

**Occurrence of *Chaceon fenneri* (Manning & Holthuis)  
(Crustacea, Brachyura, Geryonidae) in the Northeast of Brazil**

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**ABSTRACT.** *Chaceon fenneri* (Manning & Holthuis, 1984), so far known only from the offshore region of Florida, was collected off the Northeast of Brazil. A discussion on the variation within the species and morphometric data of the specimens examined are also given.

**KEY WORDS.** *Chaceon fenneri*, occurrence, Northeast Brazil

Of a total of 28 species of *Chaceon* Manning & Holthuis, 1989 so far described (eight species from the Pacific Ocean, five species from the Indian Ocean and 15 from the Atlantic Ocean), six species occur in the Western Atlantic (MANNING & HOLTHUIS 1984, 1986, 1989; MANNING *et al.* 1989). They are: *C. eldorado* Manning & Holthuis, *C. fenneri* (Manning & Holthuis, 1984), *C. inghami* (Manning & Holthuis), *C. notialis* Manning & Holthuis, *C. quinquedens* (Smith) and *C. ramosae* Manning, Tavares & Albuquerque.

MANNING & HOLTHUIS (1984), described *Geryon fenneri* to designate the material collected off the east coast of Florida. Subsequently, MANNING & HOLTHUIS (1989) erected a new genus *Chaceon* to accommodate the species *G. fenneri* and five other species until then assigned to the genus *Geryon* Kroyer. During a survey of the fishery resources of the northeast region of Brazil in 1997 by R.V. Natureza (1.5°S-4.0°S; 34.0°W-42.0°W), several specimens of *C. fenneri* were collected using large lobster traps. The present finding extends its known range further south.

Abbreviations used: (cl) carapace length, (cb) carapace breadth.

Remarks. The specimens examined here (a total of 50 specimens, 39 males and rest females) presented the following characteristics: The largest specimen which is a male measured cl 146 mm and cb 170 mm; the range of size is between cl/cb 94/112 mm to 146/170 mm; the ratio of cl/cb is between 1.10 and 1.21; frontal width always is slightly more than orbital width; distance between first and third anteolateral tooth is shorter than distance between third and fifth anterolateral teeth in 36 specimens, in

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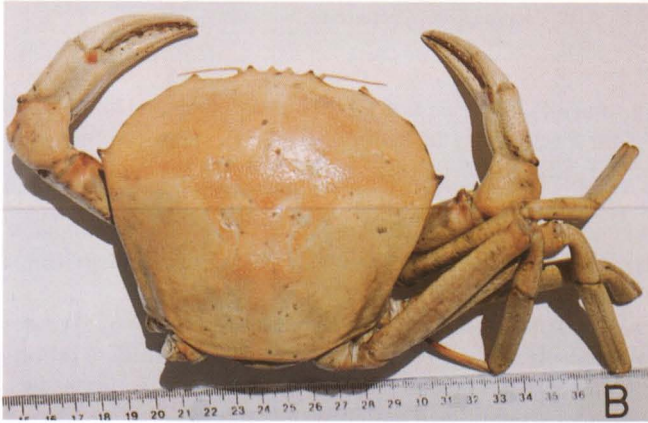
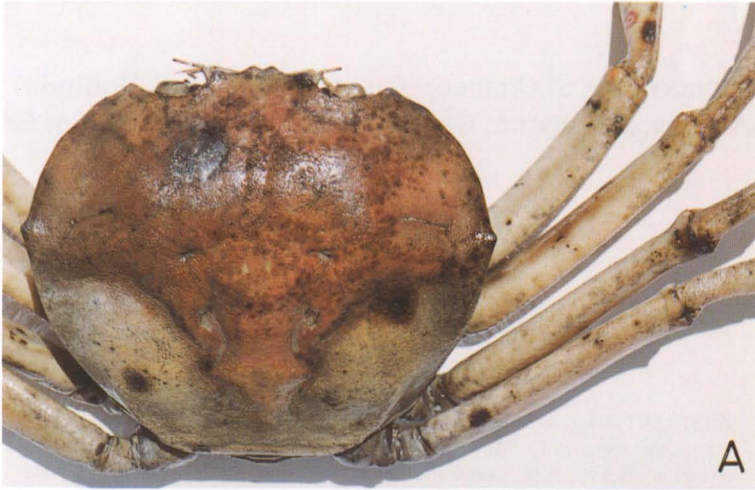


Fig. 1. *Chaceon fenneri*. (A-B) Dorsal view of a male specimens; (C) a male specimen with ootolamid fowling of buccal region.

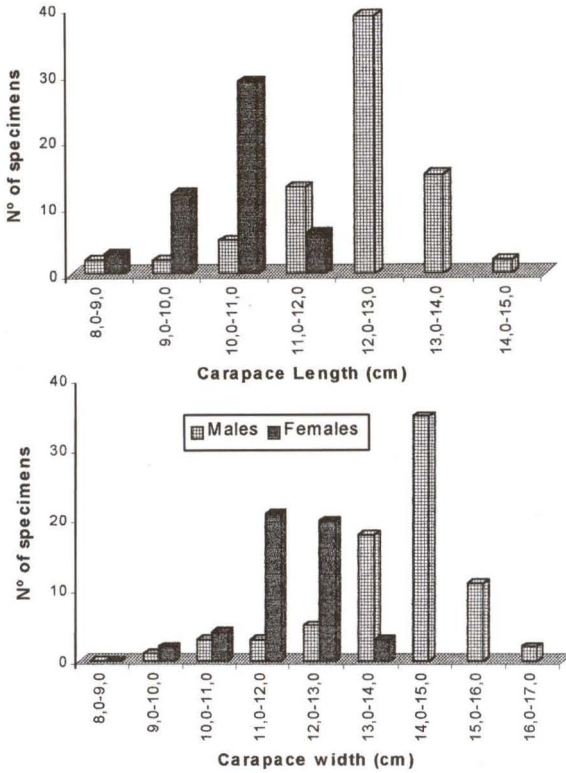


Fig. 2. Morphometric data of the specimens examined.

two specimens the distance is equal and in four specimens the distance between first and third is greater than that between third and fifth; shape, size and disposition of frontal teeth are variable (Fig. 1A, B); of five anterolateral teeth, second and fourth are smallest and often unrecognizable and in large specimens all teeth except fifth are obsolete; dactylus of walking legs is shorter than propodus and laterally compressed; ratio between length and height of merus of fifth walking legs ranges between 3.72 and 5.58 in the males and between 4.25 and 7.66 in the females; ratio between length and height of propodus ranges between 3.46 and 6.2 in the males and between 3.81 and 5.38 in the females. The colouration of the specimens from this region presents wide diversity from dull grey to reddish and lighter yellow (Fig. 1).

The figure 2 shows the size range of the specimens collected, the largest male measured cl. 15.0 cm. and cb. 17.0 cm., and the largest female measured cl. 8.0 cm. and cb. 14.0 cm.

In view of the fact that the specimens from the same locality present a wide range of variations, not only in their colour but also in their morphological characteristics, it was obvious that a great deal still remains to be done to define the characteristics which can form a firm basis for the separation of the various species so far known.

Several specimens also showed heavy fouling by the octolamid organisms, one such heavy fouling of the buccal region is shown in the figure 1C.

A representative sample of the material examined are in the collection of Museu do Mar "Onofre Lopes" of Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte, cl. (MMOL 003), a male and female in the collection of Museu de Zoologia MZUSP13707), Universidade de São Paulo and a male and female in the collection of Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.(USNM309757).

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