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A New Species of *Cryptopontius* (Crustacea: Copepoda: Siphonostomatoida) from Easter Island

RODRIGO JOHNSON,¹ CARLOS E. F. ROCHA,¹ AND
CHRISTOPHER B. BOYKO²

ABSTRACT

A new species of artotrogid copepod (Siphonostomatoida), *Cryptopontius tanacredii*, n. sp., associated with the scleractinian coral *Pocillopora damicornis* (Linnaeus) from Easter Island, is described. The new species can be distinguished from its 20 congeners by the combination of the following six characters: (1) 9-segmented antennule, (2) terminal segment of leg 4 exopod armed with nine elements, (3) second segment of P1 endopod with two setae, (4) two setae on outer lobe of maxillule, (5) inner lobe of the maxillule tipped with two setae, and (6) free segment of P5 present and armed with three setae. This is the first record of the genus from the eastern Pacific and the first occurring in association with a scleractinian coral.

INTRODUCTION

The distribution of the genus *Cryptopontius* Giesbrecht, family Artotrogidae, was previously known to be nearly worldwide, with species present in the Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic and Indian Oceans, and the western Pacific. The discovery of a new species collected from Easter Island is the first occurrence of the genus in the eastern Pacific, and shows the genus to be truly circumglobal. The si-

phonostomatoid fauna of Easter Island was also previously unknown, and the description of this new species of *Cryptopontius* is the first record of the order for the island. The association of the new species with *Pocillopora damicornis* (Linnaeus, 1758), a scleractinian coral belonging to the Pocilloporidae, is also unique, as most of the other 20 species of *Cryptopontius* have been recorded in algal associations, but none with corals.

¹ Departamento de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brasil. e-mail: johnsson@ib.usp.br

² Research Associate, Division of Invertebrate Zoology, American Museum of Natural History.
e-mail: cboyko@amnh.org