

Biodiversity Record: Two new Singapore records of marine commensal shrimps

Crystle S. Y. Wee* & Nicholas K. M. Chew

DHI Water & Environment Pte Ltd, Singapore 608526; Email: crystle.wee@gmail.com (*corresponding author), nckm@dhiigroup.com

Recommended citation. Wee CSY & Chew NKM (2021) Biodiversity Record: Two new Singapore records of marine commensal shrimps. Nature in Singapore, 14: e2021067. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2021-0067

Subjects: Anker's whip-coral shrimp, *Pontonides ankeri* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Caridea: Palaemonidae);
Sea star shrimp, *Zenopontonia soror* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Caridea: Palaemonidae).

Subjects identified by: Crystle S. Y. Wee and Nicholas K. M. Chew.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait off Sisters Islands; 22 April 2021 at 1320 hrs, 13 May 2021 at 1350 hrs, and 3 June 2021 at 1230 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Coral reef at depths of 6–14 m.

Observers: Crystle S. Y. Wee and Nicholas K. M. Chew.

Observation: Three sightings of two species, each observed on different occasions —

- 1) *Pontonides ankeri* — one example of about 1.5 cm was found among open polyps of a wire coral (*Cirrhopathes* sp.), at around 14 m depth on 22 April 2021 (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Dorso-lateral view of *Pontonides ankeri* in situ on its coral host. (Photograph by: Nicholas K. M. Chew).

- 2) *Zenopontonia soror* — one example of about 1 cm was observed crawling on the surface of a cushion sea star (*Calcita novaeguineae*), at around 7 m depth on 13 May 2021 (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2. Dorso-lateral view of *Zenopontonia soror* in situ on the surface of a cushion star on 13 May 2021. (Photograph by: Crystle S. Y. Wee).

- 3) *Zenopontonia soror* — one example of about 2.5 cm was observed on the ventral surface of a cushion sea star (*Calcita novaeguineae*), at around 6–7 m depth on 3 June 2021 (Figs. 3, 4).



Fig. 3. *Zenopontonia soror* (indicated by arrow) on the ventral surface of a cushion star on 3 June 2021 (Photograph by: Nicholas K. M. Chew).



Fig. 4. Dorso-frontal view of the *Zenopontonia soror*. (Photograph by: Nicholas K. M. Chew).

Remarks: The two observed species of commensal shrimps are not listed by Anker & De Grave (2016), and thus are likely to be new records for Singapore. As both species are distributed through the Indo-west Pacific (see Humann & DeLoach, 2010: 116, 124, as *Periclimenes soror*), their presence in Singapore waters can be expected.

Literature cited:

- Anker A & De Grave S (2016) An updated and annotated checklist of marine and brackish caridean shrimps of Singapore (Crustacea, Decapoda). Raffles Bulletin of Zoology, Supplement 34: 343–454.
Humann P & DeLoach N (2010) Reef Creature Identification. Tropical Pacific. New World Publications, Jacksonville, Florida, 497 pp.