

**A New Species of the Shrimp Genus *Philocheras* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Caridea: Crangonidae) from Shallow Coral Reefs in the Western Pacific, with a Supplementary Note on *P. breviflagella***

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A new species of crangonid shrimp, *Philocheras coralliophilus*, is described on the basis of material from shallow coral reefs of southern Japan, the Philippines, Vanuatu, and New Caledonia. Several presumably apomorphic characters, including the strongly broadened rostrum with a truncate or broadly concave anterior margin, the lack of appendices internae on every pleopod, and the lack of an appendix masculina on the male second pleopod, suggest that the new species is closely related to *P. sabsechota* (Kemp, 1911) and *P. breviflagella* Komai, 2001. The shape of the rostrum and the development of the carapacial carinae distinguish *P. coralliophilus* from its two close congeners.

**Key Words:** Crustacea, Decapoda, Caridea, Crangonidae, *Philocheras*, new species, new records.

### **Introduction**

The crangonid shrimp genus *Philocheras* Stebbing, 1900 is the most species-rich in the family, currently represented by 54 species (Komai 2008b). The type species of the genus, *Crangon nanus* Krøyer, 1842 as subsequently selected by Holthuis (1955), is a junior synonym of *Pontophilus bispinosus* Hailstone, 1935 (see Udekem d'Acoz 1999). Until reinstated by Chace (1984), the genus *Philocheras* was considered a junior synonym of *Pontophilus* Leach, 1820 because of the morphological continuum shown by species assigned to either genus (Kemp 1911, 1916; De Man 1920; Holthuis 1955). Recent authors have accepted *Philocheras* as a valid genus (Christoffersen 1988; Holthuis 1993; Kim and Hayashi 2000; De Grave 2000; Komai 2001, 2004a, b, 2006, 2008a, b; Komai and Chan 2007), although morphological diversity within this genus is substantially higher than in other confamilial genera (Kemp 1916; Kim and Hayashi 2000; De Grave 2000; Komai 2001).

While studying material of Crangonidae from various Indo-Pacific localities, several undescribed species referable to *Philocheras* were found, amongst them a species from shallow coral reefs and sea grass beds. Such habitats are rather un-