NOTES ON SOME INDO-PACIFIC PONTONIINAE, XXXVIII.

APOPONTONIA DUBIA SP. NOV., FROM A SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND SPONGE HOST

BY

A. J. BRUCE

The Darwin Museum, P.O. Box 4646, Darwin, N.T. 5794, Australia

A single example of an undescribed species of pontoniine shrimp has been found in a black sponge. The specimen is provisionally referred to the genus Apopontonia Bruce, which so far includes only the single species A. falcirostris, also an associate of sponges (Bruce, 1976). Unfortunately the specimen lacks both second pereiopods so that a full description and comparison with A. falcirostris is not possible, but the numerous characteristic features of the specimen clearly indicate that it represents a new species of pontoniine shrimp. The situation of this species in the genus Apopontonia can not be considered absolutely certain in view of the absence of the second pereiopods but all other features are compatible and other related genera can be safely excluded from consideration.

I am most grateful to the collector, Niels Svennivig, for the opportunity to examine this specimen, and to Dr. J. Vacelet for the identification of the host sponge.

Apopontonia dubia sp. nov. (figs. 1-3)

Material examined. — 1 Q , Shag Rock, E of North Stradbroke Island, Queensland, Australia, 27°25’S 153°32’E, 20 m, 24 August 1979, coll. N. Svennivig (no. 3018).

Description. — A small-sized pontoniine shrimp of a subcylindrical bodyform. The carapace is smooth, with a short but well developed rostrum that extends anteriorly almost to the end of the antennular peduncle. The rostrum is shallow, tapering and acute, directed horizontally with five small acute dorsal teeth on the distal two thirds, with a very small distal ventral tooth situated at a level halfway between the fourth and fifth dorsal teeth. The lateral rostral carinae are broadly expanded, convex laterally and unarmed, forming the dorsal aspect of the orbit and covering over the proximal portion of the eyestalk, but not extending to the tip of the rostrum. Supra-orbital, epigastric and hepatic spines are absent. The orbit is well developed, especially dorsally and to a lesser extent posteriorly. The inferior orbital angle is poorly developed, broad but feebly produced, with a large acute antennal spine
situated laterally. The antero-lateral angle of the carapace is bluntly subrectangular and the posterior border of the branchiostegite is broadly rounded.

The abdominal segments are smooth. The third segment is not produced dorsally. The fifth segment is equal to 0.8 of the sixth which is 1.5 times longer than deep. The pleura of the first three segments are broadly rounded; the

Fig. 1. *Apopontonia dubia* sp. nov., holotype, female. A, carapace and antennae, lateral aspect; B, anterior carapace and antennae, dorsal aspect; C, rostrum and anterior carapace, lateral aspect; D, fourth to sixth abdominal segments, lateral; E, antennule; F, antenna; G, eye, dorsal aspect; H, first pereiopod; I, idem, chela; J, third pereiopod; K, idem, dactyl and propod; L, uropod; M, telson; N, idem, posterior spines. Scales in mm.