

Occurrence of the eastern pacific species *Pilumnoides perlatus* (Poëppig, 1836) in the southeastern Brazilian coast.

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Abstract

This is the first report of *Pilumnoides perlatus* (Poëppig, 1836) for the Brazilian coast and also for the Western Atlantic. In March 2000, an ovigerous female with a carapace width of 8.7 mm was obtained while trawling at a depth of 40 m over a non-consolidated bottom in Ubatuba, SP, Brazil. This species was previously considered endemic for the Eastern Pacific, with records for the coasts of Chile and Peru.

Key words: *Pilumnoides perlatus*, first record, Western Atlantic

Introduction

During the past few years, a number of brachyuran species from the Eastern Pacific have been recorded along the southeastern coast of Brazil, e.g. *Bellia picta* H.M. Edwards, 1848 by Melo (1989), *Corystoides chilensis* Lucas, 1844 by Melo (1990), *Taliepus dentatus* (H. M. Edwards, 1834) by Melo (1996) and *Pyromaia tuberculata* (Lockington, 1876) by Fransozo and Negreiros-Fransozo (1997).

The Xanthidae are among the most representative brachyuran families. Fifteen genera comprising 29 species have been already recorded in the coast of São Paulo State, Brazil (Melo, 1996). Only two species belonging to the genus *Pilumnoides* were previously known to occur along the Brazilian coast, i.e. *Pilumnoides hassleri* A. M. Edwards, 1880 and *Pilumnoides coelhoi* Guinot and Macpherson, 1987. This is the first account of *Pilumnoides perlatus* (Poëppig, 1836), not only for the Brazilian coast, but also for the Western Atlantic.

Material and Methods

The material examined was obtained while executing a monthly sampling protocol for a survey of the brachyuran biodiversity in the subtidal soft bottoms within the Ubatuba region, northern coast of São Paulo State. Samples were routinely obtained by trawling using a shrimp fishery boat supplied with double-rig nets.

Results

Material examined

In March 2000, an ovigerous female measuring 8.7 mm of carapace width was obtained while trawling at a depth of 40 m within the Ubatuba region at the following geographic coordinates 23°30'24"S and 44°52'06"W.

P. perlatus (Poëppig, 1836)

Diagnosis (Retamal, 1994)

Carapace slender, only slightly larger than long, narrower at its posterior region, tubercles covering the anterior 2/3 forming small transversal striae, posterior 1/3 almost smooth, carapace regions well defined. Antero-lateral margin of carapace with 5 or 6 irregular teeth, with granules between them. Front bilobed with U-shaped median notch rather deep, somewhat inclined and medianly projected. Orbital external sinus shallow between 2 flat teeth; subhepatic region covered by small tubercles. Isquium of third maxilliped endognath with a small acute tubercle at its base. Chelipeds bearing tubercles arranged in rows in the lower half of palm, line closest to the palm base ending in a large tooth or tubercle in the external side of the movable finger; upper edge of palm trilobed or bearing three teeth; dark fingers presenting white tips and a small hiatus at its basal half; dactylus grooved at its upper margin. Walking legs slender, with distal 1/2 to 1/3 hairy. Abdomen with free somites and a fairly long telson.

Ecological remarks

Ovigerous females are found in March, June, September and October. Young crabs are generally associated to brown algae or mytilid mussels (Garth, 1957). This species can be found from the intertidal zone to a depth of 54 m. (Retamal, 1994).

Geographic distribution:

Eastern Pacific: Chile, from southernmost Strait of Magellan, and Peru; Taboga Island, Panama (Retamal, 1994) and Brazil (Ubatuba region).

Comments

Taking into account the record of *P. perlatus* in the northern coast of São Paulo State, it can be said that this species presents a certain degree of eurythermy, occurring from cold waters to subtropical regions.

Key to Brazilian species of the genus *Pilumnoides*

1. Surface of anterior two-thirds of carapace finely granulated.....*P. hassleri*
- 1'. Surface of anterior two-thirds of carapace tuberculate.....2
2. Antero-lateral margin of carapace with 4 pointed teeth. Front with a V-shaped median notch, deep in adults and shallow in young specimens.....*P. coelhoi*
- 2'. Antero-lateral margin of carapace with 5 or 6 irregular teeth, with granules between them. Front with a U-shaped median notch rather deep.....*P. perlatus*

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