



Re-examination of Borradaile's *Urocaris longicaudata* specimens from the 1905 J.S. Gardiner Collection (Crustacea: Decapoda: Pontoniinae)

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Abstract

Borradaile's five specimens referred to *Urocaris longicaudata* from the Seychelle and Maldive Islands have been re-examined. Although incomplete and not in good condition, they can be distinguished from all of the twelve described species of the *Periclimenes aesopius* species group to which they belong and they are now briefly described as new. The Seychelle specimens were collected from 70m, unusually deep for species of this group.

Key words: Decapoda, Caridea, Pontoniinae, *Urocaris longicaudata*, *Periclimenes amirantei* sp. nov., Seychelle Islands, Maldive Islands

Introduction

The Percy Sladen Trust Expedition (1905) to the Western Indian Ocean led by Prof. John Stanley Gardiner (1872-1946), provided Lancelot Alexander Borradaile (1872-1945) with the material upon which to base his important monograph *On The Pontoniinae* (1917). Amongst the specimens collected were several that Borradaile referred to *Urocaris longicaudata* Stimpson, 1860, a species now known only from the Western Atlantic region. As stated by Borradaile "Further investigation of the reported occurrence of *U. longicaudata* in the Indian Ocean is desirable". Kemp (1922) considered *Urocaris* Stimpson to be a synonym of *Periclimenes* Costa, 1844, a course followed by subsequent authors. Kemp makes no mention of Borradaile's specimens. The specimens were later examined by L.B. Holthuis (who labelled the specimens as *Periclimenes aesopius*, but noted (Holthuis, 1951: 29), that they could not be identified with certainty and that *Periclimenes longicaudatus* was known only from the East coast of America (Holthuis, 1952). *Periclimenes aesopius* (Bate, 1863) is a species so far known only from southern and western Australian waters, which is readily distinguished from all other species of this complex by the presence of 3 or 4 postrostral teeth on the carapace (Bruce, 1977). Borradaile's specimens have been preserved in the collections of the Zoology Museum, Cambridge, and, through the kindness of Dr Richard Preece, have been made available for further examination. The specimens are members of the *Periclimenes aesopius* species group but quite distinct from *P. aesopius* (Bate).

The first species of this group to be described was *Periclimenes aesopius* (as *Anchistia aesopius*) by Bate (1863). No further species were described until Kubo (1951) reported *Periclimenes tosaensis* from Japanese waters. Shortly after, Holthuis (1952) reported on *Periclimenes aesopius* collected from Indonesian waters by the Siboga Expedition. These specimens, which are distinct from *P. aesopius*, represent more than one taxon of this group, one of which appears similar to Borradaile's species.

The number of *Periclimenes* species of the *aesopius* species group has increased considerably in recent years and Bruce (2004) provided a key to eleven species, and one further species, *P. speciosus*, has also since