



## Six new species of the genus *Chevalia* Walker, 1904 (Amphipoda, Corophiidea, Chevaliidae) from Brazilian waters, with a key to world species of the genus

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### Abstract

Six new species of the genus *Chevalia* are described from the Brazilian coast using all morphological characters proposed by Barnard & Thomas (1987) and Lazo-Wazen (1999) with two more: the shape of head proximal margin of lateral cephalic lobe and length ratio of uropod 2 rami: *C. anomala* **sp. nov.**; *C. caetes* **sp. nov.**; *C. convexa* **sp. nov.**; *C. marajoara* **sp. nov.**; *C. thomasi* **sp. nov.**; and *C. setosa* **sp. nov.** This paper raises the total number of recognized world species in this genus to 13. The genus is herein subdivided into three groups, based only on the shape of the basis of pereopod 7: group I – rectangular basis of pereopod 7 with a protuberant posteroventral corner, comprises four species; group II – rectangular basis of pereopod 7 lacking a protuberant posteroventral corner, comprises three species; and group III – ovate basis of pereopod 7, comprises seven species. A key of the world *Chevalia* species is also provided.

**Key words:** new species, taxonomy, hermaphrodite, Chevaliidae, Crustacea, Peracarida

### Introduction

The genus *Chevalia*, typically tropical, is easily distinguished from the other amphipods in samples by the body shape, with rounded head and large second gnathopod. Because of this easy distinction, probably many species around the world have been misidentified as *Chevalia aviculae* Walker, 1904, the type species of the genus which was originally described from Sri Lanka (Ceylon), India, therefore the genus was considered monospecific. However, Barnard & Thomas (1987) have revised the genus and considered *C. aviculae* as a superspecies complex. They re-validated the species *C. mexicana* Pearse, 1913 and *C. inaequalis* (Stout 1913), which were considered synonymies of *C. aviculae* by Shoemaker (1942) and J.L. Barnard (1962, 1970). In addition, they described a new species, *C. carpenteri*, from Florida. Also, these authors subdivided the genus into two groups, based on diagnostic features of the oostegites, basis of pereopods 5–7 and epimera 1–3.

Lazo-Wazen (1999) described a new species, *C. hirsuta*, from the Indian Ocean, and suggested new morphological characters in evaluating the species of *Chevalia*, such as: number of submarginal robust setae at anterodistal corner of carpus of pereopods 5–7 and subserrations of the spines on the inner margin of the outer ramus of uropod 1. Myers (1995, 2009) described two more species: *C. pacifica* and *C. tenuis*, from Madang Lagoon, Papua New Guinea and Lizard Island, Australia, respectively, increasing to six the number of species recognized in the genus, in addition to the *C. aviculae* superspecies complex. However, there still are many species without formal names (see Barnard & Thomas 1987; Lazo-Wazen 1999; Myers 2009).

In the present paper, we describe six new species of the genus from the Brazilian coast using all morphological characters proposed by Barnard & Thomas (1987) and Lazo-Wazen (1999) and we propose two more: the shape of head proximal margin of lateral cephalic lobe and length ratio of uropod 2 rami. A key of the world *Chevalia* species is provided.