A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF SNAPPING SHRIMP (DECAPODA, ALPHEIDAE) FROM THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES

BY

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Leptalpheus gen. nov.

Body compressed; carapace and abdomen smoothly rounded, not carinate; cardiac notch present. Frontal border of carapace produced into projection covering eyes; cornea of eyes visible from front. Rostrum absent.

Antennular peduncles long and well developed; stylocerite short and closely appressed to basal article at midlength.

Third maxilliped with ischio-meral article not expanded.

First pair of chelipeds very asymmetrical, slender. Large chela normally folded back against merus; propodus excavated on side folding against merus; fingers slender, not inverted, bent in two planes, toothed proximally with well-separated, meshing teeth, and with a hiatus between distal teeth and recurved tips; carpus cup-shaped; merus irregularly triangular in cross section, excavated somewhat internally, twisted, and smooth.

Second legs weaker than third and fourth legs; carpus subdivided into five segments.

Fifth legs weaker than third and fourth legs. Dactyls of last three pairs of legs simple.

Epipods present on all maxillipeds and first four pairs of legs; an arthrobranch present on third maxilliped; a pleurobranch present near base of each leg.

Abdomen of usual form; posterolateral angle of sixth segment with movable plate. Telson rounded distally, armed with two pairs of movable dorsal spines and a movable short and adjacent inner long spine at each posterolateral corner. Outer branch of uropod truncate terminally, lateral margin with an overlapping rectangular cleft armed with a subterminal spine originating ventrally; inner margin with an overlapping pointed lamina; no well-defined transverse suture present.

Type. — Leptalpheus forcipps new species.

Only one species of this genus is known. The genus is probably most closely related to Betaeus differing from it in having the chelipeds quite dissimilar and not inverted, a small appressed stylocerite, and no well-defined transverse suture on the outer branch of the uropod. Resemblances to Betaeus are in the shape of the
Fig. 1. *Leptalpheus forceps* sp. nov. A, B, holotypic female; C-L, paratypic female. A, anterior portion of body in lateral view; B, the same in dorsal view; C, lateral view of antennular peduncle showing mesioventral keel; D, antennular flagella; E, large cheliped in lateral view; F, portion of large cheliped in mesioventral view; G, fingers of large chela; H, ischio-meral articulation of large cheliped; I, small cheliped; J, fingers of small chela; K, second leg; L, terminal articles of last leg. 

A, B, E, F, I, scale = 1 mm; C, D, G, H, J, K, L, scale = 0.5 mm.