

Scientific note

**First documented record of the palaemonid shrimp
Brachycarpus biunguiculatus (Lucas, 1846) from Aegean Sea, Greece**

(Decapoda, Caridea, Palaemonidae)

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Brachycarpus biunguiculatus (Lucas, 1846) is a cosmopolitan shrimp species belonging to Palaemonidae family. The species is found in Indian, Pacific and South Atlantic Oceans. *B. biunguiculatus* is the only species of the genus *Brachycarpus* inhabiting Mediterranean waters (d'Udekem d'Acoz 1999), where it is widely distributed but rarely recorded (Spinelli et al. 2017). In Greek waters *B. biunguiculatus* was reported from Ionian Sea, but not from Aegean (Türkay et al. 1987, Koukouras et al. 1992). See also d' Udekem d' Acoz (1999) and De Grave et al. (2010).

From July to August 2011 and October 2016 and during professional scuba diving surveys of the hard bottoms of Santorini Island, Mavro Vouno Bay (2011; 36°27'31.4"N 25°24'33.7"E) and Legrena, Saronikos Gulf (2016; 37°39'23.5"N 23°58'58.7"E) performed by one of the authors (VK), three individuals of *B. biunguiculatus* were photographed in-situ (Fig. 1). All specimens, were approximately 3–4 cm in total length and were spotted inside small caves or crevices.

B. biunguiculatus has a cryptic behaviour and its way of life and habitat requirements may explain its low number of records. According to the present study, *B. biunguiculatus* extends its distribution to Aegean Sea. The latter statement can be supported by the study of Spinelli et al. (2017), which demonstrated that the species is not rare in Italian waters. However, while it is unlikely, the scenario of range expansion cannot be excluded. If the species expanded its range, human mediated activities like shipping (e.g. Nikolopoulou et al. 2013) cannot be excluded. Furthermore, passive larval transportation could also be included among the possible ways of range expansion to Aegean Sea. Generally, small-sized cryptic palaemonid shrimps with no or limited ecological and/or biological data available tend to be overlooked and therefore reports like the present contribute importantly on the species' life history and zoogeography.



Fig. 1. *Brachycarpus biunguiculatus* from Santorini Island, 7 July 2011.

Reference

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