular tooth of movable finger, tip strongly hooked, distal part with three small acute triangular teeth; dorsolateral margin of movable finger not carinate; palm subcylindrical, moderately compressed, about twice longer than deep; carpus similar to that of right side, 1.8 times distal width; merus 1.6 times carpus length, 0.9 times ischium length.

Third to fifth pereopods (Fig. 5F–H) robust, compressed, moderately setose; dactylus of third pereopod (Fig. 5F, G) short, about tenth of propodus length; corpus about 1.4 times longer than greatest width, with acute unguis; unguis third of corpus length; distal accessory tooth large, about twice unguis length; three or four acute ventral teeth present; propodus length eight times its depth, ventral margin with row of eight or nine finely serrate movable spines; spaces between posterior spines wider than distal spines (in holotype) or evenly distributed (in paratype); distal end with one (paratype) or two (holotype) spines laterally, one spine medially; carpus 0.6 times propodus length, 4.5 times of its depth; merus slightly longer than propodus; ischium almost as long as carpus; fourth and fifth pereopods similar to third, merus and ischium thinner than that of third pereopod; propodus of fifth pereopod (Fig. 5H) with tufts of setae instead of movable spines at distal third of ventral margin.

Pleopods (Fig. 4A, B) normal. Appendix masculina about half length of interna and with one long apical spine.

Uropods (Fig. 5D, E) exceeding terminal margin of telson; lateral margin of exopodal uropod only armed at distal quarter length, with four to seven movable spines on lateral margin and four slightly larger spines on diaeresis.

Ovigerous female carrying 12 pre-eyed stage eggs, longest axis about 0.45 mm, shortest axis about 0.3 mm.

**Etymology.** – The species name, *dentimanus*, is from the Latin *dentis*, toothed, and *manus*, hand.

**Distribution and habitat.** – So far only known from the central Philippines with depths of 2–24 m, collected by

wall brushing and coral rubble brushing. Host was not recorded.

**Remarks.** – *Apopontonia dentimanus*, new species, is most similar to *A. dubia* as both species lack a broadly expanded lateral rostral carina, bear four or five dorsal rostral teeth, and have a glabrous tailfan. The new species is unique in the genus by having triangular teeth on the distal outer part of the fixed finger of the second pereopod. Another distinct, but minor, character of the new species is the fifth pereopod (Fig. 5H) having mainly setae along the ventral margin (only with two minute spines). In other congeners, the ventral margin of the fifth pereopod is armed with numerous spines.

The holotype male slightly differs from the paratype ovigerous female in the following characters. The holotype male has distinctly deeper rostral teeth than those of the paratype female. The body is stouter and more rounded in the paratype female than in the holotype male. The setae at the lower lobe of the bilobed palp of the maxillula are absent in the paratype female but present in the holotype male. On the propodus of the third pereopod there are two distolateral spines in the holotype male but only one distolateral spine in the paratype female. It is likely that these differences are insignificant and with the differences in the rostrum may just be representing sexual dimorphism or regeneration after damage in the paratype female. The holotype male possesses an unusual long spine on the left side of the posterior margin of the fourth abdominal tergite. This is probably an accidentally stuck foreign object (perhaps a spicule from sponges).

Including the present new species, five species are currently known for *Apopontonia*. A key to the genus is present below.

#### Key to species of *Apopontonia*

1. Rostrum trilobed, lateral lobe forming triangular superocular teeth ..... 2
  - Rostral base without superocular teeth ..... 3
2. Rostrum without dorsal teeth, distal end bifid in lateral view; major chela of second pereopod with opposing fossae; distal half of uropodal exopod armed with movable spines ..... *A. orbitospinata*
  - Rostrum with four or five dorsal teeth; second pereopods similar, not denticulate and lacking opposing fossae from its chela; only distal fourth of uropodal exopod armed with movable spines ..... *A. falcistrostris*
3. Tailfan heavily setose ..... *A. seticauda*
  - Tailfan not heavily setose ..... 4
4. Second pereopod with outer margin of fixed finger unarmed; ventral margin of fifth pereopod propodus armed with numerous spines ..... *A. dubia*
  - Second pereopod with two or three spines on distal outer part of fixed finger; ventral margin of fifth pereopod propodus with tufts of setae, only two minute spines present ..... *A. dentimanus*, new species

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