

**DESCRIPTION OF *PODOCHELA (ANISONOTUS) ATLANTICA*,  
N. SP., FOUND IN THE BRAZILIAN AND URUGUAYAN COASTS  
(CRUSTACEA, DECAPODA, MAJIDAE).**

PETRÔNIO ALVES COELHO

Departamento de Oceanografia, UFPE, CNPq.

**ABSTRACT**

**Description of *Podochela (Anisonotus) atlantica*, n. sp., found in the brazilian and uruguayan coasts.** It is presente the description of *Podochela (Anisonotus) atlantica*, new species found in Southern Brazil and Uruguay.

**Key words:** Crustacea; Decapoda; Brazil; *Podochela (Anisonotus) atlantica*.

**RESUMO**

**Descrição de *Podochela (Anisonotus) atlantica*, n. sp., encontrada nas costas do Brasil e Uruguai.**

É apresentada a descrição de *Podochela (Anisonotus) atlantica*, espécie nova encontrada no Sul do Brasil e Uruguai.

**Palavras chave:** Crustacea; Decapoda; Brasil; *Podochela (Anisonotus) atlantica*.

**INTRODUCTION**

The genus *Podochela* includes four species found in Brazilian coast (Coelho & Ramos, 1972; Coelho, 1981) and another undescribed. This new species was gathered during sampling activities on the continental shelf of Southern Brazil and Uruguay. Among the specimens obtained, some could not be assigned to any species of *Podochela* previously described for the western Atlantic.

**RESULTS**

*Podochela (Anisonotus) atlantica*, n. sp.

(Fig. 1)

*Podochela algicola* - Bordin, 1987:12 (non *Podochela algicola* (Stebbing, 1914))

Type locality.- WB#554, off Rio Grande do Sul, 154 metros, 32°12'S, 50°12'W.

Holotype.- Male from station WB#554, 09.III.0969 (MZSP).

Paratypes.- 1 M, 1 F (OV), from off Rio Grande do Sul, station WB#547, 07.III.1969, 30°48'S, 49°18'W, 155 m (to be deposited in DOPE); 1 F (OV), from off Uruguay, station WB#576, 14.III.1969, 34°28'S, 51°53'W, 155 m (MZSP).

Previous Registers.- BRAZIL: Rio Grande do Sul (Bordin, 1987); URUGUAY (Bordin, 1987)

Material examined.- The type series and the following specimens:

BRAZIL: Santa Catarina, 1 specimen, station TA#V15, 06.IX.1986, 28°38'30"S, 47°56'42"W; TA#V26, 1 specimen, VII.1971, no data.

Range.- Western Atlantic Ocean, from Santa Catarina to Uruguay.

Description.- Carapace triangular, regions prominent, separated by deep and wide grooves. Rostrum thick, triangular, not hollow beneath, ending in a long spine, and with some dorsal spinules; three rows of curved setae above, one dorsal and two lateral. Carapace with "neck" longer in male than in female. Gastric region inflated, lateral and posterior margins almost vertical, bearing tufts of curved setae but with no median tubercle or spine. Branchial regions low, traversed by a longitudinal row of curved setae; a conical elevation with curved setae. Cardiac region prominent, with a conical elevation armed with curved setae.

Orbits circular, thick; with spinules or granules, specially on anterior and superior portions; postorbital lobes very large, laterally overreaching the margin of orbits.

Hepatic regions tumid, ending in a tubercle. Pterygostomian ridge bearing a tubercle visible in dorsal view.

Basal antennal article with a large laminiform lateral margin, partially visible in dorsal view; high lobe on posterior portion of article. Antennular fossae wide, incompletely divided, margins laminar and high; interantennular septum a triangular blade, with the apex spiniform.

Buccal area limited by laminar wall. Merus of third maxillipeds with inner angle produced in a round blade.

Chelipeds of ovigerous female feeble, hairy and spinous. Inferior border of merus curved, with a row of long hairs; outer surface with a great spine on anterior portion and some tufts of curved setae; inner surface granulated; superior border with a row of long hairs. Palm long, with rows of spines and long hairs on superior and inferior margins; no spines on outer surface, but several tufts of curved setae. Fingers with lateral carinae; gape long.

First pair of ambulatory legs longest, in female equal to three times the length of carapace, including rostrum. Propods of first pair of legs five times the dactyl, of second, three times. Surface of legs with tufts of curved setae.

Sternal plates of male smooth, concave, deeply separated from each other; two tubercles elevated, with laminar margins, in front of coxae of chelipeds. First abdominal segment with a conical tubercle surmounted by a group of hairs; other segments without tubercles, but with hairs.

Measurements.- Ovigerous female, length 23 mm, width 15 mm; male, length 11 mm, width 8 mm.

Habitat.- 132-155 metres, in sandy, mud-sandy and organogenic bottoms, Bottom temperatures ranged from 15,5 to 16,9°C and bottom salinity from 35,6 to 35,9‰.

Breeding.- Ovigerous female in March.

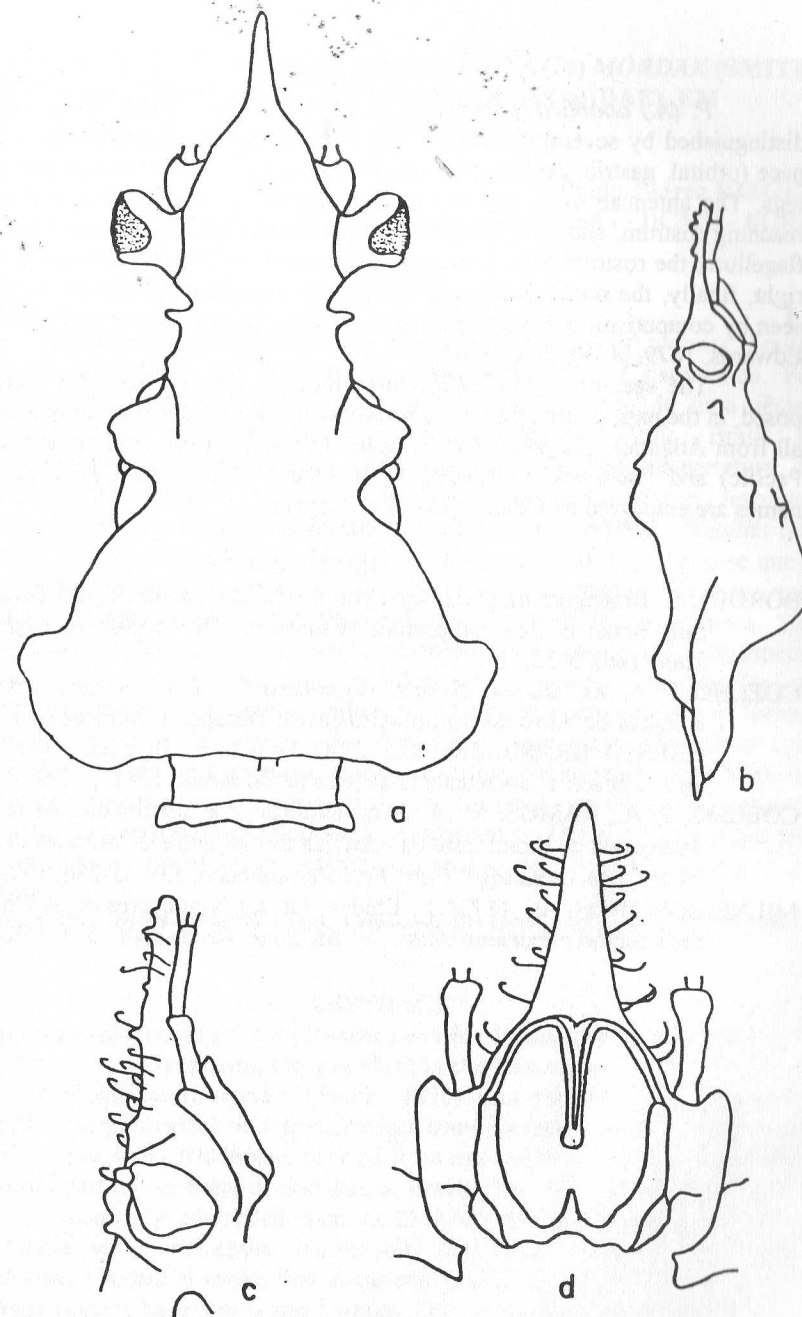


Fig. 1 - *Podochela atlantica*, n. sp., holotype. a) carapace, dorsal view; b) carapace, lateral view; c) anterior portion, lateral view; d) anterior portion, ventral view. The scales represents 1 mm.

## DISCUSSION

*P. (A.) atlantica* is related to *P. (A.) curvirostris* from which it may be distinguished by several characters: length of antennae, ornamentation of carapace (orbital, gastric, cardiac and hepatic regions) and dimension of ambulatory legs. The antennae of *P. curvirostris* are shorter, its flagellum scarcely overreaching rostrum, and of *P. atlantica* it overreaches the rostrum by the most of flagellum; the rostrum of *P. curvirostris* is curved, and of *P. atlantica* is almost right; finally, the ornamentation of carapace is completely different, as may be seen by comparison of illustrations of *P. atlantica* and *P. curvirostris* (A. Milne Edwards, 1879, pl. 36, figs. 3-3d).

The species of *Podochela* form four groups, and for then were proposed, in the past, generic names: *Anisonotus* A. Milne Edwards (only 3 species, all from Atlantic), *Coryrhynchus* Kingsley (3 species from Atlantic and 2 from Pacific) and *Podochela* (3 species from Atlantic and 2 from Pacific). These names are employed by Coelho (1981) as subgenus.

## REFERENCES

- BORDIN, G. Brachyura da plataforma continental do estado do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil e áreas adjacentes (Crustacea, Decapoda). *Iheringia ser. Zool.*, (66): 3-32, 1987.
- COELHO, P. A. As "aranhas do mar" do gênero *Podochela* Stimpson da costa atlântica da América do Sul (Crustacea, Decapoda, Majidae). In: CONGRESSO BRASILEIRO DE ZOOLOGIA, 8, Brasília, 1981. *Resumos...*, Brasília, Sociedade Brasileira de Zoologia, 1981, p. 8-9.
- COELHO, P. A.; RAMOS, M. A. A constituição e a distribuição da fauna de decápodos do litoral leste da América do Sul entre as latitudes de 5°N e 39°S. *Trab. Oceanogr. Univ. Fed. Pernambuco*, 13:133-256, 1972
- MILNE-EDWARDS, A., 1873/81. Études sur les Xiphosures et les Crustacés de la région mexicaine. *Miss. Sci. Mexique. Rech. Zool.*, 5: 1-368.