

NOTA BREVE

**ON TWO SPIDER CRABS (CRUSTACEA: DECAPODA:
MAJIDAE) FROM THE NORTHEAST OF BRAZIL**

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1. Bolsistas do CNPq; 2 Bolsista da PETROBRÁS

The brachyuran fauna of the Brazilian coastal waters has been studied in the past by various scientists and as a consequence most of the species from the intertidal region and shallow waters have been accounted for and according to Melo (1996), of the total of 600 western Atlantic species, over 300 are known to occur in the Brazilian waters. Though further intensive studies may still add to the existing faunistic list, species so far unrecorded as well as new species, intensive study of the deeper regions beyond the continental shelf deserve special attention in view of the scarcity of information.

An on-going programme to determine the economic potential of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Brazilian waters, the programme entitled REVIZEE, focusses attention on the offshore region. One of the vessels participating in the programme, R.V. NATUREZA of IBAMA (Brazilian Institute for Environment and Renewable Natural Resources) has been conducting exploratory fishing in the northeast region of Brazil utilizing large traps. The species reported here were collected during the months of November/December 1997. The depth of sampling varied between 100 and 600 m. *Rochinia crassa* (A. Milne Edwards) and *Stenocionops spinimana* (Rathbun) are both so far unknown from this region.

Rochinia crassa (A. Milne Edwards)

Rochinia crassa, Rathbun, 1925, p. 210-214, pl., 68, 69 & 226; Willaims, McCloskey & Gray, 1967, p. 60; Williams, 1984, p. 322. figs. 256 & 260a.

Material examined: A male infected with rhizocephalan parasite measuring CL/CB 7.9/6.9 cm.

Locality of collection: The lone specimen was collected from a sampling which was located at 03°49'S and 34°44'W.

Remarks: The species is known to occur from Massachussetts to the Colombia and off Guiana (Williams, 1984) but is so far unknown from the northeast of Brazil.

Stenocionops spinimana Rathbun

Stenocionops spinimana, Rathbun, 1925, p. 457-459, pl. 267; Williams, 1984, p. 339-341, figs. 274, 275 j; Melo, 1996, p. 245.

Material examined: 17 specimens of which 8 are males and among the females one is ovigerous; the largest specimen which is a male measures CL/CB 12.6/10.5 cm.

Localities of collection: The specimens were collected from three station, situated between latitude 3°27' - 3°52' S and longitude 34°44' and 35°00'W.

Remarks: Known range of its distribution is from North Carolina to Gulf of Mexico (Williams, 1984) and Rio de Janeiro (Melo, 1996) and the species is recorded from the first time from this region

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