

FIRST RECORD OF THE GENUS *AGARICOCHIRUS* McLAUGHLIN, 1981 (DECAPODA: ANOMURA: PAGURIDAE) FROM BRAZIL

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RESUMO

O gênero *Agaricochirus* abriga oito espécies, das quais nenhuma havia sido registrada para o Brasil. Neste trabalho relatamos pela primeira vez a ocorrência deste gênero para o Brasil, baseado em exemplares de *Agaricochirus gibbosimanus* coletados ao largo da costa do estado do Ceará.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: *Agaricochirus*, Primeiro registro, Brasil.

ABSTRACT

The genus *Agaricochirus* contains eight species, of which none had ever been recorded in Brazil. In this paper we report for the first time the occurrence of this genus from Brazil, based on specimens of *Agaricochirus gibbosimanus* collected off the coast of Ceará State.

KEY WORDS: *Agaricochirus*, First record, Brazil.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Pylopagurus* was proposed by A. Milne-Edwards & Bouvier (1891), who assigned to it only two species of *Eupagurus* Brandt, 1851: *E. discoidalis* A. Milne Edwards, 1880 and *E. unguatus* Studer, 1883. In a later paper, A. Milne-Edwards & Bouvier (1893) again dealt with the genus *Pylopagurus*, this time describing it more completely. However, until recently some confusion remained in regard to the species assigned to this genus.

In the first part of the revision of *Pylopagurus* and *Tomopagurus*, McLaughlin (1981) established the diagnostic characteristics for the genus *Pylopagurus* (*s. str.*). In the same work, the author proposed ten new genera, from species previously assigned to the genera *Pylopagurus* and *Eupagurus*. Among these new genera she described the genus *Agaricochirus* McLaughlin, 1981, assigning as the type species *Pylopagurus boletifer* A. Milne-Edwards & Bouvier, 1893.

In a later paper, McLaughlin (1982) presented the diagnoses of all the species assigned to the new genus *Agaricochirus*. This genus contains eight species, none of which had at that time been recorded in Brazil.

Herein, we report for the first time the occurrence of the genus *Agaricochirus* from Brazil, based on two specimens of *Agaricochirus gibbosimanus* (A. Milne-Edwards, 1880).

MATERIAL EXAMINED

Canopus Bank; 240-260 meters depth; 2 specimens (MZUSP – 17021). One of these specimens is certainly male. The other unfortunately lacks a large posterior portion of the body, from the first pair of ambulatory legs, but is probably another male.

DIAGNOSIS

Shield broader than long. Rostrum triangular, tip slightly rounded, with very small terminal spine. Lateral projections triangular, with marginal or submarginal spine. Ocular peduncle short, corneae slightly dilated; ocular acicles triangular, with strong submarginal spine. Right cheliped with row of small spines on ventromesial margin of merus. Row of strong spines on dorsomesial margin of carpus; tufts of setae on dorsal surface. Broad tuberculate ridges dorsolaterally and medially on palm; dorsal surface of palm and fixed finger with tubercles closely spaced, mushroom-shaped, flattened or conical; row of widely spaced spines on dorsomesial margin, dorsolateral margin

indistinctly delimited; dactyl with dorsomesial row of small spines. Merus of left cheliped with ventromesial row of small spines on ventral margin. Dorsal surface of carpus with oblique row of spines distally. Palm elevated in midline, with closely spaced tubercles and 1 or 2 spines proximally; row of spines on dorsolateral margin, few small corneous-tipped spines near dorsomesial margin; dorsomesial row of corneous-tipped spines on dactyl, dorsal midline with single or double row of small corneous-tipped spines. Second and third pereopods with dactyls and propodi short and moderately broad; row of corneous spines on dorsal and ventral margins of dactyls and on ventral margins of propodi. Tufts of long setae on dorsal surfaces of dactyls, propodi and carpi. Sternite of the third pereopods with anterior lobe subquadrate. Fifth and often also third and fourth tergites with patches of short stiff setae. Uropods and telson with short stiff setae; telson with terminal margins unarmed (after McLaughlin, 1982).

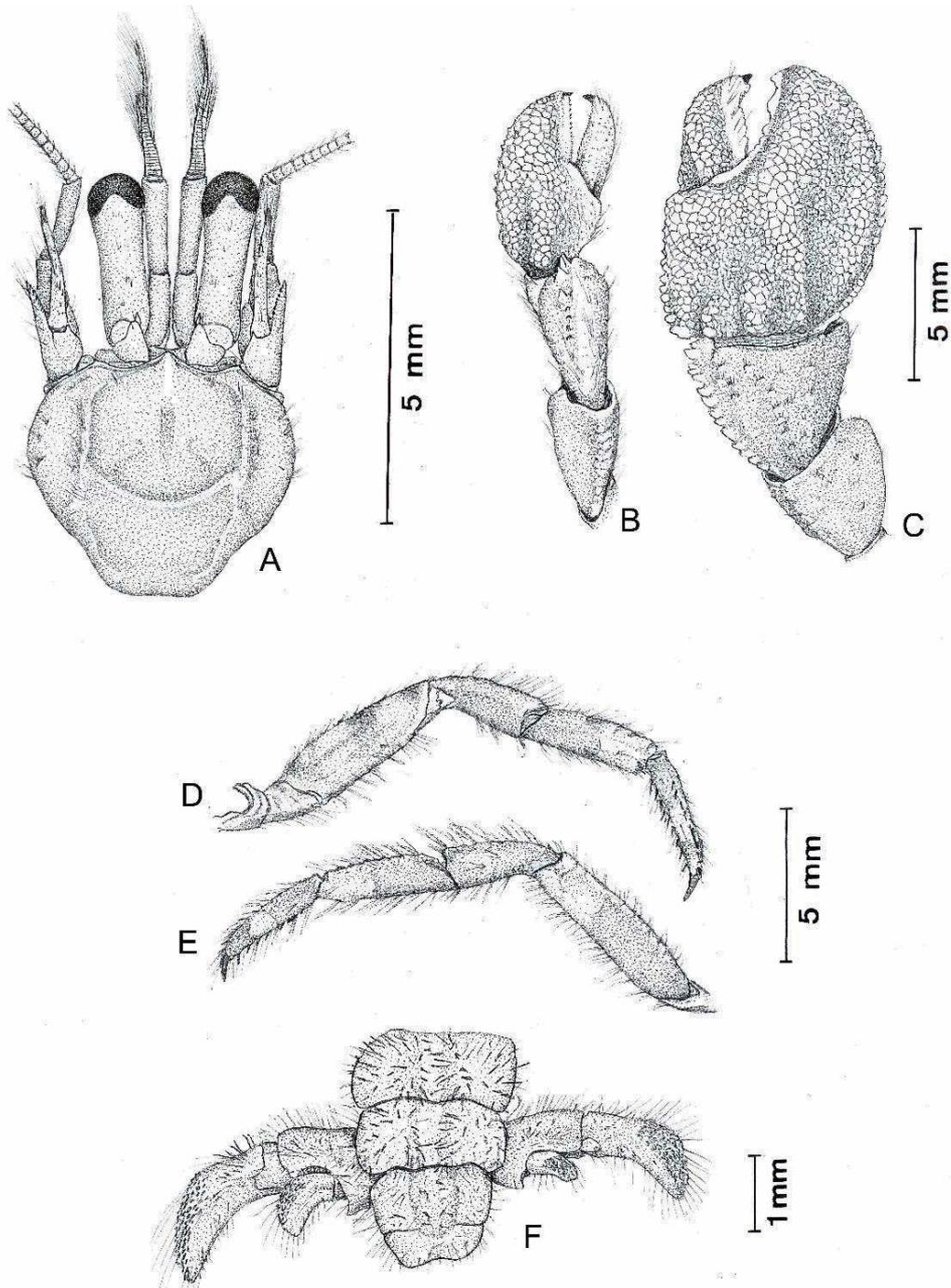


FIGURE 1 – *Agaricochirus gibbosimanus*. A – Shield and cephalic appendages (antennular and antennal peduncles not stretched); B – Left cheliped; C – Right cheliped; D – Second left ambulatory leg (mesial view); E – Second left ambulatory leg (lateral view); F – Uropods and Telson.

Agaricochirus gibbosimanus (A. Milne-Edwards, 1880)

Figure 1 (A-F)

Eupagurus gibbosimanus A. Milne-Edwards, 1880:42; Alcock, 1905:189.

Pylopagurus gibbosimanus; A. Milne-Edwards & Bouvier, 1893:99, pl. 7, figs 18-20; Gordan, 1956:340.

?*Pylopagurus gibbosimanus*; Young, 1900:370.

Agaricochirus gibbosimanus; McLaughlin, 1981:6 (by implication); 1982:836, figs 1e, 2e, 3e.

DISTRIBUTION

Western Atlantic: off Dominican Republic, Yucatan Channel, northern Caribbean, southern islands of Lesser Antilles (Windward Islands), and Brazil (off Fortaleza, Ceará).

REMARKS

Melo (1999) recorded nine genera of the family Paguridae from Brazil. But according to Nucci (2002), in Brazil the family Paguridae is represented by ten genera: *Anisopagurus* McLaughlin, 1981; *Catapagurus* A. Milne-Edwards, 1880; *Iridopagurus* Saint Laurent-Dechancé, 1966; *Nematopaguroides* Forest & Saint Laurent, 1968; *Pagurus* Fabricius, 1775; *Phimochirus* McLaughlin, 1981; *Propagurus* McLaughlin & Saint Laurent, 1998; *Pylopagurus* A. Milne-Edwards & Bouvier, 1891; *Rhodochirus* McLaughlin, 1981; and *Tomopagurus* A. Milne-Edwards & Bouvier, 1893. With this new record, we add the genus *Agaricochirus* to the list of Paguridae from Brazil.

The two specimens of *A. gibbosimanus* were collected off the coast of Fortaleza in the state of Ceará, on Canopus Bank at 240-260 meters depth. According to McLaughlin (1982), *A. gibbosimanus* can be considered closely allied with *A. hispidus* and *A. echinatus*, even considering the great variation in the structure and ornamentation of chelae shown by each species. In Brazil there are several areas that are yet little studied. The finding of these specimens of *A. gibbosimanus* (and some other species which we are presently studying) illustrates the need for more intensive studies at greater depths, in certain, insufficiently known areas.

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