

A New Genus and Species of Paracalliopiidae (Crustacea: Amphipoda) from the Shimanto Estuary, Western Japan

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A monotypic new genus, *Mucrocalliope* (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Paracalliopiidae), is erected for its type species *M. shimantoensis* sp. nov. from the Shimanto estuary, western Japan. *Mucrocalliope* is similar to *Indocalliope* Barnard and Karaman, 1982 in many characters but is different from *Indocalliope* and the other genera of the family in having an acute dorsal tooth on pleonites 1 and 2. In spite of recent collecting efforts in various localities of western Japan, *Mucrocalliope shimantoensis* sp. nov. has been found only in the Shimanto estuary, suggesting that it is probably narrowly restricted in range.

Key Words: Crustacea, Amphipoda, Paracalliopiidae, *Mucrocalliope*, new genus, new species, Shimanto River, Japan.

Introduction

The amphipod family Paracalliopiidae was established by Barnard and Karaman (1982), and is characterized by coalesced urosomites 2 and 3 and an elongate pereopod 7. The family presently contains 18 species in five genera: *Paracalliope* Stebbing, 1899; *Indocalliope* Barnard and Karaman, 1982; *Katocalliope* Barnard and Drummond, 1984; *Doowia* Barnard and Drummond, 1987; and *Yhi* Barnard and Thomas, 1991 (Stebbing 1899; Barnard and Drummond 1984, 1987, 1992; Barnard and Karaman 1991; Barnard and Thomas 1991; Morino 1991; Ortiz and Lalana 1997). In Japan, only one species of the family, *Paracalliope dichotoma* Morino, 1991 from Okinawa Island has been recorded (Morino 1991; Ishimaru 1994).

Nishinohon Institute of Technology carried out monthly collections of larval and juvenile fishes in the Shimanto estuary, Kochi Prefecture, from June, 2006, to May, 2007, in order to clarify their habitat utilization patterns in the bank waters. In these collections, 16 specimens of an undescribed species of amphipod were obtained, and closer examination has revealed that they belong to a new genus of the family Paracalliopiidae. In this paper, the new monotypic genus *Mucrocalliope* is proposed, with the new species, here named *M. shimantoensis*, as its type species.