NOTA BREVE

OCCURRENCE OF Rhithropanopeus harrisi (GOULD, 1841) IN THE SOUTHERN COAST OF BRAZIL (DECAPODA, XANTHIDAE)

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Rhithropanopeus harrisi (Gould, 1841) is the only species of the genus Rhithropanopeus Rathbun, 1898. The species was described by Gould (1841) as Pilumnus harrisi, Gibbes (1850) mentioned as Panopeus wurdemannii and Stimpson (1858) as Panopeus harrisi. Its original geographical distribution ranges, in the Atlantic coast of North America, from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. Recently the species was recorded in the Italian coast of Mediterranean Sea (Mizzan & Zanella, 1996).

Rhithropanopeus harrisi (Gould, 1841) (Figure 1)

Diagnosis
Carapace subquadrate, front slightly truncated in the medium portion, with margin transversely grooved. Four anterolateral teeth, the first two fused, and margins with granules. Protagastric regions with two transverse and short granular lines. Mesogastric region with one pair of long granular lines and one long in the branchial region that extends to near half of the forth tooth carina. The carapace surface is marked by small nodules in the small specimens, which in the adults are practically absent. Thoracic sternum with granules.

Merus and carpus of the unequal chelipeds with granules in the external surface and distal margin, carpus with a marginal tooth in the inner face. Walking legs long, slender, compressed, surfaces with nodules distributed in an irregular way in all the articles; long setae in the dorsal and ventral margins of the propodus and dactyls. Male’s abdomen smooth, telson subquadrate, margin with long setae. Gonopod with disk form extremity and one ventral protuberance with sharp extremity, distal area with a longitudinal line of setae followed by a line of teeth.

Distribution
North America: Canada to Gulf of Mexico, USA. South America: Rio Grande do Sul State, Patos Lagoon estuary, Brazil. Mediterranean Sea, Venice, Italy.

Material
United States. Florida. Tributary of Saint Jones River, 2ma, 14,5-18,6mm, 2f, 11,9-12,0mm, (NMNH-1851).

Brazil. Rio Grande do Sul. Patos Lagoon estuary: Barro Duro, 1f, 6,8mm (FURG-523), Saco do Arraal, 5ma, 4,8-8,2mm, 6f, 4,6-10,8mm (FURG-518); 2ma, 5,4-8,4mm (FURG-520); 1ma, 8,5mm, (FURG-521); 1ma, 15,1mm (FURG-527); 1ma, 19,4mm (FURG-528); 1ma, 16,6mm (FURG-530); 2ma, 13,1-14,2mm (FURG-532); 1ma, 6,4mm, (FURG-646); 1ma, 6,8mm, 1f,
Figure 1. *Rhithropanopeus harrisii* (Gould, 1841). A - dorsal view of male (FURG-1954); B - gonopod, ventral view. C - gonopod lateral view. Scale: A = 4mm; B and C = 1mm.
6.5 mm, (FURG-665); 1 ma, 8.4 mm, (FURG-842); 1 ma, 11.3 mm, 1 fl, 11.2 mm, (FURG-843); 2 ma, 7.5-8.7 mm, (FURG-849); Rio Grande breakers, 1 ma, 9.4 mm (FURG-603); (31°47'89"S, 51°52'80"W), 1 ma, 10.5 mm, 2 fl, 9.4-9.9 mm, (FURG-1958); (31°48'09"S, 52°05'11"W), 2 ma, 6.2-6.6 mm, (FURG-1925); (31°48'15"S, 52°09'69"W), 1 ma, 9.2 mm, prof.2.5 mm, (FURG-1950); (31°48'35"S, 52°09'90"W), 1 fl, 6.9 mm, (FURG-1943); (31°48'37"S, 51°47'49"W), 1 ma, 16.2 mm, (FURG-1929); (31°48'57"S, 52°11'12"W), 20 ma, 5.2-11.6 mm, 23 fl, 5.0-10.3 mm, (FURG-1924); (31°49'15"S, 51°49'04"W), 1 fl, 5.3 mm, (FURG-1940); (31°50'02"S, 51°50'07"W), 11 ma, 62 mm, 2 fl, 7.4-8.2 mm, (FURG-1944); (31°50'51"S, 51°55'87"W), 2 ma, 4.9-10.2 mm, 1 fl, 6.6 mm, (FURG-1946); (31°50'67"S, 52°10'28"W), 1 fl, 6.8 mm, (FURG-1941); (31°51'38"S, 52°07'26"W), 2 ma, 3.2-5.3 mm, (FURG-1948); (31°52'04"S, 52°14'62"W), 1 ma, 3.7 mm, (FURG-1928); (32°52'12"S, 52°10'69"W), 1 ma, 4.9 mm, (FURG-1927); (31°52'27"S, 52°08'31"W), 1 fl, 8.1 mm, (FURG-1947); (31°53'26"S, 52°03'50"W), 1 ma, 13.1 mm, (FURG-1945); (31°55'54"S, 52°05'11"W), 1 ma, 17.7 mm, (FURG-1957); (31°58'44"S, 52°03'68"W), 2 ma, 3.2-7.1 mm, 1 fl, 4.1 mm, (FURG-1926); (31°59'04"S, 52°33'88"W), 8 ma, 4.4-8.9 mm, 10 fl, 3.3-9.4 mm, (FURG-1930); (31°59'31"S, 52°03'55"W), 2 ma, 6.4-6.9 mm, (FURG-1952); (31°59'44"S, 52°05'54"W), 2 ma, 4.1-5.9 mm, (FURG-1949); 1 ma, 6.5 mm, (FURG-1932); 1 ma, 5.3 mm, 1 fl, 5.0 mm, (FURG-1933); 1 fl, 5.4 mm, (FURG-1934); 1 ma, 4.5 mm, (FURG-1935); 1 ma, 5.1 mm (FURG-1936); 1 ma, 5.5 mm, (FURG-1937); (32°09'07"S, 52°05'67"W), 1 fl, 4.3 mm, (FURG-1939); 1 fl, 8.5 mm, (FURG-1953); Saco do Araraí, 8 ma, 7.3-13.2 mm, 2 fl, 8.5-9.7 mm, (FURG-1954); Ilha das Pombas, 1 ma, 8.4 mm, 1 fl, 7.3 mm, (FURG-1955); 1 fl, 7.3 mm, (FURG-1956); Copesul Pier, 1 ma, 8.3 mm, 1 fl, 7.6 mm, (FURG-1951); Ponta do Saco do Retiro 1 fl, 8.8 mm, (FURG-1931); Praia do Graxo, 1 fl, 7.2 mm, (FURG-1942).

DISCUSSION

The occurrence of the species in the Patos Lagoon estuary probably originated to ship's ballast water. This type of larvae transport seems to play an important role in the dispersion of some species. In the region near Rio Grande R. harrisii is the second species found, the first was Metapenaeus monoceros recorded by D’Incao (1995). Montú (1982) recorded in Paranaguá Bay the Chinese copepod Caligus undulatus, Melo (1983) mentioned the presence of the Indo West Pacific swimming crab Scylla serrata in São Paulo coast, and Carqueija & Gouvêa (1996) recorded the Indo West Pacific and Mediterranean species Charybdis helleri (Portunidae) in Bahia. All the species were recorded in regions where important ports exist.

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REFERENCES


