THE FIRST RECORD OF *PERICLIMENES PLATALEA* HOLTHUIS, 1951 (DECAPODA, PONTONIINAE) IN THE WESTERN ATLANTIC

BY

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Holthuis (1951) described *Periclimenes platalea* on the basis of specimens from São Vicente (Cape Verde Islands) and off French Guinea (present day Guinea). Since then the species has only been recorded from São Tiago (Cape Verde Islands) by Wirtz & d'Udekem d'Acoz (2001) and from São Tomé Island in the Gulf of Guinea (Wirtz, 2003). Although no host association was recorded in the original description (Holthuis, 1951), Wirtz & d'Udekem d'Acoz (2001) record *P. platalea* from *Antipathes* spp. (Cnidaria, Antipatharia) and *Leptogorgia gaini* Stiasny, 1940 (Cnidaria, Gorgonacea), whilst Wirtz (2003) records the species from *Leptogorgia* sp.

During fieldwork in Tobago in 2003, 2 male (post-orbital carapace length 1.3-1.5 mm) and 5 female (pocl 1.0-1.5 mm) specimens were collected by S. De Grave, representing the first record of this species from the western Atlantic. Specimens were collected from the hydroid, *Gymnangium longicauda* (Nutting, 1900), encrusted with *Parazoanthus tunicans* Duerden, 1900 from the western side of Big Rock, Man of War Bay, NE side of Tobago (11°19.344′N 60°33.484′W) on the 19th September 2003 at a depth of 15 m. The material has been deposited in the collections of the Oxford University Museum of Natural History (OUMNH-ZC 2004-19-002).

In general, the specimens agree with the description of Holthuis (1951), although the rostral formula exhibits some differences (fig. 1A). The type series harboured 8-9 dorsal rostral teeth, one of which is in a post-hepatic position (Holthuis, 1951). In the Tobago material, 4 specimens harbour 6 dorsal teeth (including a post-hepatic spine), with a further two specimens bearing 5 teeth (due to the absence of the post-hepatic spine), whilst a single specimen has only 3 teeth. In all other features, the material agrees closely with the description and figures of Holthuis (1951), with the first pereiopod (fig. 1B), the shape of the dactyl on the

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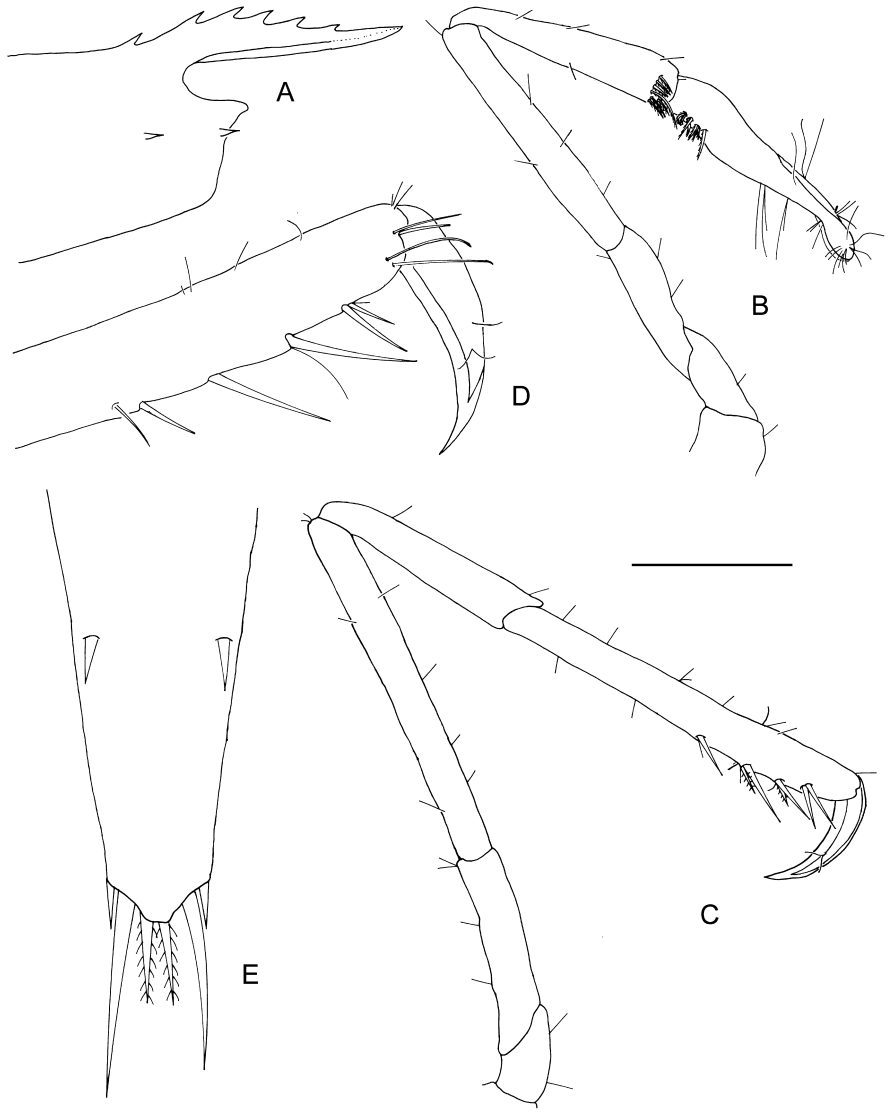

Fig. 1. *Periclimenes platalea* Holthuis, 1951 (OUMNH-ZC 2004-19-002), female, pocl 1.5 mm: A, frontal part of carapace; B, first pereiopod; C, third pereiopod; D, distal part of fifth pereiopod; E, tip of telson. Scale bar indicates 1.5 (A), 0.4 (B-C), or 0.2 (D-E) mm.

ambulatory pereiopods (fig. 1C-D), and the setae on the propodi of the ambulatory pereiopods (fig. 1D) being diagnostic for the species.

Martinez-Mayén & Román-Contreras (2006) included *P. platalea* in the *Periclimenes iridescens* Lebour, 1949 complex, on account of the semi-prehensile nature of the ambulatory pereiopods and the flattened chelae of the first pereiopod. It is, however, clear that *P. platalea* does not belong in this complex. In contrast to

this, all members of the *P. iridescens* complex harbour non-flattened chelae on the first pereiopod, and more gracile ambulatory pereiopods, with one or more rows of pappose setae distally on the fifth pereiopod. The above features, which set aside *P. platalea* from all other Atlantic *Periclimenes* species, are shared with the Indo-Pacific species *Periclimenes galene* Holthuis, 1952, with both species occupying a rather isolated position within the genus *Periclimenes*. As such, a new genus will soon be erected to accommodate them, together with an undescribed, similar species (I. Marin, pers. comm.).

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