Zootaxa 618: 1–12 (2004)
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

618

Kaloketos pilosus, a new genus and species of Remipedia (Crustacea) from the Turks and Caicos Islands

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Abstract

We describe a new genus and species of remipede crustacean from an anchialine cave on the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Caribbean region. *Kaloketos pilosus* is a medium-sized species of robust build that occurs in sympatry with other remipedes, and is recognized as a new genus of the family Speleonectidae. *Kaloketos* is distinguished from other genera of Remipedia by several unique characters that include dense fields of short, feathered setae on most maxillary and maxillipedal segments, and distinctly expanded rami of the larger trunk limbs.

Key words: Crustacea, Remipedia, Speleonectidae, *Kaloketos*, anchialine caves, sympatry, biogeography

Introduction

Remipedes are hermaphroditic crustaceans that are exclusively known from anchialine, coastal cave systems, i.e., caves connected with sea water via cracks, tunnels or tubes. All currently recognized taxa occur in tropical or subtropical environments in the Caribbean region (13 species), Western Australian (1 species) and the Canary Islands (1 species). The greater Caribbean region, including the Yucatan Peninsula, is characterized by a high and relatively dense taxonomic diversity of Remipedia. For example, several cave systems on the Bahamas Islands are inhabited by sympatric remipedes, with up to six species and three genera (Koenemann et al., 2003; unpublished data).

The first remipede was discovered in a cave on the Bahamas Islands (Yager, 1981). Between 1981 and 2003, 14 new remipedes were discovered, all of which inhabit anchia-

Accepted by J. Olesen: 13 Aug. 2004; published: 27 Aug. 2004