NOTES ON SOME INDO-PACIFIC PONTONIINAE. XVI. ONYCCOCARIS SEYCHELLENSIS SP. NOV., A NEW SPECIES OF SHRIMP FROM MAHÉ

BY

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In the course of a study of the pontoniid shrimp fauna of the Seychelle Islands in 1966, four specimens of an undescribed Onycocaris were obtained from a small sponge encrusting the base of a coral colony. The specimens present a number of unusual features that contrast with some of the characteristics of the genus Onycocaris Nobili, 1904, as usually defined (Holthuis, 1952, 1955). A link with this genus is conveniently established by the recently described Onycocaris zanzibarica Bruce (in press) and the creation of a new genus is not therefore necessary but the close relationship between Onycocaris and Periclimenaeus Borradaile, 1915, is emphasized. The discovery of a further species of Onycocaris in association with a sponge indicates that sponges are probably the normal hosts for all shrimps of this genus.

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**Onycocaris seychellensis sp. nov.**

Diagnosis. - A small species of Onycocaris with compressed body form. Rostrum distinct with small teeth dorsally, ventrally toothless. Carapace smooth, with supraorbital and hepatic spines, antennal spine well developed, acute; inferior orbital angle obsolete. Abdomen with pleura of first five segments rounded, sixth segment acutely produced postero-ventrally. Telson broad with two pairs of well developed marginal dorsal spines and three pairs of terminal spines. Antennae small. Basal segment of antennule slender, with disto-lateral tooth. Mandible without palp, molar process obliquely truncate distally with minute acute teeth, incisor process tapering with small acute teeth distally. Maxillula with simple palp. Maxilla with broad simple endite. Scaphognathite narrow. Exopods distinct on all maxillipeds. First maxilliped with broad endite and a small caridean lobe. Second maxilliped normal, epipod small, rounded. Third maxilliped slender, sparsely setose, with rounded epipod; with arthrobranch. First pereiopods slender, fingers of chela one fourth of palm length. Second pereiopods well developed, with large, very unequal, dissimilar chelae. Major chela compressed, palm feebly granulate, with tip of fixed finger deeply incised with acute lateral teeth, margins feebly dentate. Minor chela less compressed, fingers broader, spatulate with
Material examined.
2♂, 2 juveniles. Anse Etoile, Mahé, Seychelle Islands; 23 May 1966; coll. A. J. Bruce, Stn. 33.

Fig. 1. Onycocaris seychellensis sp. nov., holotype, male. Mahé, Seychelle Islands.

Description. — A small species of pontoniid shrimp with a distinctly compressed body form.

The carapace is smooth with a short compressed tapering rostrum with an acute tip, that does not extend beyond the basal segment of the antennular peduncle. The midrib is moderately developed and continuous with the orbital margin. The dorsal margin of the rostrum is feebly elevated and bears four small low teeth, all situated anteriorly to the posterior margin of the orbit. The ventral margin is convex. Supra-orbital and hepatic spines are absent but the antennal spine is well developed, broad, acute and projecting anteriorly to the level of the anterior margin of the basicerite, enclosing the lateral aspect of the eye. There is no distinct orbital depression and the inferior orbital angle is obsolete. The antero-lateral angle of the carapace is slightly produced and broadly rounded.

The abdominal segments are smooth. The posterior margin of the third segment is not posteriorly produced in the dorsal midline. The sixth segment is short and depressed with the posterior lateral angles acutely produced. The pleura of the