

NOTA BREVE

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

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Rhithropanopeus harrisii (Gould, 1841) is the only species of the genus *Rhithropanopeus* Rathbun, 1898. The species was described by Gould (1841) as *Pilumnus harrisii*, Gibbes (1850) mentioned as *Panopeus wurdemannii* and Stimpson (1858) as *Panopeus harrisii*. 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 harrisii (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. Protogastric 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 Arraial, 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,

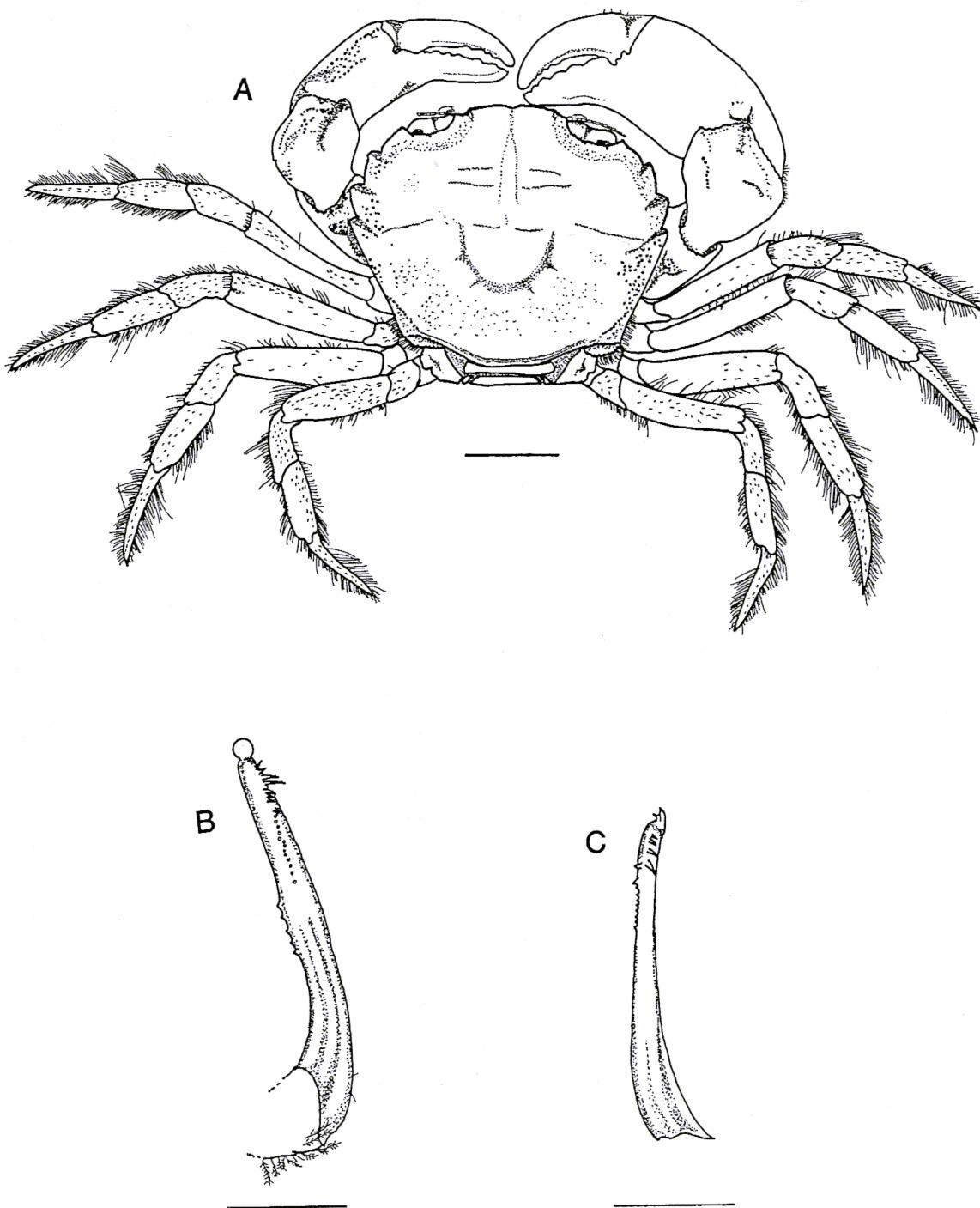


Figure 1. *Rhithropanopeus harrisii* (Gould, 1841). A - dorsal view of male (FURG-1954); B - ventral view. C - gonopod lateral view. Scale: A = 4mm; B and C = 1mm.

6,5mm, (FURG-654); 1ma, 8,4mm, (FURG-842); 1ma, 11,3mm, 1f, 11,2mm, (FURG-843); 2ma, 7,5-8,7mm, (FURG-849); Rio Grande breakers, 1ma, 9,4mm (FURG-603); (31°47'89"S, 51°52'80"W), 1ma, 10,5mm, 2f, 9,4-9,9mm, (FURG-1958); (31°48'09"S, 52°05'11"W), 2ma, 6,2-6,6mm, (FURG-1925); (31°48'15"S, 52°09'69"W), 1ma, 9,2mm, prof.2,5m, (FURG-1950); (31°48'35", 52°09'90"W), 1f, 6,9mm, (FURG-1943); (31°48'37"S, 51°47'49"W), 1ma, 16,2mm, (FURG-1929); (31°48'57"S, 52°11'12"W), 20ma, 5,2-11,6mm, 23f, 5,0-10,3mm, (FURG-1924); (31°49'15"S, 51°49'04"W), 1f, 5,3mm, (FURG-1940); (31°50'02"S, 51°50'07"W), 11ma, 62mm, 2f, 7,4-8,2mm, (FURG-1944); (31°50'51"S, 51°55'87"W), 2ma, 4,9-10,2mm, 1f, 6,6mm, (FURG-1946); (31°50'67"S, 52°10'28"W), 1f, 6,8mm, (FURG-1941); (31°51'38"S, 52°07'26"W), 2ma, 3,2-5,3mm, (FURG-1948); (31°52'04"S, 52°14'62"W), 1ma, 3,7mm, (FURG-1928); (32°52'12"S, 52°10'69"W), 1ma, 4,9mm, (FURG-1927); (31°52'27"S, 52°08'31"W), 1f, 8,1mm, (FURG-1947); (31°53'26"S, 52°03'50"W), 1ma, 13,1mm, (FURG-1945); (31°55'54"S, 52°05'11"W), 1ma, 17,7mm, (FURG-1957); (31°58'44"S, 52°03'68"W), 2ma, 3,2-7,1mm, 1f, 4,1mm, (FURG-1926); (31°59'04"S, 52°33'88"W), 8ma, 4,4-8,9mm, 10f, 3,3-9,4mm, (FURG-1930); (31°59'31"S, 52°03'55"W), 2ma, 6,4-6,9mm, (FURG-1952), (31°59'44"S, 52°05'54"W), 2ma, 4,1-5,9mm, (FURG-1949); 1ma, 6,5mm, (FURG-1932); 1ma, 5,3mm, 1f, 5,0mm, (FURG-1933); 1f, 5,4mm, (FURG-1934); 1ma, 4,5mm, (FURG-1935); 1ma, 5,1mm (FURG-1936); 1ma, 5,5mm, (FURG-1937); (32°09'07"s, 52°05'67"W), 1f, 4,3mm, (FURG-1939); 1f, 8,5mm, (FURG-1953); Saco do Arraial, 8ma, 7,3-13,2mm, 2f, 8,5-9,7mm, (FURG-1954); Ilha das Pombas, 1ma, 8,4mm, 1f, 7,3mm, (FURG-1955); 1f, 7,3mm, (FURG-1956); Copesul Pier, 1ma, 8,3mm, 1f, 7,6mm, (FURG-1951); Ponta do Saco do Retiro 1f, 8,8mm, (FURG-1931); Praia do Graxo, 1f, 7,2mm, (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 hellerii* (Portunidae) in Bahia. All the species were recorded in regions where important ports exist.

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