NOTES ON SOME INDO-PACIFIC PONTONIINAE, XLIV.
PERICLIMENES DARWINIENSIS SP. NOV. FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA (DECAPODA, CARIDEA)

BY

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INTRODUCTION

In 1922, in his monograph of the pontoniine shrimps in the collections of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, Kemp described a species of Periclimenes, *P. digitalis*, from the Andaman Islands. He remarked that this species occupied an isolated systematic position and was not closely related to any of the then known species of the genus. Since Kemp’s time many new species of *Periclimenes* have been described, but none have shown any relationship to *P. digitalis*, which, Kemp noted, showed some resemblances to *Palaemonella rotumana* (Borradaile), redescribed at the same time by Kemp, as *Palaemonella vestigialis*.

The discovery of several examples of a closely related species in northern Australian waters is of interest and closes the evolutionary gap between *P. digitalis* and the other species of the genus *Periclimenes*.

In the following text, CL refers to the post-orbital carapace length; NTM to the Northern Territory Museum, Darwin; RMNH to Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, Netherlands; LWS to low waters spring tide; and ELWS to extreme low water spring tide.

Periclimenes darwiniensis sp. nov. (figs. 1-5)

Description. — Male. A small sized species of *Periclimenes* of slender, sub-cylindrical body form.

Carapace smooth, with well developed slender, slightly upcurved rostrum, extending well beyond antennal peduncle and reaching to distal border of scaphocerite, dorsal margin with 7-8 acute teeth, first tooth epigastric, second anterior to posterior orbital margin and distal tooth some times pre-terminal and reduced, ventral border with two acute teeth and numerous setae; lateral carinae of rostrum obsolete. Orbital notch distinct, orbit feebly developed, but post-orbital carina distinct, without tubercle dorsally; inferior orbital angle produced, acute; antennal spine well developed, marginal; hepatic spine normal, anterior to level of epigastric spine and below level of antennal spine; anterolateral angle of branchiostegite bluntly obtuse, not produced.

Abdomen with tergites smooth, third segment not postero-dorsally produced; fifth segment about 0.8 of length of sixth segment; sixth segment about 1.3 times longer than deep; pleura of first three segments broadly rounded,