NEW RECORDS OF THE RARE SHRIMP GENUS DISCIAS RATHBUN
(DECAPODA, CARIDEA, DISCIADIDAE)

BY

PAULO P. G. PACHELLE¹ and SAMMY DE GRAVE²

¹) Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, Av. Nazaré, 481, Ipiranga, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
²) Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, OX1 3PW, Oxford, U.K.

The caridean shrimp family Disciadidae Rathbun contains only four genera, of which the genus Discias is the best known and species rich with eight species (De Grave & Fransen, 2011). The genus as a whole is characterised by the highly modified first pereiopod (cheliped) in which the dactylus is semicircular, disk-like in appearance with a sharp cutting edge (Kensley, 1983). Of the known species, the majority is only known from a few specimens at most, although some do appear to be very widespread. For example, an unusually broad, disjunct distribution has been attributed to D. atlanticus Gurney, spanning the western and eastern Atlantic, but also including the Red Sea, Kenya and Australia’s Great Barrier Reef (Kensley, 1983). However, the range of morphological variation observed in this species may be more indicative of a species complex.

The paucity of records for all species is likely due to a combination of their cryptic lifestyle and small body size (pocl less than 5.0 mm). An association with sponges has been demonstrated or inferred for most species (Bruce, 1976; Kensley, 1983), although Columbian populations of D. atlanticus were observed in the tubes of the parchment tubeworm Chaetopterus variopedatus (Renier, 1804) (see Criales & Lemaitre, 1997).

Here we report on various records for three species of the genus, which fill in gaps in their geographical range or considerably extend their range. All material is deposited in the Zoological Collections of the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Oxford (OUMNH.ZC). Post-orbital carapace length (pocl) is used as the standard measurement of size, expressed in millimetres (mm).

Infraorder **CARIDEA** Dana, 1852
Family **DISCIADIDAE** Rathbun, 1902
Genus *Discias* Rathbun, 1902
**Discias exul** Kemp, 1920
(fig. 1)

*Discias exul* Kemp, 1920: 138, figs. 1-3; Bruce, 1970: 315, fig. 1; Kensley, 1983: 13, figs. 10-11.

Material examined.— 1 female (pocl 1.9 mm), OUMNH.ZC.2008-08-004, Indonesia, Sulawesi, Tukangbesi Archipelago, Hoga Island, off Buoy 3, from *Acanthella* sp., 5 m depth, leg. J.

Fig. 1. *Discias exul* Kemp, 1920: A-G, female from Sulawesi (OUMNH.ZC.2008-08-004); H, ovigerous female from Iriomote (OUMNH.ZC.2015-07-001). A, rostrum, dorsal view; B, abdomen, lateral view; C, telson, dorsal view; D, left mandible, lateral view; E, right scaphocerite, distal half, dorsal view; F, right third pereiopod, distal propodus and dactylus, lateral view; G, right uropod, dorsal view; H, telson, dorsal view. Scale bars equal 0.25 mm.