Hermit crabs from Brazil: Family Paguridae (Crustacea: Decapoda: Paguroidea), except Pagurus

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Abstract

In a previous paper we presented the species of the genus Pagurus recorded from Brazil. Here, we present the other 12 genera of the family Paguridae that occur in Brazil, with diagnoses, synonymies, illustrations and keys to species. These 12 genera include 16 species, some of which were found recently and only in deeper waters. This suggests the need for further studies in areas that have been little studied in Brazil.

Key words: Hermit crabs, Paguridae, Brazil

Introduction

In the first part of this study, we presented the representatives of the genus Pagurus that occur in Brazil (Nucci & Melo 2007a). In this second part, we present the remaining genera belonging to the family Paguridae recorded in Brazil. Since the publication of Nucci & Melo (2007a), two genera have been added, for a total, in addition to Pagurus, of 12 genera and 16 species. These genera are: Agaricochirus McLaughlin, 1981; Anisopagurus McLaughlin, 1981; Catapaguroideos A. Milne-Edwards & Bouvier, 1892; Catapagurus A. Milne-Edwards, 1880; Goreopagurus McLaughlin, 1988; Iridopagurus Saint Laurent-Dechancé, 1966; Nematopaguroideos Forest & Saint Laurent, 1968; Phimochirus McLaughlin, 1981; Propagurus McLaughlin & Saint Laurent, 1998; Pylopagurus A. Milne-Edwards & Bouvier, 1893; Rhodochirus McLaughlin, 1981; and Tomopagurus A. Milne-Edwards & Bouvier, 1893. In general, shallow-water species are well known and studied in Brazil, but species in other areas are less known. The finding of Agaricochirus gibbosimanus (A. Milne-Edwards, 1880), Goreopagurus lemairei Nucci & Melo, 2007, Catapaguroideos microps A. Milne-Edwards & Bouvier, 1892, and other species that we are studying, all of them found in deeper waters, illustrates the need for more intensive studies at greater depths, in insufficiently known areas.

Material and methods

The carcinological collection of the Museum of Zoology, University of São Paulo (MZUSP) contains extensive material of Paguroidea, which formed the basis of most of this study. We also examined material from the Department of Oceanography, Federal University of Pernambuco (DOUFPe), the material from the Project REVIZEE, and other projects. For each species listed, we present the synonymy, diagnostic descriptions, geographical distribution, known ecological data, material examined, and “Remarks”, which mention or discuss morphological aspects. The diagnoses of the species were based on Melo (1999), Nucci (2002, unpublished doctoral thesis) and previously published articles. The synonymies were based on Nucci (2002) and several contributions by McLaughlin. The “Material examined” provides: location, project and/or collection vessel (in quotes), number of specimens, the institution in which the material is deposited, and the catalogue number. The “Distribution” and “Habitat” were