

Epipontonia anceps n. sp., a Sponge-associated Pontoniine Shrimp from Heron Island, Queensland. (Crustacea: Decapoda: Palaemonidae)

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ABSTRACT. A second species of the pontoniine shrimp genus *Epipontonia* Bruce, 1977, is described and illustrated. *Epipontonia anceps* n. sp. is an associate of a sponge of the genus *Dysidea* found at Heron Island, Queensland at a depth of 18 m. *E. anceps* may be distinguished from *E. spongicola* Bruce, the only other species of the genus, by the absence of an antennal spine and the presence of large unequal chelae on the second pereiopods.

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The pontoniine genus *Epipontonia* (Palaemonidae, Samouelle, 1819) is represented by a single species *E. spongicola*, described from a single specimen from Wasin Island, Kenya (Bruce, 1977), where it was found in association with a sponge at a depth of 12 m. There have been no subsequent records of this species in the literature. Recently several examples of a closely related species of shrimp were found in association with a sponge at Heron Island, in the Capricorn Islands, near the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef. These specimens differ from *E. spongicola* in several characteristic morphological features and they are now described as a new species.

SYSTEMATICS

Epipontonia anceps n. sp. Figs 1–10

Material examined. 3 ovigerous ♀♀, 1 juvenile, Heron Island, Queensland 23° 28.0'S, 151°59.2'E, 18 m, 17 September 1979, coll. L. Owens and L. Thompson.

Holotype. Ovigerous female, Australian Museum registration number P31485, total length 10.0 mm (approx.); post-orbital carapace length 2.7 mm; length of major chela of second pereiopod 5.4 mm; length of minor chela of same 3.6 mm, length of ova 0.5 mm.

Paratypes. (i) Ovigerous female, Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, registration number RMNH Crust. D.33340, total length 13.0 mm (approx.); post-orbital carapace length 3.4 mm; length of chela of major second pereiopod 5.5 mm, minor chela lacking. (ii) Ovigerous female, post-orbital

carapace length 2.6 mm; major second pereiopod lacking, length of chela of minor second pereiopod 2.4 mm. (iii) Female, post-orbital carapace length 1.2 mm; chela of major second pereiopod 2.0 mm; chela of minor second pereiopod 1.0 mm.

Description. A medium-sized pontoniine shrimp, of fairly slender and slightly compressed body form.

The carapace is smooth and with a well-developed rostrum that extends anteriorly to about the level of the distal margin of the lamina of the scaphocerite and slightly exceeds the intermediate segment of the antennular peduncle. The rostrum is acute, strongly compressed, horizontal or slightly depressed, with feebly-developed lateral carinae. The dorsal carina is deep with 6-7 long acute teeth, which increase in size distally to the fifth and then diminish in size; all are situated anteriorly to the level of the orbital notch. The ventral carina is also well developed, with a convex lower border bearing a single slender acute tooth at about 0.6 of its length. The orbit is obsolete. Supra-orbital and hepatic spines are absent. The inferior orbital angle is slightly produced, broadly rounded and almost obsolete, without an antennal spine. An acute para-orbital spine is situated slightly above the inferior orbital angle. The antero-lateral angle of the carapace is slightly produced and bluntly rounded.

The abdominal segments are smooth. The tergite of the first segment is without an antero-dorsal lobe and the third segment is not produced posteriorly. The fourth and fifth segments are about as long as the sixth segment, which is about 1.5 times longer than deep and

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