THE OCCURRENCE OF *PENAEOPSIS SERRATA* BATE, 1881 (DECAPODA, PENAEIDAE) IN THE MIDDLE-WEST MEDITERRANEAN SEA

BY

MARCO MURA, MATTEO MURENU and ANGELO CAU

Dipartimento di Biologia Animale ed Ecologia, Università di Cagliari, Viale Poetto, 1, I-09126 Cagliari, Italy

ABSTRACT

The penaeoid shrimp, *Penaeopsis serrata*, previously known from the western Atlantic from South Carolina to the Caribbean Sea, and from Morocco in the eastern Atlantic, is reported for the first time from the middle-west Mediterranean Sea. The record is based on eleven adult females, collected by trawling on a muddy bottom in the Sardinian Channel between 490 and 540 m depth. Considering that the sampling area has been studied for a long period, it can be stated that *P. serrata* entered the middle-west Mediterranean only recently.

RIASSUNTO

La specie *Penaeopsis serrata*, diffusa sia in Atlantico orientale che occidentale, è stata ritrovata per la prima volta nel Mediterraneo centro-occidentale. Sono state catturate undici femmine adulte tra 490 e 540 m di profondità, nel luglio e settembre del 2001, durante un programma di ricerche svolto per studiare la composizione e la struttura delle comunità della scarpata continentale del Canale di Sardegna. Considerando il lungo periodo durante il quale il sito del ritrovamento è stato studiato, si può ritenere che la diffusione di *P. serrata* in Mediterraneo sia molto recente.

INTRODUCTION

In this note we report on eleven specimens of a species of the genus *Penaeopsis*, found for the first time in the middle-west Mediterranean Sea. The specimens are adult females of the pink-speckled shrimp, *P. serrata* Bate, 1881 caught in July and September 2001 during a sampling programme aimed at studying the composition and structure of the bathyal communities on the continental slope of the Sardinian Channel.
MATERIAL AND METHODS

During the sampling programme, 20 one-hour bottom trawls were carried out at a depth of 250 to 600 m offshore from the Sentinelle bank on the Tunisian slope in the Sardinian Channel (fig. 1) and in two of these *Penaeopsis serrata* were captured.

Two females of *P. serrata* were caught at depths between 490 and 540 m, between 8.20 a.m. and 9.20 a.m. on 4 July 2001 (SCJ7 — shot: 38°07.15’N 9°36.27’E; hauled: 38°00.14’N 9°17.12’E). Other females were caught at depths between 520 and 580 m, between 10.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. on 26 September 2001 (SCS3 — shot: 38°05.10’N 9°40.30’E; hauled: 38°01.20’N 9°22.07’E).

All the samples were collected using an Italian-type bottom trawl net with a cod end liner of 15 mm stretched mesh size.

![Fig. 1. Location (xx) of the finding of *Penaeopsis serrata* (Bate, 1881) at the Sentinelle bank in the Sardinian Channel.](image)