NOTES ON SOME INDO-PACIFIC PONTONIINAE, XVIII.
A RE-DESCRIPTION OF PONTONIA MINUTA BAKER, 1907, AND THE OCCURRENCE OF ABBREVIATED DEVELOPMENT IN THE PONTONIINAE (DECAPODA NATANTIA, PALAEMONIDAE)

BY

A. J. BRUCE
East African Marine Fisheries Research Organization, P.O.Box 81651, Mombasa, Kenya

The genus Pontonia is represented in the Indo-West-Pacific region by seven species. The first species to be described was P. ascidicola, which was recorded by Borradaile in 1898 from New Britain. Subsequently a second species was reported from South Australia by Baker in 1907, who provided a brief description and illustrations. There have been no further reports of this species and its morphology has not been described in detail so that its relationship to the other species of the genus has remained obscure. It is the only species of the genus that has so far been recorded from Australian waters.

Through the kindness of Dr. D. J. G. Griffin, I have been able to examine a further specimen of this species from the collections of the Australian Museum, Sydney. The specimen is well preserved and complete but unfortunately the exact circumstances of its capture are unknown, neither is the host or the colouration of the living specimen.

Pontonia minuta Baker, 1907 (figs. 1-4)
Pontonia minuta Baker, 1907: 189-190, pl. 24 figs. 9-12; Borradaile, 1917: 389 (key), 392; Kemp, 1922: 260, 261 (key); Hale, 1927: 57, fig. 51; Holthuis, 1952: 15.


Description. — A small shrimp with a stout cylindrical body form.
The carapace and abdomen are smooth.
The rostrum is distinct, slightly depressed, extending almost to the middle of the distal segment of the antennular peduncle. It is very broad, triangular in dorsal view, with a well developed, deep ventral lamina. There are no dorsal or ventral teeth and the tip is bluntly rounded. The postero-lateral borders are continuous with the broad, bluntly rounded inferior orbital angle and form an incomplete orbit which covers the bases of the eyestalks. The hepatic and antennal spines are absent and there are no supra-orbital spines. The antero-lateral angle of the carapace is acutely produced and extends anteriorly to the level of the merocerite. The posterior angle of the branchiostegite is rounded.
The third and fourth thoracic sternites are broad, and the fourth sternite is without a median process. The coxae of the first pereiopod are inclined medially and almost meet in the midline. The fifth thoracic sternite is very narrow and the massive coxae of the second pereiopod also almost meet in the midline. The sternite of the sixth segment is broader than the fifth and the sternites of the seventh and eighth segments are also progressively wider posteriorly.

The abdominal segments are smooth with well developed pleura. The second and third segments are distinctly broader than the carapace. The third segment is not produced posteriorly in the dorsal midline. The fifth segment is 1.1 times the length of the sixth, which is dorso-ventrally flattened. The pleura of the first five segments are broadly rounded. The ventral borders of the pleura are sparsely setose. The postero-ventral angle of the sixth segment is not produced and the postero-lateral angle is triangularly produced but is blunt. The telson is 2.2 times longer than broad anteriorly, depressed centrally, tapering posteriorly with slightly convex lateral borders and a truncated feebly convex posterior margin. Two pairs of large stout dorsal spines are present in deep depressions at 0.4 and 0.6 of the telson length. The posterior border bears a row of twelve small spines. The lateral spines are very small, about one quarter of the length of the ten central spines, which are about half the length of the dorsal spines, and slightly shorter and stouter laterally than centrally.

The antennae are generally reduced and the peduncles and flagella are particularly short and stout.

The antennular peduncle slightly exceeds the tips of the rostrum and the lamella of the scaphocerite. The basal segment is thickened and about as broad as long. The lateral border is strongly convex. The disto-lateral angle bears a minute tooth and the medial border bears a large acute tooth at two thirds of its length. The stylocerite is very broad, strongly convex laterally, and acutely pointed at its tip, which extends to three quarters of the length of the segment. The statocyst is normally developed and contains a granular statolith. The second and third segments are together subequal to the length of the basal segment. The intermediate segment is broadened laterally and the distal segment is thickened ven-