ABSTRACT

The penaeid shrimp, *Metapenaeopsis sibogae* (De Man, 1907) was previously known only from deep waters in Indonesia and the Philippines. In the present study, the occurrence of this species was reported for the first time from Japanese waters, based on twenty-one specimens collected from Kagoshima Bay, southern Japan, between 130 and 148 m depth. As a result of morphological examination, the ratio of rostrum length to carapace length was found a useful character to distinguish *M. sibogae* from the sympatric species, *M. lata* Kubo, 1949, and subspecies, *M. provocatoria owstoni* Shinomiya & Sakai, 2000. The body colouration of live specimens of *M. sibogae* is also described.

RÉSUMÉ

La crevette pénéide *Metapenaeopsis sibogae* (De Man, 1907) n’était jusqu’à présent connue que des eaux profondes d’Indonésie et des Philippines. Dans le présent travail, la présence de cette espèce est rapportée pour la première fois des eaux japonaises, d’après vingt-et-un spécimens récoltés à Kagoshima Bay, au sud du Japon, entre 130 et 148 mètres de profondeur. Comme résultat de l’examen morphologique, le rapport de la longueur du rostre à celle de la carapace s’est révélé un caractère utile pour distinguer *M. sibogae* des (sous-)espèces sympatiques *M. lata* Kubo, 1949 et *M. provocatoria owstoni* Shinomiya & Sakai, 2000. La coloration du corps des spécimens vivants est également décrite.

INTRODUCTION

*Metapenaeopsis* is the largest genus of the family Penaeidae, including seventy species and six subspecies (Pérez Farfante & Kensley, 1997). In Japanese waters,

Kagoshima Bay, southern Japan, is a deep, semi-enclosed bay with a maximum water depth of over 230 m. A large number of decapod crustaceans, including some commercially important species, are fished by small-scale bottom trawlers in Kagoshima Bay and the main target species is *Solenocera melantho* De Man, 1907 (Penaeoidea, Solenoceridae) (Ohtomi & Irieda, 1997; Ohtomi et al., 1998; Yamamoto & Ohtomi, 1998; Ohtomi, 2001; Ohtomi & Yamamoto, 2001). We conducted sampling surveys using commercial small-scale bottom trawlers and the “Nansei-maru” (175 t), a training ship of the Faculty of Fisheries, Kagoshima University, for research on the benthic fauna of Kagoshima Bay.

In the present study, two species and one subspecies of the genus *Metapenaeopsis*, namely, *M. acclivis*, *M. lata*, and *M. provocatoria owstoni* were collected from Kagoshima Bay. *M. acclivis* has a heavy body with stridulating organs on the posterior part of the carapace, while *M. lata* and *M. provocatoria owstoni* have a slender body without stridulating organs. However, twenty-one specimens were clearly different from *M. lata* and *M. provocatoria owstoni*, based on the morphological characters of the petasma and the thelycum, although they had a slender body without stridulating organs. By careful comparison with the related congeners reported from the Indo-West Pacific (Crosnier, 1987, 1991, 1994), these specimens were identified as *Metapenaeopsis sibogae* (De Man, 1907). This species had been reported only from deep waters in Indonesia and the Philippines until now (Crosnier, 1987). We present notes on this species as a new member of the Japanese fauna and briefly discuss its distribution.

The carapace length (CL) is taken as a measure of size, measured from the posterior margin of the orbit to the posterior margin of the carapace. All specimens of *M. sibogae* examined are deposited in the Kagoshima University Museum (KAUM).

RESULTS AND REMARKS

*Metapenaeopsis sibogae* (De Man, 1907) (figs. 1, 2)

*Metapenaeus sibogae* De Man, 1907: 131.
*Penaeopsis sibogae* — De Man, 1911: 63; 1913: pl. 6 fig. 18, 18a-h.