



A new species of *Caridina* H. Milne Edwards, 1837 (Family: Atyidae) from a limestone cave on Interview Island, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India

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Abstract

Caridina ravisankarani **sp. nov.** is a cave-adapted species, collected during June and November 2018 and January 2019 from a limestone cave (CN2) on Interview Island, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The shrimps were collected from a stream, sourced through the percolation of rainwater, which reduces during the post-monsoon months. The species is closely related to *Caridina typus* H. Milne Edwards, 1837, *Caridina villadolidi* Blanco, 1939 and *Caridina jeani* Cai, 2010. A detailed comparison of characters and a key for identification are given in the text. The present species can be diagnosed by the presence of: short rostrum with edentulous upper margin and ventral margin with 2 minute teeth situated at the distal part; outer antennular flagellum with 16 segments at the basal part swollen; highly atrophied propodus and dactylus of endopod of 2nd maxilliped; bushy long setae on fingers of 2nd chelate legs; dactylus of 5th pereopod with 42–43 comb-like bristles; dieresis with 18 spines; dorsal surface of telson with 4–5 pairs of spines and disto-median region doesn't end in a point, outer lateral pair of spines absent and eyes with cornea pigmentation variable, from totally absent to a small black spot. Fecundity is 1300 eggs with an average length 0.71±0.03 mm and width 0.42±0.03 mm (Mean±SD).

Key words: *Caridina ravisankarani* **sp. nov.**, Atyidae, cave fauna, Andaman Islands, Stygobite

Introduction

Andaman and Nicobar Islands, located in the Bay of Bengal, have humid climatic conditions receiving more than 3000 mm rainfall per year. With dominating tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen forests, the Island arc possesses 395 limestone caves, of which 62.2% are situated in the inland area and 37.8% on the coast (Manchi 2014). Interview Island in the west of the Middle Andaman Islands, the only identified carbonate island, is the largest Wildlife Sanctuary (134 km²) of the archipelago (Kawalkar & Manchi 2020). This uninhabited and scarcely explored karst island has 34 known limestone caves (Manchi 2014). The present investigation is part of a conservation program for the cave-dwelling Edible-nest Swiftlet (*Aerodramus fuciphagus* Thunberg, 1812) and also to explore the role of this bird in the cave ecosystem and co-existing fauna. For survey purposes, these caves are identified with the designated cave number (CN) as CN1, CN2, CN3, so on (Sankaran 2001, Manchi 2014).

Epigeal crustacean collections in the Andaman Islands, including Interview Islands, were carried out as early as 1911, 1933 & 1934 by Captain C. G. Rogers and H. S. Rao respectively (Tiwari & Pillai 1971). The studies have reported a few atyid shrimps, namely, *Caridina typus* H. Milne Edwards, 1837, *Caridina brachydactyla* De Man, 1908, *Caridina serratiostris* De Man, 1892 and *Caridina gracilirostris* De Man, 1892. However, information on species assemblages in hypogean environments such as caves remains unexplored to date. The authors (AD, SM) have surveyed caves CN1, CN2, CN3 and atyid shrimps only from CN2 cave of Interview islands during the present study. On analysis, it was found to possess specific characters of its own and distinctly differs from *C. typus*. Hence, it is described herein as a new species and this forms the first report of atyid shrimps from the cave. Surveys were also done in epigeal waters in search of this species but were not found.

Materials and methods

The samples were collected from shallow pools of the cave identified as CN2 of Interview Island (12°52'51.12"N, 92°41'42.32"E), with a maximum depth of 0.2 m during June 2018, November 2018 and January 2019. Nature of the cave, pools within the cave and collection sites of specimens are given in Fig. 3A, B, C, D to understand the peculiarity of caves. Specimens were collected with the help of a 15 ml circular tube with 25 x 57 mm size. The collection tube was placed in the opposite direction of the streamflow. With the help of a headlamp, the shrimps were guided into the collection tubes and collected with forceps. Ten specimens were collected for identification, of which three were utilized for study, and the rest were released back into the pool. The samples were preserved in 99% ethanol. The holotype was deposited in the Referral Museum of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI), Kochi, India (Accession Number - CMFRI DNR No. 2.3.3.2). The status of the present species has been confirmed by consulting relevant literature (H. Milne Edwards 1837, de Haan 1849, de Man 1892, 1908, Ortmann 1894, Bouvier 1904, 1905, 1925, Edmondson 1935, Blanco 1939, Holthuis 1969, Tiwari & Pillai 1971, Choy 1984, Short 1993, Choy & Marshall 1997, Cai 2010). Surveys from epigeal waters did not encounter this species.

Taxonomy

Family : Atyidae De Haan, 1849

Genus : *Caridina* H. Milne Edwards, 1837

Species : *Caridina ravisankarani* sp.nov.

Materials examined

Measurements. Holotype male: tl—28 mm; cl—9.5mm; rl—2 mm; paratypes male – tl—24 mm; cl—9 mm; rl—2mm; female: tl—23mm; cl—8 mm; rl—1.8 mm.

Description. Rostrum short, slender, shallow, reaching as far as the distal end of basal segment of the antennular peduncle, distal end pointed and directed forwards, upper margin straight edentulous, two-third of proximal ventral margin nearly straight and distal third gently curved, bears two very minute teeth, adrostral carina prominent incomplete, situated at the proximal half at the lower region and divides unequally; carapace smooth, orbit broad, antennal spine prominent, pterygostomian angle broadly rounded (Fig. 1A).

Eyes with cornea pigmentation variable, from totally absent to a small black spot.

The sixth abdominal segment is a little longer than the fifth. Telson broad basally and narrow distally reaches as far as the outer spine of uropodal exopod, disto-lateral margins pointed; upper surface bears 5 pairs of spines, proximal most pair at about one-third distance from the base, distal pair subdistal in position; disto-median part not spinous, distal region bears 8 long spines and without short spines, outermost pair with setae only on the inner side, remaining bipectinate, the base of each spine with chitinous structures (Fig. 1B, C).

Antennular peduncle reaches beyond the level of outer spine of antennal scale, three segments in the ratio 1.00:0.55:0.54; basal segment broad, lateral border ends distally as a characteristic triangular prominence, stylocerite long, sharp and extends as far as 80% of the proximal segment; middle and distal segments almost equal-sized; 16 segments at the proximal part of outer flagellum swollen, characteristic, inner flagellum slightly broad (Fig. 1D). Antennal scale fully developed, 0.38 times broad as long, the outer lateral spine extends to 0.79 times its length, and flagellar peduncle 0.49 times the length of the scale. Incisor process stronger than molar process with one broad, one sharp, and two smaller teeth, molar process with concavity, a series of short stiff closely packed fine setae in between molar and incisor processes; apophysis long and broad (Fig. 1E). Maxillulae with coxa very broad bears a fringe of stiff spinous setae on the inner border, basis also broader with scattered setae, endopod slender. Maxillae with coxa and basis highly flattened with closely set stiff long setae in rows on the inner border, coxa smaller, endopod reduced, and exopod flattened with much elongated setae (Fig. 1F).

First maxilliped with highly flattened short coxa and long broad basis, inner borders with stiff long closely set stiff setae; endopod short, exopod highly flattened and membranous, basal part with a rectangular caridean lobe bearing long setae and a club-shaped distal portion with very long setae at the tip (Fig. 1G). Second maxilliped with endopod reduced in structure, ischium, and merus almost equal-sized, carpus ring-shaped, propodus distally

expanded and dactylus highly reduced, inner margin of ischium and the distal surface of propodus bear long stiff spinous setae; exopod slender and highly elongated, more than two times longer than endopod and tip bears very long setae (Fig. 2A). Three segments of the third maxilliped in the ratio 35.4:34.3:30.3; distal segment ends in a sharp spine and bears seven spines on distal flexor margin of which distal-most attains the size of the distal spinous part of the segment so that it appears a claw and bunches of plumose stiff long setae along basal 2/3 distance, distal 1/3 with scattered setae, exopod reaches about half of the second segment and with setae on either side distally (Figs. 1H, 2B).

First pereopod stronger than second; Ischium, merus, carpus, propodus, palm, and fingers in the ratio 17.1:25.7:31.4:47.0:25.7:21.4; distal carpus as broad as palm, distal region highly excavated and longer than merus, propodus longer than carpus; palm swollen, fingers slightly shorter than palm, spoon-shaped with characteristic long setae, bushy along the rim of both fingers (Fig. 2C). Second pereopods slender, ischium, merus, carpus, propodus, and fingers in the ratio 19.0: 27.4: 32.1:21.4:16.2; merus and carpus longer than propodus; fingers longer than palm and its tips with a very long tuft of setae, characteristic to species (Fig. 2D).

Third pereopods with ischium, merus, carpus, propodus, dactylus in the ratio 12.3:32.5:19.5:27.1:8.7; propodus with 11 spinules on flexor margin; dactylus ends in a sharp curved spine and with 4–5 spinules on flexor margin, merus longest (Fig. 2E, F). Fourth pereopods with merus and propodus of almost same size, propodus with 10 minute spinules on flexor margin and dactylus ends in a sharp curved spine and with 7–8 spinules on flexor margin (Fig. 2H). Fifth pereopods with ischium, merus, carpus, propodus, dactylus in the ratio 8.4:28.9:16.9:35.0:10.8; merus with three, propodus with seven spinules on flexor margins and carpus with one distal spine; dactylus longer than ischium and ends in a sharp curved spine and with 42–43 bristle setae, propodus longest (Fig. 2G).

Pleopods. Female: first pleopods more pediform, basis concave on the inner side, with long stiff setae along margins, exopod flat with scattered stiff setae on free border and endopod modified as in figure (Fig. 2I); male: basis flat, exopod flattened with setae more towards tip, endopod with characteristic finger-shaped appendix interna and tip with stiff setae (Fig. 2J). Second pleopod male: basis slightly broader and bears appendix masculina and appendix interna, appendix interna 1/3rd of appendix masculina (Fig. 2K); female: basis leg like with appendix interna (Fig. 2L); remaining pleopods pediform with exopod and endopod and appendix interna; basis as long as or slightly longer than rami and with scattered setae (Fig. 2M). Uropods highly developed, exopod with a sharp spine at 2/3 distance, diaeresis with 18 prominent strong spines (Fig. 1C, I).

Paratypes also possess the same characters described above.

The present species can be identified from the closely related species by the key provided below.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Dorsal surface of telson with 5–7 pairs of spines; dactylus of 5 th pereopod with 44–77 prominent setae; dieresis with 16–23 spines | 2 |
| - | Dorsal surface of telson with 4–5 pairs of spines; dactylus of 5 th pereopod with 41–44 prominent setae; dieresis with 17–19 spines | 3 |
| 2 | Disto-median region of telson pointed, outer lateral spines short and in-curved; carpus of 1 st cheliped equals merus and fingers shorter than palm; dactylus of 5 th pereopod with 56–77 spinous setae; rostrum short, upper margin edentulous and ventral margin with 1–6 teeth | <i>typus</i> H. M. Edwards, 1837 |
| - | Disto-median region of telson pointed, outer lateral spines short; carpus of 1 st cheliped shorter than merus and fingers longer than palm; dactylus of 5 th pereopod with 44 spinous setae; rostrum long, upper margin edentulous and ventral margin with 2–8 teeth | <i>villadolidi</i> Blanco, 1939 |
| 3 | Disto-median region of telson pointed, outer lateral spines short-incurved; carpus of 1 st cheliped shorter than merus and fingers longer than palm; dactylus of 5 th pereopod with 41–49 spinous setae; rostrum short, upper margin edentulous and ventral margin with 1–5 minute teeth situated at distal part; outer antennular flagellum without swollen basal segments | |
| - | Disto-median region of telson not pointed, outer lateral spines absent; carpus of 1 st cheliped longer than merus and fingers shorter than palm; dactylus of 5 th pereopod with 42–43 spinous setae; rostrum short, upper margin edentulous and ventral margin with 2 minute teeth situated at distal part; 16 segments at the basal part of outer antennular flagellum swollen | <i>jeani</i> Cai, 2010 |
| | | <i>ravisankarani</i> sp. nov. |

Coloration in life. Male and female both entirely translucent, with mild yellowish spots overall, more on carapace.

Notes on biology. Collection during June and December -January, the deep and shallow pools in the cave were dominated by berried females and probably the peak breeding period. A female collected in June 2018 had as many as 1300 eggs. The eggs (n=29) had an average length of 0.71±0.03 mm (Mean±SD) and a width of 0.42±0.03 mm.

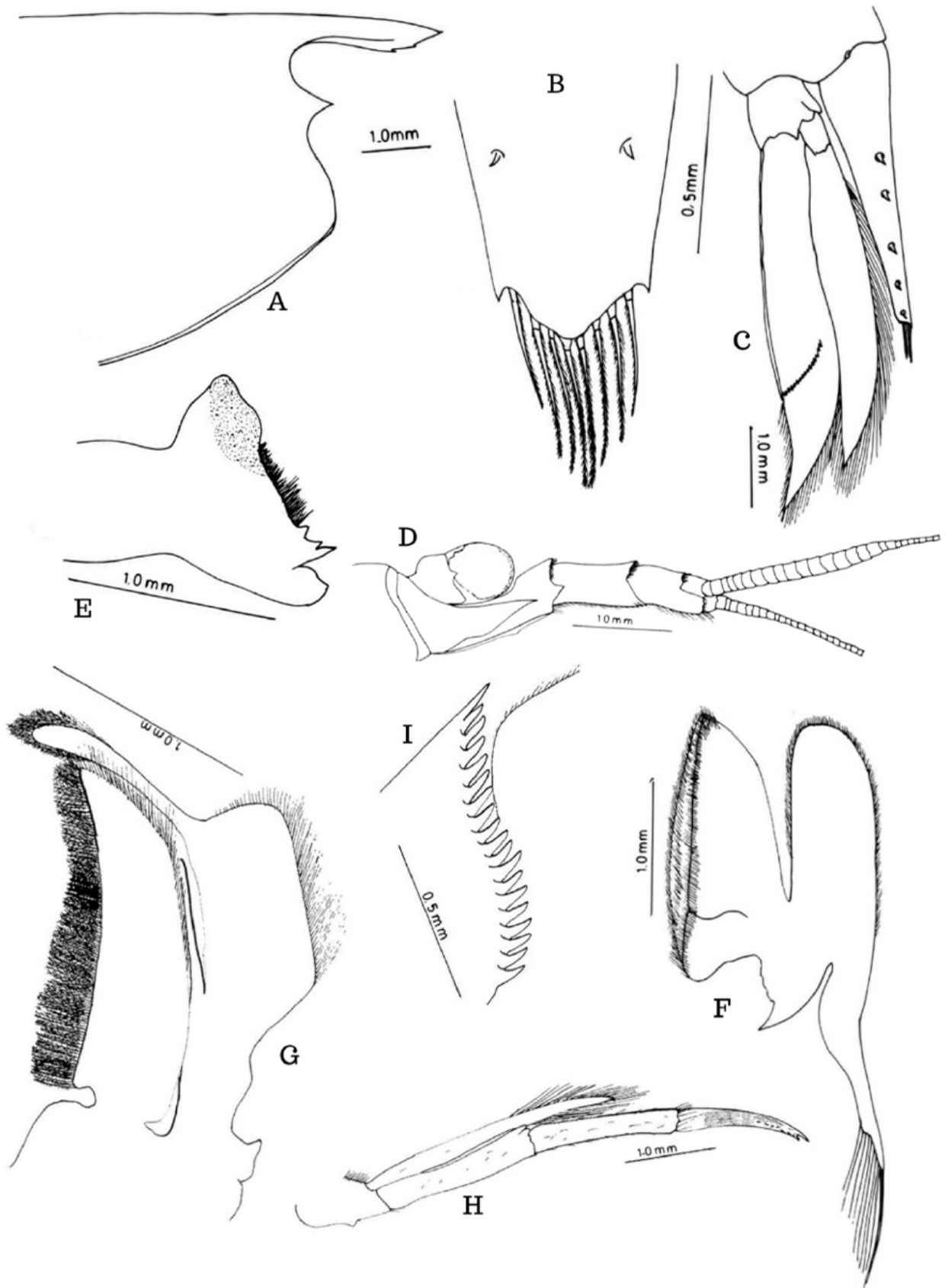


FIGURE 1. A–I : *Caridina ravisankarani* **sp. nov.** holotype, A—anterior carapace, B—distal part of telson, C—uropod and telson lateral view, D—antennule, E—mandible, F—maxilla, G—1st maxilliped, H—3rd maxilliped, I—dieresis showing spines.

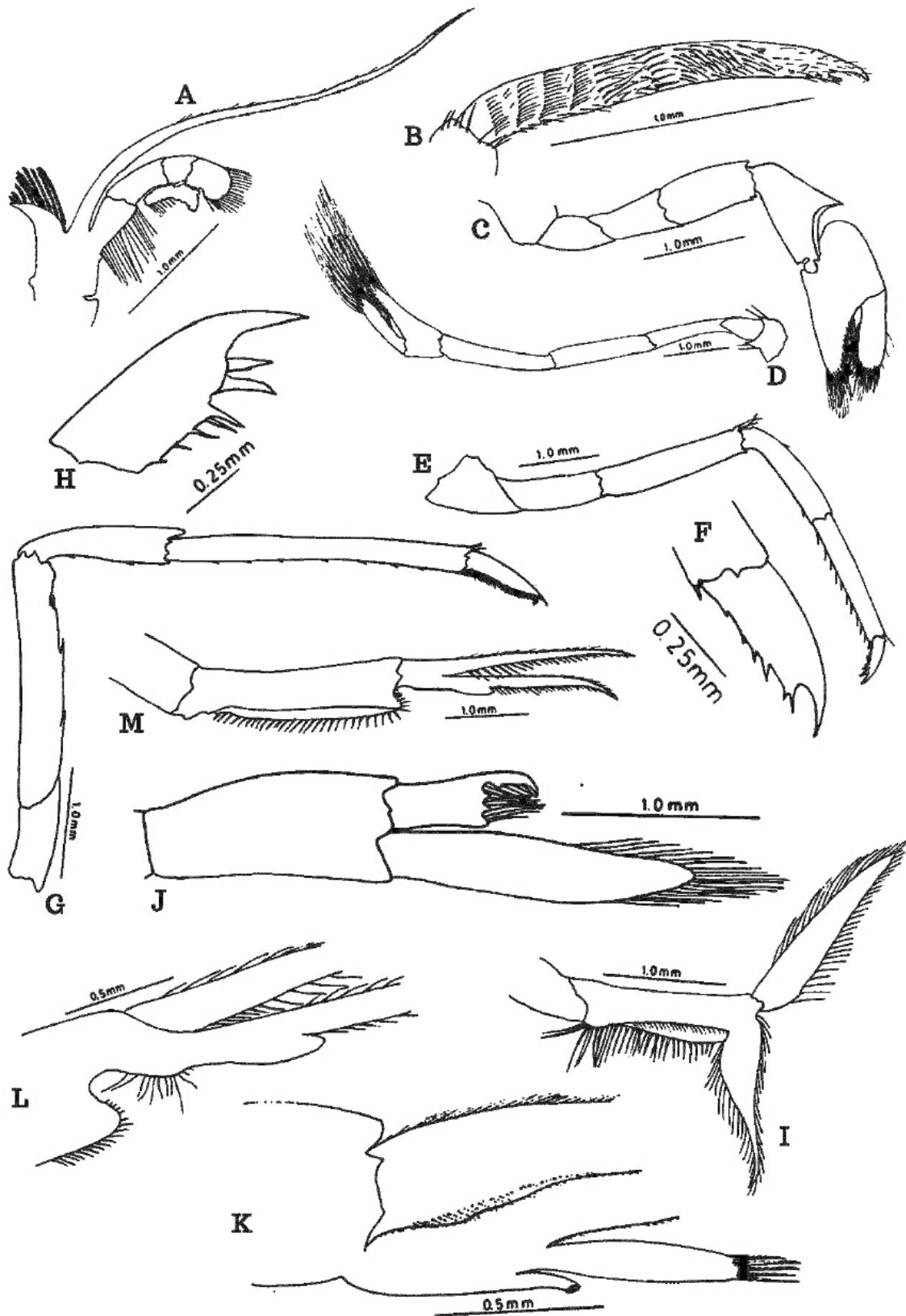


FIGURE 2. A–M : *Caridina ravisankarani* sp.nov. holotype, A—2nd maxilliped, B—distal segment of 3rd maxilliped showing claw-like tip, C—1st pereopod, D—2nd pereopod, E—3rd pereopod, F—dactylus of 3rd pereopod, G—5th pereopod, H—dactylus of 4th pereopod, I—1st pleopod female, J—1st pleopod of male, K—part of 2nd pleopod of male showing appendix masculina and appendix interna, L—part of 2nd pleopod of female showing appendix interna, M—3rd pleopod.

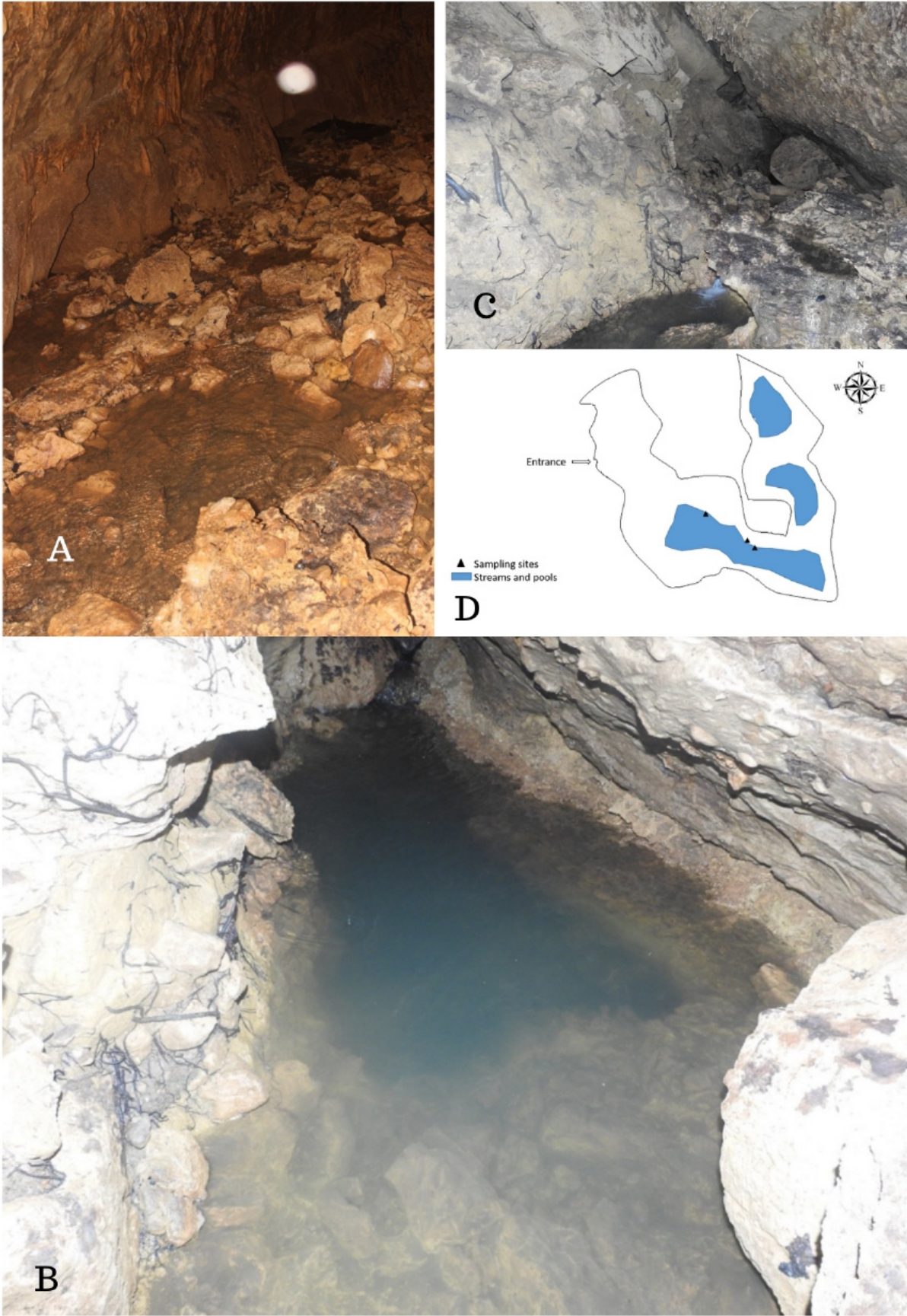


FIGURE 3. A—Stream with intermittent shallow pools across the cave floor, the collection site of *Caridina ravisankarani* sp. nov., B—deep pool (about 8m depth) within the cave beyond which cave is inapproachable, C—collection site (shallow pool), natural habitat of the shrimp, D—map of the cave depicting sampling sites.

Distribution. A cave (CN2) on the Interview Island, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India.

Habitat. CN2, a limestone cave around a kilometre inland from the west coast in the central part of Interview Island, holds underground water (Fig. 3A, B, C). As the primary source of this water is rainwater and its runoff, the stream inside the cave flows during monsoon and post- monsoon periods leaving small pools during the dry season. The stream flows from one end of the cave (south-west) where the gushing water cascades into the deep pools, and towards the mid-section, it splits into streamlets and shallow pools (0.2 m depth) and ultimately goes underground at north-west where the cave is raised. The water in the cave travels approximately 20 m before emptying underground (Figs. 3A, B, C). Except for a small portion near the opening, the entire length of the cave has no light. The water temperature in the cave's sample collection zones was between 25–26°C. The pH of the water was between 6.0–7.0. During the sample collection, the air temperature and relative humidity were 24°C and 93.2%, respectively. This cave has seasonal deficient oxygen levels, especially during the pre-monsoon (dry) season between March and June. Geologically Interview Island has Archipelago series rock type (Bandopadhyay & Carter 2017). The significant water source inside caves is through percolation during the monsoon and post-monsoon periods. This percolating water brings in organic matter as an external energy source to form a significant energy supply for the subterranean life in some caves (Culver & Pipan 2009).

In CN2, shrimps were found under rocks, boulders, and crevices in the pools (0.2m to 8m deep) (Fig. 3A, B, C). The presence of various sized individuals during the visits and no signs of their presence in the epigeal water bodies indicate it being restricted to the hypogean habitats. Being photophobic, these shrimps quickly darted in the opposite direction when exposed to the light source. Some other shrimps and amphipods were also encountered in the same pools inside CN2 and are being identified.

Etymology. The species is named in honour of the renowned ornithologist and conservation biologist Dr. Ravi Sankaran, who pioneered cave studies in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. He had first systematically documented the caves in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands while searching for populations of the cave-dwelling Edible-nest Swiftlet, *A. fuciphagus* Thunberg, 1812 and his dream and motivation led to the cave faunal study initiated in the Andaman Islands today.

Remarks. The present new species is closely related to *Caridina typus* H. Milne Edwards, 1837, *Caridina villadolidi* Blanco, 1939 and *Caridina jeani* Cai, 2010. It can be at once separated from others based on the characters given in Table 1. *C. typus* has been extensively studied by H. Milne Edwards (1837), Bouvier (1904; 1905; 1913; 1925), De Man (1892), Edmondson (1935), Holthuis (1960), Cai (2010). In *C. typus* and *C. villadolidi* the rostrum extends as far as the tip of 2nd and 3rd segments of the antennular peduncle, respectively. The present new species rostrum is shorter and extends only up to the distal end of the basal segment of the antennular peduncle. Moreover, the position of adrostral carina and disposition of teeth are characteristic to the species. Disto-median part of telson ends in a sharp point and with 4–5 (up to 9) spines with setae and two curved-in short spines at the disto-lateral end in *C. typus*, *C. jeani* and *C. villadolidi*, whereas in the present species, the telson doesn't end in a sharp point at disto-medial part and disto-lateral region with eight spines and without a pair of short spines; dorsal spines are distributed in the distal half in all the three species whereas in the present new species the proximal-most pair is at 1/3rd distance from the base.

The middle segment of the antennular peduncle is longer than the distal segment in *C. typus*, whereas these segments are almost equal-sized in the present new species. The specimens of the new species possess a swollen basal part of the outer flagellum with 16 segments in the specimens studied and is characteristic.

The endopod of the second maxilliped has propodus and dactylus atrophied, and the nature of setation on it are characteristics to the species. In many species of *Caridina* reported from caves possess atrophied nature as above (Guo *et al.* 1992, Liang 1993, Liang and Zhou 1993, Cai and Li 1997, 1999, Cai and Ng 2018). First pair of chelate legs in which merus and carpus are equal-sized in *C. typus*, merus longer than carpus in *C. villadolidi* whereas in the present new species carpus is longer than merus. Fingers are nearly equal to palm or slightly shorter and bear very long bushy setae and are characteristic to the new species. In all the other three species, fingers are slightly longer with normal setae on fingers. Second chelate legs are slender in all species. Ischium is slightly longer than fingers in the present species, whereas it is shorter in other species. The merus is longer than propodus in the present species, *C. jeani* and *C. villadolidi*, whereas it is slightly shorter in *C. typus*. The fingers possess characteristically very long setae in contrast to other species. The number of spinules on the flexor side of propodi, dactyli vary in all the species under study. There is a considerable difference in the proportion of different segments of 5th pereopod in all the species under study. In the present species, the dactylus possesses 42–43 comb-like bristles similar to *C. villadolidi* and *C. jeani* whereas in *C. typus* it is 56–77.

TABLE 1. Comparison of characters between *Caridina ravisankarani* sp. nov., *C. typus* H. M. Edwards, 1837; *C. villadolidi* Blanco, 1939 and *C. jeani* Cai, 2010.

<i>C. ravisankarani</i> sp. nov.	<i>C. typus</i> H. M. Edwards, 1837	<i>C. villadolidi</i> Blanco, 1939	<i>C. jeani</i> Cai, 2010
Rostrum short, reaching as far as the distal end of basal segment of antennular peduncle; upper margin straight, without teeth; ventral margin with 2 minute teeth situated 1/3 rd distal curved region	Rostrum short, reaching as far as middle segment to slightly beyond the distal end of antennular peduncle; upper margin straight, without teeth; ventral margin with 1–6 (rarely 7) located at distal 2/3 rd region .	Rostrum moderately long, reaching as far as the distal end of antennal scale, saber shaped; upper margin straight without teeth; ventral margin with 2–8 (usually 3–5), located at distal 2/3 rd region.	Rostrum short, reaching up to or a little beyond basal segment of antennular peduncle; upper margin straight without teeth, ventral margin with 1–5 minute teeth situated at the distal curved part
Dorsal surface of telson bears 4–5 pairs of sharp spines, proximal most pair at about 1/3 rd distance from base, distal pair near distal end, lateral margins end in sharp points, disto-median region not pointed; outer spines at posterior margin absent, distally with 8 spiniform setae of which lateral ones with setae only on inner side	Dorsal surface of telson bears 5–6 (rarely 4) pairs of spines distributed at posterior half, lateral margins somewhat produced, disto-median region pointed; outer spines of posterior margin short, curved-in, distally with maximum 9 short spiniform setae	Dorsal surface of telson bears 5–7 pairs of spines, distributed evenly, lateral margins do not end in sharp points, disto-median region pointed; outer spines of posterior margin short, curved-in, distally with 7 spiniform setae	Dorsal surface of telson with 5 pairs of spines distributed at distal half, distal pair near distal end, disto-median region pointed; outer spines very long, distally with 3–4 pairs of spiniform setae
Eyes with reduced pigmentation	Eyes with normal pigmentation	Eyes with normal pigmentation	Eyes with normal pigmentation
Stylocerite of antennular peduncle reaches to 0.8 times the basal segment; basal region of outer flagellum swollen (16 segments), characteristic to the species	Stylocerite of antennular peduncle reaches to 0.8 times of basal segment; flagellae normal in size	Stylocerite of antennular peduncle reaches distal end of basal segment; flagellae normal in size	Stylocerite of antennular peduncle reaches 0.8 times of basal segment; flagellae normal in size
Endopod with propodus and dactylus of 2 nd maxilliped atrophied	Endopod of 2 nd maxilliped normal in shape	Endopod of 2 nd maxilliped normal in shape	Endopod of 2 nd maxilliped normal in shape
1 st pereopod: carpus longer than merus; propodus longer than carpus; fingers slightly shorter than palm;	1 st pereopod: carpus equals merus; propodus longer than carpus; fingers shorter than palm; fingers	1 st pereopod: carpus shorter than merus; fingers longer than palm; fingers with short setae	1 st pereopod: carpus shorter than chela; fingers equal to or slightly shorter than palm; fingers with
fingers spoon shaped with bushy setae	spoon shaped with short setae		short setae

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TABLE 1. (Continued)

<i>C. ravisankarani</i> sp. nov.	<i>C. typus</i> H. M. Edwards, 1837	<i>C. villadolidi</i> Blanco, 1939	<i>C. jeani</i> Cai, 2010
2 nd pereopod: merus and carpus longer than propodus; fingers much longer than palm and with very long tuft of setae at tips	2 nd pereopod: merus sub-equal to propodus; carpus longer than propodus and merus; fingers longer than palm and with setae	2 nd pereopod: merus longer than propodus; fingers longer than palm and with setae	2 nd pereopod: merus and carpus a little longer than propodus; fingers longer than palm and with seate
3 rd pereopod: propodus with 11 spinules on the mesial side; dactylus ends in a claw and with 4–5 accessory spines on flexor margin.	3 rd pereopod: propodus with 10 spinules on mesial side; dactylus ending in a claw and with 5–6 (rarely 3 or 4) accessory spines on flexor margin.	3 rd pereopod; dactylus ends in a claw and with 7 accessory spines on flexor margin.	3 rd pereopod: propodus with 12 spinules on the mesial side; dactylus ends in a claw with 4 accessory spine on flexor margin
Dactylus of 5 th pereopods ends in a sharp cruved spine and with 42–43 spinules	Dactylus of 5 th pereopod ends in a sharp curved spine and with 56–77 spinules	Dactylus of 5 th pereopod ends in a sharp curved spine and with 44 spinules	Dactylus of 5 th pereopod ends in a sharp curved spine and with 41–49 spinules
1 st pleopod: basis of male with stiff long setae at its tip, broader and almost same length as exopod; endopod half size of exopod and with finger shaped appendix interna	1 st pleopod: basis of male with stiff long setae at its tip, broader and almost same length as exopod; endopod ¼ of exopod and with finger shaped appendix interna	1 st pleopod: endopod of male bears finger shaped appendix interna.	1 st pleopod: endopod of male appears bifid and appendix interna slightly beyond it
Diaeresis with 18 prominent strong spines	Diaeresis with 20–23 prominent spines	Diaeresis with 16–22 spines	Dieresis with 17–19 spines

The finger-shaped appendix interna in the present new species differs from the other three species. The diaeresis of the new species is with 18 prominent erect spines with a broad base, is within the range reported for *C. jeani* (17–19) and *C. villadolidi* (16–22) whereas *C. typus* possesses more number (20–23). Moreover, the eyes with reduced pigmentation is an adaptation in the cave environment.

From the foregoing discussion, it is evident that the species described herein deserves the merit to be elevated to a new species based on the difference in the rostrum, antennules and flagellae, mandible, 1st maxilliped, 2nd maxilliped, 3rd maxilliped, bushy nature of setae on fingers and nature of different articles of the first pereopod, long nature of setae on fingers of the second pereopod, nature of spines on the flexor side of 3rd and 4th pereopods, number of bristles on the dactylus of 5th pereopod, appendix interna on male first pleopod, the position of dorsal spines, distal spines and setae of telson, reduced eyes and habitat. General nature of rostrum of this species tends to retain similarity with species, namely, *C. typus* H. M. Edwards, 1837, *C. zebra* Short, 1993, *C. confuse* Choy & Marshall, 1997, *C. spinula* Choy & Marshall, 1997, *C. nudirostris* Choy, 1984, *C. singhalensis* Ortmann, 1894, *C. imitatrix* Holthuis, 1969, *C. villadolidi* Blanco, 1939 and *C. jeani* Cai, 2010.

Under the family Atyidae De Haan, 1849 (In De Haan, 1833–1850) several species have been reported stygobionts and it would be appropriate to mention them : *Atyoida pilipes* (Newport, 1847); *Caridina cantonensis* Yu, 1938; *Caridina lovoensis* Roth-Woltereck, 1955; *Caridina trogliphila* Holthuis, 1965; *Caridina troglodytes* Holthuis, 1978; *Caridina ablepsia* Guo, Jiang and Zhang, 1992; *Caridina guangxiensis* Liang and Zhou, 1993; *Caridina carvernica* Liang and Zhou, 1993; *Caridina mengae* Liang 1993; *Caridina demenica* Cai and Li, 1997; *Caridina feixiana* Cai and Liang, 1999; *Caridina wumingensis* Cai and NK Ng, 1999; *Caridina caverna* Liang, Chen and Li, 2005; *Caridina acuta* Liang, Chen and Li, 2005; *Caridina alba* Li and Li, 2010; *Caridina longshan* Cai and P K LNg, 2018; *Caridina alu* Cai and P K LNg, 2018; *Caridina spinicrus* Cai and P K LNg, 2018; *Caridina beiliu* Cai and P K LNg, 2018; *Caridina jiangkou* Cai and P K LNg, 2018; *Caridina guilin* Cai and P K LNg, 2018;

Caridina laticarpalis Cai and P K LNg, 2018; *Caridinopsis chevalieri* Bouvier, 1912; *Edoneus atheatus* Holthuis, 1978; *Edoneus erwini* Cai & Husana, 2009; *Edoneus marulas* Cai & Husana, 2009; *Edoneus sketi* Cai & Husana, 2009; *Mancicaris sinensis* Liang, Guo, and Tang, 1999; *Neocaridina brevidactyla* Liang, Chen and Li, 2005; *Palaemonias alabamiae* Smalley, 1961; *Palaemonias ganteri* Hay, 1902; *Parisia deharvengi* Cai & Ng, 2009; *Parisia dentata* Gurney, 1984; *Parisia edentata* Holthuis, 1956; *Parisia gracilis* Williams, 1964; *Parisia macrophthalma* Holthuis, 1956; *Parisia microphthalma* (Fage, 1946); *Parisia unguis* Williams, 1964; *Stygiocaris lancifera* Holthuis, 1960; *Stygiocaris stylifera* Holthuis, 1960; *Troglocaris anophthalmaanophthalma* (Kollar, 1848); *Troglocaris anophthalma intermedia* Babić, 1922; *Troglocaris anophthalmalegovici* Jugovic, Jalžić, Prevorčnik & Sket, 2012; *Troglocaris anophthalma ocellata* Jugovic, Jalžić, Prevorčnik & Sket, 2012; *Troglocaris anophthalma periadriatica* Jugovic, Jalžić, Prevorčnik & Sket, 2012; *Troglocaris anophthalma sontica* Jugovic, Jalžić, Prevorčnik & Sket, 2012; *Troglocaris bosnica* Sket & Zakšek, 2009; *Troglocaris planinensis* Birstein, 1948; *Typhlatya arfae* Jaume & Bréhier, 2005; *Typhlatya campecheae* H. H. III Hobbs & H.H. Jr. Hobbs, 1976; *Typhlatya consobrina* Botoșăneanu & Holthuis, 1970; *Typhlatya dzilamensis* Alvarez, Iliffe & Villalobos, 2005; *Typhlatya elenae* Juarrero, 1994; *Typhlatya galapagensis* Monod & Cals, 1970; *Typhlatya garciadebrasi* Juarrero de Varona & Ortiz, 2000; *Typhlatya garciai* Chace, 1942; *Typhlatya iliffei* Hart & Manning, 1981; *Typhlatya kakuki* Alvarez, Iliffe & Villalobos, 2005; *Typhlatya miravetensis* Sanz & Platvoet, 1995; *Typhlatya mitchelli* H. H. III Hobbs & H. H. Jr. Hobbs, 1976; *Typhlatya monae* Chace, 1954; *Typhlatya pearsei* Creaser, 1936; *Typhlatya arogersi* Chace & Manning, 1972; *Typhlatya taina* Estrada & Gómez, 1987; *Typhlatya utilaensis* Alvarez, Iliffe & Villalobos, 2005; *Typhlocaridina lanceifrons* Liang and Yan, 1981; *Typhlocaridina liui* Liang and Zhou, 1993; *Typhlocaridina semityphlata* Cai, 1995; *Xiphocaridinella ablaskiri* Birstein, 1939; *Xiphocaridinella dbari* Marin, 2019; *Xiphocaridinella fagei* Birstein, 1939; *Xiphocaridinella falcistrostris* Marin, 2020; *Xiphocaridinella jusbaschjani* Birstein, 1948; *Xiphocaridinella kumistavi* Marin, 2017; *Xiphocaridinella kutaissiana* Sadowsky, 1930; *Xiphocaridinella motena* Marin, 2019a; *Xiphocaridinella osterloffii* (Juzbaš'jan, 1941); *Xiphocaridinella otapi* Marin, 2018; *Xiphocaridinella shurubumu* Marin, 2018a; *Xiphocaridinella smirnovi* Marin, 2020. *Caridina ravisankarani* **sp. nov.** is a new addition to the species list.

Adaptations. *Caridina ravisankarani* **sp. nov.** possesses many adaptations in the cave environment, such as highly reduced pigmentation of eyes, atrophied propodus and dactylus of maxilliped 2, swollen segments of the outer antennular flagellum, more pediform pleopods, stronger ischium and merus of pereopods, and longer setae on all appendages as well as short closely set setae on mandibles. These adaptations help the animal to survive in the harsh environment of caves. These adaptations point towards it being a stygobite, a cave-dwelling aquatic species (Sket 2008). However, further intensive surveys are recommended to understand more about the species and its habitat.

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