



Shrimps from the Santana Group (Cretaceous: Albian): new species (Crustacea: Decapoda: Dendrobranchiata) and new record (Crustacea: Decapoda: Caridea)

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ABSTRACT

The fossil shrimp *Araripenaeus timidus* n. gen. n. sp. is the first fossil Penaeoidea from Brazil. Here, we describe, illustrate and compare it with *Paleomattea deliciosa*, a fossil Sergestoidea (Dendrobranchiata) previously described from the same region. The material of the early Cretaceous (Albian) was collected in the town of Jardim, south of the state of Ceará, in the superior septarian concretion level of the Romualdo Formation. Additionally, a second specimen of *Kellnerius jamacaruensis* was found in the same site of the Ararape Basin.

Key words: Romualdo Formation, fossil Penaeoidea, Ararape Basin, Carbonatic concretions, *Araripenaeus timidus*.

INTRODUCTION

The superfamily Penaeoidea Rafinesque, 1815 is a very important group commercially, including several species fished in large scale in tropical and subtropical seas of the world (Pérez Farfante and Kensley 1997). This group is represented by approximately 430 recent and 96 fossil species (De Grave et al. 2009). The fossil record of penaeoids extends back to the Devonian, representing, along with the macruran *Palaeopalaemon newberryi* Whitfield, 1880, the oldest known shrimps (Schram et al. 1978, 2000, Feldmann and Schweitzer 2010). Despite being very old in the fossil record, shrimps are in general poorly preserved, lacking most of its diagnostic characters (Garassino and Bravi

2003, Feldmann and Schweitzer 2010, Santana et al. 2013). The only dendrobranchiate known from Brazil is a sergestoid shrimp, *Paleomattea deliciosa* Maisey and Carvalho, 1995 found in the Ararape Basin, in the state of Ceará (Viana and Agostinho 1995, Martins-Neto 2005).

The Ararape Basin is a very important paleontologic region, well-known for its numerous important fossil findings. In this area the rich fossil biota forms a palaeoenvironment with numerous known species of plants (Lima et al. 2012), invertebrates (mostly arthropods), and vertebrates (Maisey 1991). Among arthropods, three shrimps, the palaemonids (Caridea) *Beurlenia araripensis* Martins-Neto and Mezzalira, 1991, *Kellnerius jamacaruensis* Santana, Pinheiro, Silva and Saraiva, 2013 and the sergestid *Paleomattea deliciosa* are

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found within two formations, the Crato and the Romualdo. In the Araripe Basin, the Romualdo and Crato formations (*sensu* Neumann and Cabrera 1999) of the Santana Group are the most documented lithostratigraphic units because of the excellent preservation of the fossils found in their layers (Kellner 2002, Viana and Neumann 2002).

In this study, we describe a new genus and species of a fossil Penaeoidea, compare it with the other known dendrobranchiate fossil found in Brazil, and establish a new record for the *Kellnerius jamacaruensis* (Caridea) in the Araripe Basin. Abbreviations are as follows: million years (myr); Museu de Ciências Naturais e de História Barra do Jardim (MCNHBJ).

GEOLOGICAL SETTING

The Santana Group (sin-rift phase of the Araripe Basin) is a Cretaceous sedimentary unit deposited during the opening of the South Atlantic Ocean, and is associated with lacustrine and transitional marine sediments (Valença et al. 2003, Fara et al. 2005). Since the first fossil discoveries, several authors have presented different interpretations for the stratigraphy of the region (Small 1913, Ponte and Appi 1990, Martill and Wilby 1993, Neumann and Cabrera 1999, Martill 2007). The temporal range of the basin is also controversial. Some investigators estimate the shales to be Aptian (Brito 1984, Wellnhofer 1985, 1991), while others consider them to be Aptian–Albian (Arai et al. 2000), Albian (Campos and Wenz 1982, Berthou 1990), or possibly Turonian (Beurlen 1962). The temporal range variation estimated for the Santana Group is 30 myr (see Kellner et al. 2013 for a review), which makes a precise dating very controversial, and imposes a time chart to be followed to identify each fossil find. In this study, we followed the stratigraphy proposed by Valença et al. (2003) regarding the time and nomenclatural questions about the basin, especially to the stratigraphic units of the Santana Group, where the fossiliferous assemblage of Romualdo

Formation is located. These authors considered this fossiliferous assemblage to have its sediments related to the Albian stage.

The Romualdo Formation is composed of interbedded shales, marls, and limestones with abundant concretions containing fossils (Valença et al. 2003), especially fish and reptile bones (Price 1959, Maisey 1991, Riff et al. 2010), turtles (Hirayama 1998, Oliveira and Romano 2007, Romano et al. 2013), pterosaurs (e.g. Kellner and Campos 2000, 2002, Kellner and Tomida 2000, Vila-Nova and Sayão 2012, Kellner 2013, Kellner et al. 2013) and a few dinosaurs (e.g. Kellner and Campos 2000), several invertebrate microfossils (Coimbra et al. 2002), gymnosperms, and some angiosperms (Carvalho and Santos 2005), as well as the occurrence of amber (Valença et al. 2003). The lower section of these limestones provides evidence of a short marine transgression. Later in the Albian, the area experienced a more important and somewhat longer-lasting marine invasion, recorded by marine deposits. This sequence is interpreted as a gulf cycle lake, part of a system caused by the separation of South America from Africa (Valença et al. 2003).

The material was collected in the town of Jardim, south of the state of Ceará (Figure 1), in a civil construction site. The fossil imprint of the new species was found in a concretion on the superior septarian level, which is characterized by the presence of dark shales surrounding carbonatic concretions that have an internal cavity lined with calcite crystals (Figure 2). A new specimen of *Kellnerius jamacaruensis* (Figure 3) was found at the same concretion.

SYSTEMATIC PALAEOLOGY

Order Decapoda Latreille, 1802

Remarks: According to Brooks (1962), the archetype of the Eumalacostraca Grobben, 1892 should have a carapace, and within this group



Figure 1 - Geographic position of the sampling site in the town of Jardim, Araripe Basin, south of the state of Ceará, northeast Brazil.

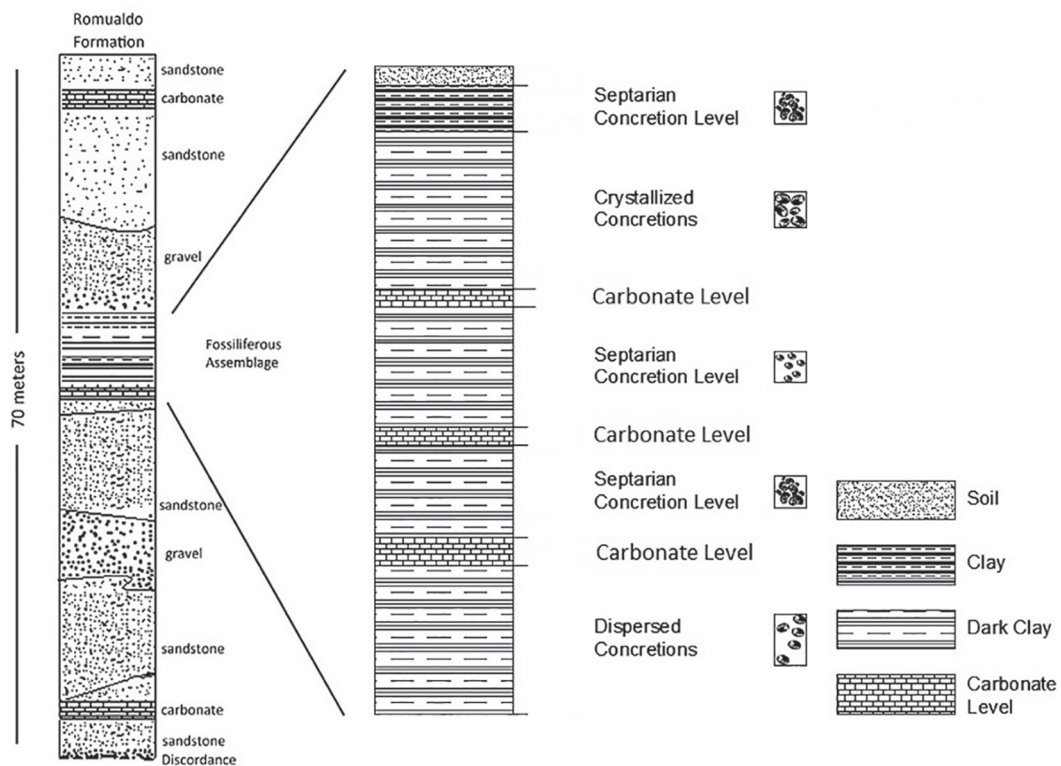


Figure 2 - Stratigraphic general scheme of the Romualdo Formation (Cretaceous – Albian). The details of the fossiliferous assemblage are hypothesized from correlated areas (according to Vila-Nova et al. 2011).

several species are shrimplike in appearance (Feldmann and Schweitzer 2010). The presence of a carapace was also used by Latreille (1802: 341) on the designation of the taxa belonging to Decapoda. The placement of the new species into Decapoda was based on the carapace covering the

thorax, although the anterior half of the carapace was not preserved; the posterior margin of the carapace partially covering the first abdominal somite; and the presence of six well developed abdominal somites. Other diagnostic characters of decapods could not be observed due to the



Figure 3 - Lateral view of *Kellnerius jamacaruensis* (MCNHBJ 339) from Romualdo Formation, Araripe Basin, Brazil. Scale bar: 5 mm.

limited preservation of the material. However, with the characters presented, it is clear to us that this species belongs to the order Decapoda.

Suborder Dendrobranchiata Bate, 1888

Superfamily Penaeoidea Rafinesque, 1815

Remarks: Penaeoidea shrimps have some distinct features, such as the lateral compression of the carapace, and the form and disposal of the pleuras in the abdominal somites. Differently from the Caridea, in which the pleura of the second abdominal somite overlap the first and the third, in Penaeoidea the pleuras of the anterior somites always overlap the posterior somites (Glaessner 1969, Feldmann and Schweitzer 2010). According to several authors, this character is one of the diagnostic characters for Dendrobranchiata (Burkenroad 1981, Pérez Farfante and Kensley 1997, Dixon et al. 2003, Tavares and Martin 2010). We believe this new species belongs to the superfamily Penaeoidea due to the proportion of the sixth abdominal somite, which is considerably more elongated in several sergestid species, including *Paleomattea deliciosa*, described from the same formation (Maisey and Carvalho 1995). Other diagnostic features of Penaeoidea were not preserved in this specimen.

Family *Incertae sedis*

Araripenaeus n. gen.

Type species: Araripenaeus timidus n. sp. by present designation.

Etymology: The name *Araripenaeus* is a combination of Araripe, the basin where the material was collected, and the generic name *Penaeus*, commonly associated with several penaeoid genera. Gender masculine.

Diagnosis: Abdomen laterally compressed, six segmented, all somites without spines; sixth somite with a sinuous cicatrix. Second to fifth somites are about the same length, the sixth being twice as long as the others somites.

Araripenaeus timidus n. sp.

Figure 4A-B

Type material: MCNHBJ 339, holotype.

Type locality: Jardim municipality, south of the state of Ceará.

Stratigraphic unit: Romualdo Formation, Santana Group, Araripe Basin.

Age: Early Cretaceous – Albian.

Etymology: From the Latin adjective *timidus* (nominative, masculine), shy, timid, alluding to the lack of preservation of the anterior region of the cephalothorax.

Diagnosis: The same as for the genus.

Description: fossil in lateral view. Total length of 16.66 mm, without telson; carapace partially preserved with 3.61 mm long and 3.4 mm high; abdomen 13.05 mm long. Anterior region of the carapace not preserved, laterally compressed, ventral margin smooth; dorsal margin of carapace slightly curved, posterior margin rounded ventrally, both margins without spines; no sign of ornamentation. Rostrum, eye stalks, antennules, antenna and third maxilliped not preserved. Only coxa of the first to fifth pereopods preserved, without ornamentation. Abdomen laterally compressed, six segmented, all

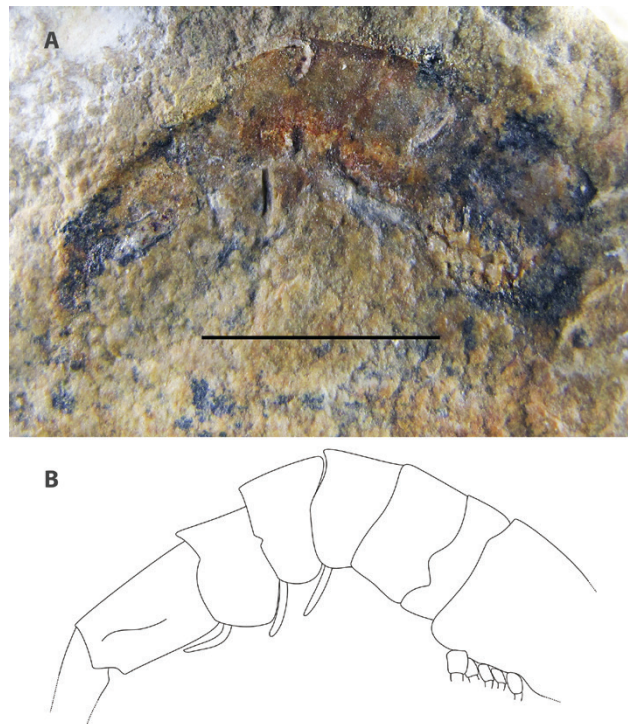


Figure 4 - *Araripenaeus timidus* n. gen. n. sp. (MCNHBJ 339). A, lateral view of the holotype. B, line drawing of the holotype. Scale bar: 5 mm.

somites apparently without spines; sixth somite with a sinuous cicatrix. Second pleura not overlapping the first; first to third pleura with slightly curved ventral margin; well-developed pleura on the fourth and fifth somites, with a roughly triangular ventral margin. First segment apparently compressed giving the impression of a sinuous posterior margin. Second to fifth somites about the same length, sixth twice as long as the other somites; hinge joint evident only in fifth and sixth somites. Pleopods on first and second somites not preserved, third to fifth poorly laterally preserved; segmentation and differentiation between endopod and exopod not visible. Only a small proximal fragment of uropods and telson faintly preserved.

Remarks: Several specimens of shrimplike decapods are found in the Santana Group of the Araripe Basin (Beurlen 1963, Martins-Neto and Mezzalira 1991, Maisey and Carvalho 1995, Saraiva et al.

2009, Santana et al. 2013). In this context, we have three species, the carideans *Beurlenia araripensis* Martins-Neto and Mezzalira, 1991, *Kellnerius jamacaruensis* Santana, Pinheiro, Silva and Saraiva, 2013, and the sergestid *Paleomattea deliciosa* Maisey and Carvalho, 1995. The carideans are considered to be rare in the fossil record (Garassino and Bravi 2003); however, they are more frequently found in Brazil than the dendrobranchiate shrimps (Martins-Neto 2005). *Araripenaeus timidus* n. gen. n. sp. is the second Dendrobranchiata and the first penaeoid shrimp described from Brazil. Despite the few features preserved in the material described here, we believe *Araripenaeus timidus* n. gen. n. sp. to be a dendrobranchiate shrimp (see above), thus comparisons are made only with *Paleomattea deliciosa*. Two characters differentiate *Araripenaeus timidus* n. gen. n. sp. from *P. deliciosa*: (i) the presence of a marked sinuous cicatrix in the sixth abdominal somite (absent in *P. deliciosa*); (ii) and the sixth

abdominal somite being two times longer than the anterior somites (three times longer in *P. deliciosa*). Despite the few characters available for *Araripenaeus timidus* n. gen. n. sp., we believe these features clearly differentiate the new species from *P. deliciosa*. The presence of sergestoid and penaeoid shrimps in the same area is expected due to the environmental characteristics as observed in the recent species of these superfamilies.

In the same concretion where *Araripenaeus timidus* n. gen. n. sp. was found, a second specimen of *Kellnerius jamacaruensis* (MCNHBJ 339) was collected (Figure 3). The identification of this material was based on the presence of a distinct groove on the third abdominal somite not extending to the pleurite (Santana et al. 2013). This represents new material of *K. jamacaruensis* and confirms the importance of the diagnostic characters established for this species.

The sympatric occurrence of extant dendrobranchiate and carideans in estuarine and/or marine environments is very common. The great majority of dendrobranchiate shrimps, at least in some part of their life cycle, live in marine and/or estuarine waters, with only a few exceptions of sergestids which are exclusively found in freshwater (Pérez Farfante and Kensley 1997, Tavares and Martin 2010). This environmental condition is the same described for the area where *A. timidus* n. gen. n. sp. and *K. jamacaruensis* were found. Additionally, we believe that both species are from shallow water. Typical shallow water estuarine and/or marine fossil fishes, as *Vinctifer comptoni* (Agassiz, 1841), *Tharrhias araripis* Jordan and Branner, 1908 and *Brannerium latum* (Agassiz, 1841), are commonly found in concretions at the same levels where *A. timidus* n. gen. n. sp. and *K. jamacaruensis* were found (Saraiva et al. 2007). Also, at this level of the Romualdo Formation, exclusively marine groups (e.g. Echinodermata) are not found. These groups are normally found 20m above this fossiliferous assemblage. Therefore, the species found, support the evidences of a paleoenvironment with marine

transgressions or transitional marine areas such as estuarine environments.

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RESUMO

O camarão fóssil *Araripenaeus timidus* n. gen. n. sp. é o primeiro Penaeoidea fóssil descrito para o Brasil. No presente trabalho ele é descrito, ilustrado e comparado com *Paleomattea deliciosa*, um Sergestoidea fóssil (Dendrobranchiata), previamente descrito para a mesma região. O material do Cretáceo inferior (Albiano) foi coletado na cidade Jardim, sul do estado do Ceará, no nível superior das concreções septárias da Formação Romualdo. Adicionalmente, um segundo espécimen de *Kellnerius jamacaruensis* é registrado para a mesma localidade na Bacia do Araripe.

Palavras-chave: Formação Romualdo, Penaeoidea fóssil, Bacia do Araripe, Concreções carbonáticas, *Araripenaeus timidus*.

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