



ON A COLLECTION OF CARIDEAN SHRIMPS (DECAPODA, CARIDEA)
FROM ST. HELENA, SOUTH-CENTRAL ATLANTIC, WITH FURTHER
RECORDS FROM ASCENSION ISLAND

BY

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ABSTRACT

We report on a recent collection of caridean shrimps from St. Helena in the south-central Atlantic Ocean, raising the total number of species known from the island to 24. Six species are newly recorded for the area, with no endemic species present. Additional three species are recorded from Ascension Island. A close biogeographical connection between the caridean faunas of St. Helena and Ascension Island is evident.

RÉSUMÉ

Le présent article présente un rapport sur une collecte récente de crevettes Carides réalisée autour de l'île de Sainte-Hélène dans l'Océan Atlantique central, augmentant le nombre total des espèces connues de cette île à 24. Six espèces sont signalées de cette zone pour la première fois, aucune espèce n'étant cependant endémique de l'île de Sainte-Hélène. Trois espèces sont également signalées pour la première fois de l'île de l'Ascension. Une étroite connexion biogéographique entre les faunes Carides des îles Sainte-Hélène et Ascension est évidente.

INTRODUCTION

St. Helena is one of the world's most isolated islands, situated in the central part of the South Atlantic Ocean, with the nearest landmass being Ascension Island, about 1300 km to the north, and almost 2000 km off the coast of western Africa (Namibia/Angola) and over 4000 km from the coast of South America (Brazil).

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Although the island has long fascinated biologists, the marine fauna remains fragmentarily known, especially for invertebrates.

The last (and first) synoptic study on decapod crustaceans was by Chace (1966) who drew together the earlier scattered records and listed 23 species of Decapoda, amongst which only five species of caridean shrimps. However, Chace had overlooked the record of *Trachycaris rugosa* Spence Bate, 1888 in Gurney (1940), bringing the total to six species. Since then, there have been very few additional reports on the shrimp fauna of this island. Both Christoffersen (1979) and Fransen (2002) listed several specimens examined from St. Helena, but based on material already reported in Chace (1966). Fransen (1989) mentioned a record of *Thor amboinensis* (De Man, 1888) from St. Helena, in association with the sea anemone *Telmatactis* sp., made by J. C. den Hartog in 1983, however, without specimens collected. De Grave (2007) recorded *Gnathophylleptum tellei* d'Udekem d'Acoz, 2001 from the island, based on a single specimen collected in 1977. In summary, prior to 2010, the known caridean shrimp fauna of St. Helena stood at a paltry eight species.

In more recent years (2012-2014), a widespread baseline survey was undertaken by the Environmental Management Department of the St. Helena Government, led by one of the authors (JB). This was supplemented by material originating from a targeted collecting trip by one of the authors (PW) in 2014. Photographic records of selected species (identified by SDG) were published in Brown (2014), adding a further six species to the known fauna. Based on the 2012-2014 collections, two new species have already been described from St. Helena, viz., *Lysmata napoleoni* De Grave & Anker, 2018 (also known to occur at Ascension Island) and *Hippolyte karenae* Fransen & De Grave, 2019 (De Grave & Anker, 2018; Fransen & De Grave, 2019). This brings the total number of caridean shrimps known from St. Helena to date up to 16 species. The present contribution reports on the remainder of this collection, documenting the photo vouchers in Brown (2014), as well as providing further records. In addition, three species are newly reported for Ascension Island, based on a collecting trip in July 2015 by one of the authors (PW).

All material is deposited in the collections of the Oxford University Museum of Natural History (OUMNH.ZC); the following abbreviations are used throughout the text: pocl (post-orbital carapace length, in mm), cl (carapace length, including rostrum, in mm) and fcn (field collection number). To avoid repetition, geographical coordinates of collecting sites in St. Helena are listed in table I, where known.

TABLE I
Geographical coordinates (in decimal degrees) of sampling locations in St. Helena

Location	Latitude	Longitude
Banks	-15.912	-5.709
Bedgellet	-15.946	-5.755
Billy May Revenge	-15.947	-5.756
Buoy's Hole	-15.911	-5.688
Buttermilk Point	-15.907	-5.707
Egg Island	-15.971	-5.771
Flat Rock	-15.990	-5.664
Frontier	-15.937	-5.744
James Bay wharf steps	-15.921	-5.718
Ladder Hill	-15.926	-5.726
Lighter Rock	-15.955	-5.762
Long Ledge	-15.945	-5.762
Lower Lady's Chair	-15.966	-5.766
Merriment Island	-15.912	-5.669
Munden's Point	-15.921	-5.718
Papa Nui wreck	-15.922	-5.720
Red Island	-15.940	-5.742
Scraggy Point	-15.928	-5.650
Smooth Rock	-15.989	-5.785
Speery Island	-16.029	-5.753

TAXONOMY

Order DECAPODA Latreille, 1802

Infraorder CARIDEA Dana, 1852

Family ALPHEIDAE Rafinesque, 1815

Alpheopsis aequalis Coutière, 1897 (s. lat.)

Material examined.— Ascension Island: 1 male (cl 2.4), Bates Point, 16.vii.2015, OUMNH.ZC.2018-01-20.

Remarks.— *Alpheopsis aequalis* is currently considered an almost pantropical species complex, with at least two morphologically distinct taxa occurring in the western Atlantic (Anker et al., 2016). The single male specimen from Ascension Island represents the first record of this taxon from the central Atlantic. However, its exact identity must await a full resolution of the complex worldwide.

Alpheus cedrici Anker & De Grave, 2012

Previous record from St. Helena.— Brown, 2014: 59 (colour photograph).

Material examined.— St. Helena: 2 females (cl 5.0), Munden's Point, 10.3 m, 23.ii.2013, fcn 130223/17/02, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-12; 1 ov. female (cl 11.8), Smooth Rock west side, 20.9 m, 19.iv.2013, fcn 130426/Q37/02, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-13; 1 spec. (cl 9.0), Lighter Rock, 17.7 m,

8.v.2013, fcn 130508/Q53/02, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-14; 1 ov. female (cl 11.3), Long Ledge, 15 m, 15.i.2014, fcn 140115/61/04, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-15; 1 male (cl 11.5), Billy May's Revenge, 15 m, 18.i.2014, fcn 140118/66/02, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-16; 1 male (cl 11.8), Buoy's Hole, 17.7 m, 19.i.2014, fcn 140119/67/01-02, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-17.

Remarks.— This recently described, conspicuous species of snapping shrimp remains only known from Ascension Island (type locality, see Anker & De Grave, 2012) and from St. Helena based on the above-listed material and the photographic record in Brown (2014).

***Alpheus crockeri* (Armstrong, 1941)**

Material examined.— St. Helena: 1 ov. female (cl 7.0), Lighter Rock, 17.7 m, 8.v.2013, fcn 130508/Q53/01, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-18; 1 ov. female (cl 11.6), Bedgellet, 18 m, 12.i.2014, fcn 140112/57/01, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-19.

Remarks.— As with the Ascension Island material reported in De Grave et al. (2017), the material from St. Helena conforms to the description of the eastern Atlantic material by Crosnier & Forest (1966). Doubt remains, however, as to whether all the Atlantic populations reported under this name or under the name *A. hortensis* Wicksten & McClure, 2003, are indeed the same taxon as the widespread Indo-West Pacific *A. crockeri* (see also Anker et al., 2016) The present specimens constitute a new record for St. Helena.

***Alpheus dentipes* Guérin, 1832**

Material examined.— St. Helena: 1 male (cl 4.2), Billy May's Revenge, 14.4 m, 9.v.2013, fcn 130509/Q55/01, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-20.

Remarks.— This species is currently seen as widespread in the eastern Atlantic, from western Europe southwards to Cameroon and the central Atlantic, including Ascension Island (Manning & Chace, 1990) and now St. Helena. However, as the type locality of *A. dentipes* is in the Mediterranean, the taxonomic status of the central and tropical eastern Atlantic populations is currently being investigated by molecular analyses.

***Alpheus paracrinitus* Miers, 1881 (s. lat.)**

Previous record from St. Helena.— Brown, 2014: 59 (colour photograph).

Material examined.— St. Helena: 1 male (cl 4.5), Papa Nui wreck, 12.4 m, 14.i.2013, fcn 130114/05/05, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-21; 1 ov. female (cl 6.0), Merriment Island, 10.2 m, 19.iv.2013, fcn 130419/Q29/3, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-22.

Remarks.— *Alpheus paracrinitus* forms a large pantropical species complex (Anker et al., 2016). The exact identity of the present material is thus unknown.

***Metalpheus paragracilis* (Coutière, 1897)**

Previous record from St. Helena.— Chace, 1966: 627 (as *Alpheus paragracilis*).

Material examined.— St. Helena: 1 male (cl 4.0), 1 ov. female (cl 4.5), James Bay Wharf steps, 8.5 m, 15.viii.2013, fcn 130815/39/01, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-23; 1 male (cl 4.8), same locality, 11.3 m, 17.i.2014, fcn 140117/65/02, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-24.

Remarks.— This is a widespread Indo-West Pacific species (or species complex), which is also known from the central Atlantic (Ascension Island, St. Helena) and a questionable record from Florida (Anker et al., 2016).

***Synalpheus fritzmulleri* Coutière, 1909**

Previous records from St. Helena.— Chace, 1966: 629; Christoffersen, 1979: 342.

Material examined.— St. Helena: 1 female (cl 5.0), Papa Nui wreck, 12.4 m, 14.i.2013, fcn 130123130123/05/06, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-25; 1 ov. female (cl 6.5), 1 female (cl 4.2), Frontier, 26.2 m, 17.i.2013, fcn 130117/06/09, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-26; 1 ov. female (cl 6.0), Buttermilk Point, 22.1 m, 26.i.2013, fcn 130126/09/02, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-27; 1 ov. female (cl 6.8), Munden's Point, 9.8 m, 19.iii.2013, fcn 130319/21/01, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-28; 1 female (cl 6.0), Flat Rock, 16.4 m, 23.iv.2013, fcn 130423/Q31/02, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-29; 1 female (cl 5.5), James Bay Wharf steps, 9.7 m, 28.iii.2013, fcn 130328/Q4/04, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-30; 1 female (cl 5.5), Smooth Rock west side, 20.9 m, 26.iv.2013, fcn 130426/Q37/01, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-31; 1 female (cl 6.0), Lower Lady's Chair, 19.6 m, 7.v.2013, fcn 130507/Q47/01, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-32; 1 ov. female (cl 4.5), Papa Nui wreck, 10.9 m, 16.vii.2013, fcn 130716/28/08, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-33; 1 female (cl 5.2), Buoy's Hole, 17.7 m, 19.i.2014, fcn 140119/67/01-02-05, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-34.

Remarks.— A widespread and commonly recorded, western-central Atlantic species of *Synalpheus*.

Family BARBOURIIDAE Christoffersen, 1987***Janicea antiguensis* (Chace, 1972)**

Previous record from St. Helena.— Brown, 2014: 60 (colour photograph).

Material examined.— St. Helena: 1 male (pocl 5.2), Papa Nui wreck, 12.5 m, 21.i.2014, fcn 140121/70/02, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-35.

Remarks.— This amphi-Atlantic species is known in the eastern Atlantic, more precisely from Cape Verde, São Tomé, and the Canary Islands (Wirtz, 2004), as well as from St. Helena by the photographic record in Brown (2014), confirmed by the present material.

Family HIPPOLYTIDAE Spence Bate, 1888***Trachycaris restricta* (A. Milne-Edwards, 1878)**

Previous records from St. Helena.— Gurney, 1940: 121; Brown, 2014: 61 (colour photograph).

Material examined.— St. Helena: 1 ov. female (pocl 3.6), Banks, 16.2 m, 17.i.2013, fcn 131017/Q125/1, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-36; 1 female (pocl 1.8), locality and depth unknown, 21.x.

2013, fcn 131021/49/01, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-37; 1 ov. female (pocl 4.6), Munden's Point, 10.3 m, 23.ii.2013, fcn 130223/17, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-38; 1 ov. female (pocl 4.0), Buttermilk Point, 18.9 m, 25.i.2014, fcn 140125/77/02, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-39. Ascension Island: 1 female (pocl 2.4), Pyramid dive site, 14.vii.2015, OUMNH.ZC.2018-01-23.

Remarks.— The taxonomy of the Atlantic species of *Trachycaris* remains somewhat confusing. Criales (1992) suggested that two species are present, *T. restricta* in the eastern Atlantic and *T. rugosa* Spence Bate, 1888 in the western Atlantic, although a specimen from Bermuda was assigned to *T. restricta*. Although the species was already known from St. Helena, it is here newly recorded for Ascension Island. The identity of the material recorded under *T. restricta* from the eastern Pacific (Wicksten & Hendrickx, 2003) remains to be confirmed.

Family LYSMATIDAE Dana, 1852

***Lysmata grabhami* (Gordon, 1935)**

Previous record from St. Helena.— Brown, 2014: 56 (colour photograph).

Material examined.— St. Helena: 1 hermaphrodite (pocl 13.5), Scraggy Point, 13.6 m, 19.v.2013, fcn 130519/Q83/01, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-40; 1 hermaphrodite (pocl 6.2), Stringers, near Thompson's Valley Island, 21 m, 30.i.2014, fcn 140130/85/01, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-41.

Remarks.— A widespread amphi-Atlantic species, previously recorded from St. Helena by a colour photograph published by Brown (2014); this photographic record is confirmed by the present material.

***Lysmata moorei* (Rathbun, 1901)**

Previous record from St. Helena.— Brown, 2014: 57 (colour photograph, as *Lysmata* sp.).

Material examined.— St. Helena: 3 ov. hermaphrodites (pocl 8.0-8.7), 4 hermaphrodites (pocl 4.8-6.5), Sandy Bay, tide pools, 17.i.2014, fcn 140117/69, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-42.

Remarks.— Currently seen as a single widespread amphi-Atlantic species, although could also be a species complex. Previously known from St. Helena on the basis of a photographic record in Brown (2014), which is herewith confirmed.

Family PALAEMONIDAE Rafinesque, 1815

***Balssia gasti* (Balss, 1921)**

Material examined.— St. Helena: 5 spec. (pocl 0.8-1.6), Speery Island, 20.4 m, 16.i.2014, fcn 140116/63/02, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-43; 2 females (pocl 1.1-1.3), same collection data, fcn 140116/63/05, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-44; 23 spec. (pocl 1.2-1.9), same collection data, fcn 140114/60/3-6-7, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-45; 1 male (pocl 1.5), Long Ledge, 15 m, 21.i.2014, fcn 140121/73/01, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-46.

Remarks.— An associate of various anthozoans, known from the Mediterranean southwards to São Tomé (Wirtz & d'Udekem d'Acoz, 2008). Now recorded from

St. Helena, which is also the first record of the species for the central Atlantic. The Speery Island specimens were collected from the hydroid *Macrorhynchia filamentosa* (Lamarck, 1816), whilst the Long Ledge specimen was collected from an unidentified gorgonian.

Brachycarpus biunguiculatus (Lucas, 1846)

Previous records from St. Helena.— Chace, 1966: 625; Brown, 2014: 58 (colour photograph).

Material examined.— St. Helena: 1 male (pocl 4.0), Munden's Point, 10.9 m, 23.i.2013, fcn 130123/08/06, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-47; 1 female (pocl 3.5), same locality and depth, 15.ii.2013, fcn 130215/14/04, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-48; 1 female (pocl 7.5), same locality, 10.3 m, 23.ii.2013, fcn 130223/17/06, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-49; 1 male (pocl 4.8), 1 female (pocl 3.6), same collection data, fcn 130223/17/05, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-50; 1 male (pocl 5.0), Buttermilk Point, 22.3 m, 16.v.2013, fcn 130516/Q77/02, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-51; 1 female (pocl 4.6), Speery Island, 20.4 m, 16.i.2014, fcn 140116/63/02-03, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-52.

Remarks.— A widespread, common, pantropical-temperate species. Previously recorded from St. Helena based on a colour photograph in Brown (2014).

Gnathophylleptum tellei d'Udekem d'Acoz, 2001

Previous records from St. Helena.— De Grave, 2007: 893; Brown, 2014: 57 (colour photograph).

Material examined.— St. Helena: 1 female (pocl 2.8), Banks, 9.1 m, 17.x.2013, fcn 131017/Q124/01, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-53.

Remarks.— This spectacular but rarely recorded species is currently known only from the Canary Islands (type locality) and St. Helena (De Grave, 2007; Brown, 2014; present study), but is likely more widespread in the eastern-central Atlantic.

Gnathophyllum americanum Guérin-Méneville, 1855

Previous record from St. Helena.— Brown, 2014: 57 (colour photograph).

Material examined.— St. Helena: 1 female (pocl 3.6), Munden's Point, 10.3 m, 23.ii.2013, fcn 130223/17/04, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-54; 1 female (pocl 2.8), same locality, 9.8 m, 19.iii.2013, fcn 130319/21/02, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-55; 1 female (pocl 2.6), Joan's Point, 18.4 m, 20.v.2013, fcn 130520/Q85/01, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-56.

Remarks.— Currently seen as a widespread pantropical species, although the status of the Indo-West Pacific populations and several synonyms remains questionable. Previously noted from St. Helena on the basis of a photographic record in Brown (2014), which is confirmed by the present material.

***Palaemonella atlantica* Holthuis, 1951**

Material examined.— St. Helena: 1 male (pocl 2.7), 1 ov. female (pocl 2.2), Ladder Hill yacht mooring, 19.5 m, 24.i.2013, fcn 131224/55/04, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-57; 1 male (pocl 2.8), Long Ledge, 20 m, 15.i.2014, fcn 140115/61/08, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-58.

Remarks.— Widespread, but rarely recorded species, known from Madeira southwards to Cape Verde, and recorded from St. Helena and the central Atlantic for the first time. The specimen from Long Ledge was found on the black coral *Plumapathes pennacea* (Pallas, 1766) (Antipatharia).

***Pontonia pinnophylax* (Otto, 1821)**

Previous records from St. Helena.— Chace, 1966: 626; Fransen, 2002: 176; Brown, 2014: 61 (colour photograph).

Material examined.— St. Helena: 1 male (pocl 8.5), 1 female (pocl 10.5), Merriment Island, 16.3 m, 19.iv.2013, fcn 130419/Q30/2, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-59.

Remarks.— A widespread and frequently recorded eastern and central Atlantic species. The present specimens, a mated pair, were obtained from the mantle cavity of the pen shell, *Pinna rudis* Linnaeus, 1758.

***Rapipontonia platalea* (Holthuis, 1951)**

Material examined.— St. Helena: 1 male (pocl 2.0), 1 female (pocl 2.2), Long Ledge, 15 m, 14.i.2014, fcn 140114/60/3-6-7, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-60; 1 female (pocl 2.1), Speery Island, 20.4 m, 16.i.2014, fcn 140116/63/05, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-61. Ascension Island: 4 spms., Rocket Pad dive site, 17.vii.2015, OUMNH.ZC.2018-01-17; 9 spms., same location, 18.vii.2015, OUMNH.ZC.2018-01-19.

Remarks.— Widespread, but infrequently recorded, amphi-Atlantic species, recorded from St. Helena and Ascension Island for the first time. All St. Helena specimens were collected from the black coral *Plumapathes pennacea*.

Family PROCESSIDAE Ortmann, 1896

***Processa packeri* Manning & Chace, 1990**

Material examined.— St. Helena: 1 spm. (damaged, sex not determined) (pocl 2.6), Egg Island, 14 m, 1.viii.2013, fcn 130801/32/06, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-62.

Remarks.— Although the specimen is damaged, it fits the diagnosis of the species in Manning & Chace (1990). The species was formerly considered to be endemic to Ascension Island, but is now recorded also from St. Helena.

Family RHYNCHOCINETIDAE Ortmann, 1890
Cinetorhynchus rigens (Gordon, 1936)

Previous record from St. Helena.— Brown, 2014: 58 (colour photograph).

Material examined.— St. Helena: 1 male (pocl 11.0), Papa Nui wreck, 12.5 m, 5.ii.2013, fcn 130205/12/02, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-07; 1 male (pocl 7.8), Egg Island, 14 m, 1.viii.2013, fcn 130801/32/04, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-08; 1 female (pocl 4.0), James Bay Wharf steps, 10.2 m, 26.i.2014, fcn 140126/78/02-05, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-06.

Remarks.— A relatively widespread amphi-Atlantic species. Previously noted from St. Helena on the basis of a photographic record in Brown (2014), which is confirmed by the present material.

Family THORIDAE Kingsley, 1879
Thor sp.

Previous records from St. Helena.— Brown, 2014: 60 (colour photograph, as *T. cf. manningi*); (?) Fransen, 1989: 133 (as *T. amboinensis*).

Material examined.— St. Helena: 1 male (pocl 1.4), Billy May's Revenge, 10 m, 26.viii.2013, fcn 130826/41/01, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-63; 1 ov. female (pocl 1.9), Red Island, 16.3 m, 22.i.2014, fcn 140122/72/04, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-64; 7 spms. (pocl 1.0-2.2), James Bay Wharf steps, 10.2 m, 26.i.2014, fcn 140126/78/02-05, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-65; 1 ov. female (pocl 2.8), Egg Island, 24.2 m, 27.i.2014, fcn 140127/79/02, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-66; 1 juvenile (pocl 0.8), Long Ledge, 15 m, 14.iv.2014, fcn 140414/60/3-6-7, OUMNH.ZC.2018-04-67.

Remarks.— The exact species status of these specimens is unclear. Morphologically, they are extremely close to *T. amboinensis* (De Man, 1888), with no discernible morphological differences, but with a different colour pattern (see Brown, 2014, as *T. cf. manningi*). These specimens will form the subject of a further study.

DISCUSSION

The present study raises the total number of caridean shrimps known from St. Helena to 24 species. Of the species recorded by Chace (1966), only one species, *Alpheus macrocheles* (Hailstone, 1835), was not present in the 2012-2014 collection.

The relatively low and probably still incomplete number of species currently known from St. Helena makes biogeographical comparisons with other Atlantic areas premature. Nevertheless it is evident from the species composition that St. Helena has a close faunal affinity with Ascension Island, as already noted by Manning & Chace (1995). The currently known shallow-water caridean fauna of Ascension Island recorded in literature stands at 28 species (Brown et al., 2016; De Grave et al., 2017; De Grave & Anker, 2018), with an additional three species recorded herein, bringing the current total to 31 species.

At present, only one species, the recently described *H. karenae*, could currently be considered as endemic to St. Helena, although it seems likely, given the close zoogeographical connection between these two central Atlantic islands, that most if not all taxa currently only known from Ascension Island will in the future also be found at St. Helena and vice versa.

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