Two new species of branchial parasitic isopods (Crustacea: Isopoda: Bopyridae: Pseudioninae) from hermit crabs collected in Singapore

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Abstract.—Branchial bopyrids were investigated from hermit crabs collected in Singapore in August 2000. Two male and female bopyrid pairs belonging to the genus Asymmetrione were found on Diogenes avarus Heller and described as A. sallyae. One pair of bopyrids from the branchial chamber of Clibanarius infraspinatus Hilgendorf represents a new species of Pseudione that is described as P. kensleyi. This is the first report of isopod parasites on hermit crabs from Singapore and represents the first records of bopyrids from these hermit crab hosts.

Isopods of the family Bopyridae are obligate parasites of decapod crustaceans. This large family (>575 species) is currently divided into ten subfamilies (but see Bourdon & Boyko 2005) which contain members that primarily inhabit the branchial chamber or attach to the abdomen of their hosts (Markham 2003). Bopyrid isopods found in the branchial chambers of hermit crabs are restricted to the subfamily Pseudioninae (Boyko & Williams 2001). In total, seven genera in the subfamily Pseudioninae contain branchial parasites of hermit crabs and most are restricted to these paguroid hosts (Markham 2003).

One of us (JDW) collected hermit crabs from Singapore in August 2000. Of those collected, three hermit crabs contained female and male pairs of pseudionine bopyrids. Two pairs belonged to the genus Asymmetrione Codreanu, Codreanu, & Pike, 1965 and one pair belonged to the genus Pseudione Kossman, 1881; comparison of these specimens with type material and species descriptions showed they represented a new species from each genus. Morphology of male and female bopyrids was documented with light microscopy and scanning electron microscopy (SEM) was used to ex-

amine the ultrastructure of a male specimen of the new Asymmetrione species.

Methods

Hermit crabs were collected by hand on 8 August 2000 from Noordin Beach, Pulau Ubin, Singapore, from an intertidal area of a sandy beach among roots of mangrove trees, and preserved in 70% ethyl alcohol. In total, 62 hermit crabs were examined, including: 6 specimens of Clibanarius danai Rahayu & Forest, 19 Clibanarius infraspinatus Hilgendorf, and 37 Diogenes avarus Heller. Hermit crabs were removed from shells after cracking with a mortar and pestle constructed of galvanized steel pipe (60 mm in diameter) and the shield length (SL) of each crab was measured using a vernier caliper or stage micrometer to the nearest 0.1 mm. Isopod size is given as total body length (anterior margin of head to posterior margin of pleotelson). Drawing tube sketches were made of the specimens and scanned into a Macintosh computer. Final plates were prepared using the programs Adobe Photoshop® and Adobe Illustrator™.

For SEM, fixed specimens were dehydrated in an ascending ethanol series fol-

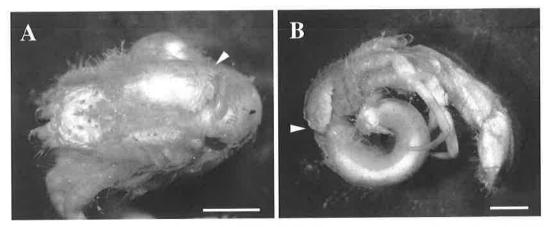


Fig. 1. Asymmetrione sallyae. Holotype (ZRC 2004.0648) within branchial chamber of host, Diogenes avarus Heller. A, dorsal view of host; B, right lateral view of host. Arrowhead indicates anterior end of isopod extending from the branchial chamber of host. Scale = 2.0 mm.

lowed by four changes of 100% ethanol. Drying was completed with a Samdri 795 Critical Point Drier. Dried specimens were mounted on an aluminum stub, coated with gold (EMS-550 Sputter coater), and viewed with a Hitachi S-2460N SEM. Type specimens are deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, Singapore (ZRC) and the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., U.S.A. (USNM).

Family Bopyridae Rafinesque-Schmaltz, 1815

Subfamily Pseudioninae Codreanu, 1967 Genus Asymmetrione Codreanu, Codreanu, & Pike, 1965

Asymmetrione sallyae, new species Figs. 1–6

Material examined.—Holotype: dextral female (4.0 mm) infesting right branchial chamber of male Diogenes avarus (SL = 2.7; ZRC 2004.0675), Noordin Beach, Pulau Ubin, Singapore, intertidal near mangrove roots, coll. J. D. Williams, 8 August 2000 (ZRC 2004.0648). Allotype: male (1.74 mm), same data as holotype (ZRC 2004.0649). Paratypes: dextral female (damaged anterior end, 3.63 mm), male (1.4 mm; on SEM stub) infesting right branchial

chamber of male *Diogenes avarus* (SL = 2.1), same collection data as holotype (USNM 1024495).

Type locality.—Noordin Beach, Pulau Ubin, Singapore, Johore Strait, South China Sea.

Description.—Female (Figs. 1–3), holotype, length 4.0 mm, maximal width 1.92 mm, head length 0.78 mm, head width 0.74 mm, pleon length 1.59 mm. Body distorted ~65° with right side convex (dextrally deflexed). Anterior end of female extending slightly from the posterior margin of branchial chamber of host (Fig. 1). All body regions and segments distinct (Fig. 2A). Irregular patches of pigmentation present medially to coxal plates on pereomeres 1–7 (Fig. 2A).

Head deeply set into pereon, subcircular (Fig. 2A); frontal lamina irregularly fourlobed, covered with scales (Fig. 3A). Two irregularly shaped eyes present at posterolateral corners of raised lamina (Fig. 2A). Antennule of 3 articles, antenna of 5 articles; all articles with setae and scales. Maxilliped (Fig. 3F) with rounded distal end and subacute spur; without palp. Barbula with 1 pair of rounded lateral projections and 2 pairs of rounded lobes medially (Fig. 3E). Oostegites completely enclosing brood pouch (Fig. 2B); first oostegite proximal

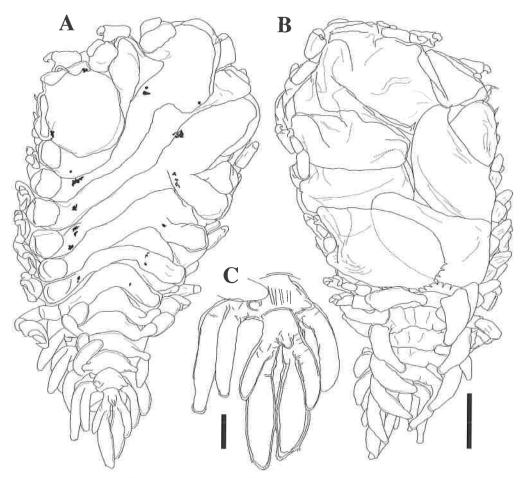


Fig. 2. Asymmetrione sallyae. Female, 4.0 mm, ZRC 2004.0648, holotype. A, dorsal view; B, ventral view; C, dorsal view of pleotelson and uropods. Scale = $500 \mu m$ (A, B), $150 \mu m$ (C).

lobe ovate, distal lobe rounded, with digitiform extension covered by setae (Figs. 3G, H).

Pereon of 7 distinct pereomeres; pereomeres 2–4 expanded on right side; pereon broadest at pereomere 4 on convex side, tapering posteriorly (Figs. 2A, B). Coxal plates on all pereomeres (Fig. 2A), largest on pereomeres 1–4, tapering posteriorly, indistinct on pereomere 7. Pereopods 1–5 increasing slightly in size, diminishing in 6 and 7; all with deep propodal sockets curved around dactyli, scales on areas of all pereopodal segments (Figs. 3A–D); ischium with circular protuberance covered by scales (Fig. 3D). First two pereopods surrounding head; pereopods on left side in

straight row, with no gaps between pereopods; pereopods on right (convex) side with large gaps between pereopods 2–4 (Fig. 2A).

Pleon of 6 distinctly segmented pleomeres. First five pleomeres with lateral plates, tapering posteriorly, reduced to a small knob on pleomere 5 (Figs. 2A, C). Pleopods biramous, digitate with weak tubercules; endopods slightly shorter than exopods, all with scales (Figs. 2A, C). Uropods biramous; endopods approximately half the length of exopods, similar in shape to pleopods, exopod with subterminal protuberance with 4 distal setae (Fig. 2C). Sixth pleomere with a small rounded anal cone extending dorsally between uropods.

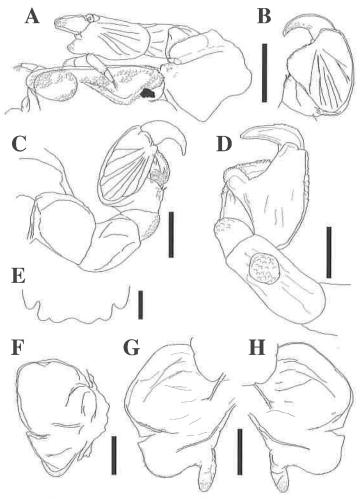


Fig. 3. Asymmetrione sallyae. Female, 4.0 mm, ZRC 2004.0648, holotype (A, D); Female, 3.63 mm (damaged anterior end), USNM 1024495, paratype (B, C; E–H). A, right side of head showing frontal lamina, antennae, and first pereopod, dorsal view; B, right pereopod 1, external view; C, right pereopod 1, internal view; D, left pereopod 7, internal view; E, barbula; F, right maxilliped, external view; G, right oostegite 1, external view; H, right oostegite 1, internal view. Scale = 150 μm (A–C), 120 μm (D, E), 200 μm (F), 300 μm (G, H).

Male (Figs. 4–6), allotype, length 1.74 mm, maximal width 0.48 mm on third segment. Body long and slender, pleon slightly narrower than pereon (Figs. 4A, B, 6A, B). Head oval, fused with pereomere 1, all other segments distinct (Fig. 4A). Two large, suboval eyes near posterolateral margin of head. Irregular pigmentation on dorsal surface of pereon and pleon (Fig. 4A). Antennule of 3 articles, antenna of 5 articles; each article with distal setae (Figs. 5A, 6D). Pereon widest across pereomeres 3 and 4. Per-

eomeres only slightly separated anteriorly, more separated between pereomeres 4–7. Pereopods 3 and 4 largest, slightly decreasing in size anteriorly and posteriorly (Figs. 4B, 6A), all propodi with two ridges of stout scales accepting distal tip of dactyli (Figs. 5A, B, 6C, E), setae along ridge and distal margin of carpus, scales on ischium, merus, and carpus.

Pleon of 6 pleomeres, first narrower than pereomere 7, pleomeres tapering posteriorly, posterolateral borders extending beyond

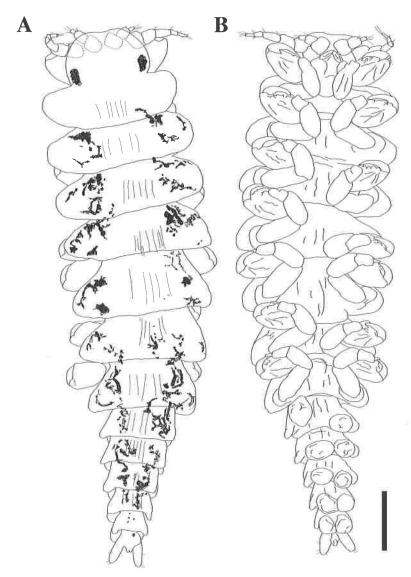


Fig. 4. Asymmetrione sallyae. Male, 1.74 mm, ZRC 2004.0649, allotype. A, dorsal view; B, ventral view. Scale = $200 \mu m$.

succeeding pleomere (Figs. 4A, B, 6A). Five pairs of rounded pleopods (Figs. 4B, 5C, 6A, B). Final pleomere lacking uropods, with posterior border produced into 2 long lateral lobes each bearing setae; anal cone with slight notch, positioned between lateral lobes, less than a third as long as lobes (Fig. 5C).

Distribution and host.—From Pulau Ubin, Singapore on Diogenes avarus. Two

Diogenes avarus were infested by specimens of Asymmetrione sallyae in the right branchial chamber (37 total *D. avarus* examined; prevalence = 5.4%).

Etymology.—This species is named in memory of Sally Schuerlein, mother of the second author (LMS).

Remarks.—This is the first species of Asymmetrione found on hermit crabs from Singapore and is the first occurrence of any

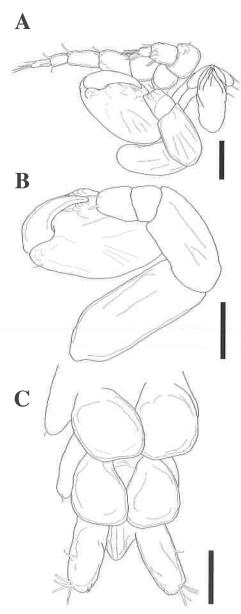


Fig. 5. Asymmetrione sallyae. Male, 1.74 mm, ZRC 2004.0649, allotype. A, left antennae, pereopod 1, and mouthparts; B, left pereopod 7; C, ventral view of posterior pleomeres and pleotelson. Scale = $60~\mu m$ (A, B), $50~\mu m$ (C).

Asymmetrione infesting crabs of the genus Diogenes. The only other known Asymmetrione from this region of the Indo-West Pacific is A. asymmetrica (Shiino, 1933), first described from Clibanarius bimaculatus

(de Haan) collected in Japan and subsequently found on Clibanarius merguiensis de Man from Phuket, Thailand (Shiino 1933, Markham 1985a). Although males of these two species are very similar, females can be easily distinguished by the uniramous uropods and greatly expanded tergal projections on pereomeres 5-7 of the right side of A. asymmetrica. A. sallyae lacks such tergal projections and has biramous uropods. In addition, A. asymmetrica varies in having uniramous or biramous fourth and fifth pleopods (Shiino 1933). Asymmetrione shiinoi Codreanu, Codreanu, & Pike, 1965 is found in the Red Sea and displays expanded tergal projections on the right side and uniramous uropods as observed in A. asymmetrica.

Of the eight previously described Asymmetrione species, A. foresti (Bourdon, 1968) and A. desultor Markham, 1975 have sinistral body distortion (Bourdon 1968, Markham 1975). Asymmetrione desultor is differentiated by being found only on pagurids while the rest of the species are found on diogenid hosts (the host of A. nossibensis Bourdon, 1976 is unknown). Asymmetrione ambodistorta Markham, 1985 is unique in the genus in exhibiting both dextral and sinistral distortion (Markham 1985b). Thus, A. sallyae belongs in the group of six strictly dextral species (A. asymmetrica, A. clibanarii Markham, 1975, A. dardani Bourdon, 1968, A. nossibensis, and A. shiinoi) found on diogenid hosts. Asymmetrione clibanarii has a wide distribution in the western Atlantic and females of this species are distinguished from the Singapore specimens by the broad triangular shaped pleopods and uniramous uropods (although some specimens of A. clibanarii have biramous uropods; fide Markham 1975). The males of A. clibanarii also have reduced lateral lobes, compared to the long lateral lobes in the males of A. sallyae. Asymmetrione dardani is found in the eastern Atlantic (Agadir, Morocco); the species has pronounced tubercules on the pereopods, pleopods, and uropods of the females

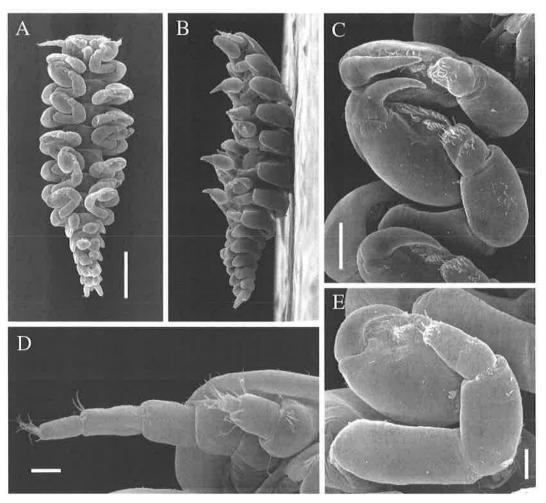


Fig. 6. Asymmetrione sallyae. Male, 1.40 mm, USNM 1024495, paratype. A, ventral view; B, lateral view; C, left pereopods 1 and 2; D, left antennule and antenna; E, left pereopod 7. Scale = 250 μ m (A, B), 50 μ m (C), 25 μ m (D, E).

and expanded tergal projections on pereomeres 6–7 of the left side whereas A. sallyae lacks such structures. Asymmetrione nossibensis was described from Madagascar. In contrast to A. sallyae, females of A. nossibensis have broad and lanceolate lateral plates, pleopods, and uropods with large tubercules. The species are further distinguished in that the males of A. nossibensis have a head that is not fused with pereomere 1 whereas the males of A. sallyae have a head that is fused with pereomere 1; however, this character has been

shown to be variable in other species of bopyrids (see Boyko & Williams 2004).

The extension of the body of *A. sallyae* from the branchial chamber of hosts (see Fig. 1) is similar to that found in the species *Bopyrophryxus branchiabdominalis* Codreanu, 1965. The convex (right) sides of mature females of *A. sallyae* and *B. branchiabdominalis* extend from the posterior margin of the branchial chamber of hosts, in the latter species the great elongation of the body (especially pereomeres 2 and 3 due to the expansion of the brood chamber)

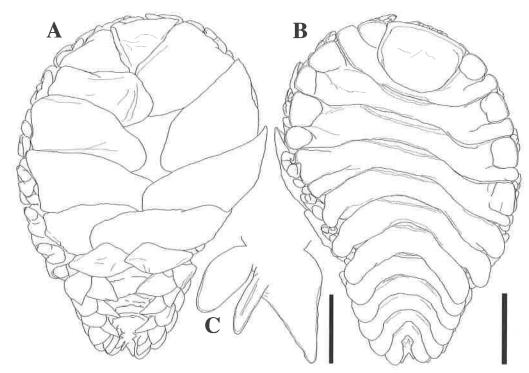


Fig. 7. Pseudione kensleyi. Female, 4.95 mm, ZRC 2004.0650, holotype. A, ventral view; B, dorsal view; C, ventral view of pleotelson and uropods. Scale = 1.0 mm (A, B), $150 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ (C).

overlaps with the abdomen of the host (see Bourdon & Boyko 2005).

Genus *Pseudione* Kossman, 1881 *Pseudione kensleyi*, new species Figs. 7–9

Material examined.—Holotype: female (4.95 mm) infesting left branchial chamber of female *Clibanarius infraspinatus* (SL = 3.7; ZRC 2004.0676), Noordin Beach, Pulau Ubin, Singapore, intertidal near mangrove roots, coll. J. D. Williams, 8 August 2000 (ZRC 2004.0650). Allotype: male (1.47 mm), same data as holotype (ZRC 2004.0651).

Type locality.—Noordin Beach, Pulau Ubin, Singapore, Johore Strait, South China Sea.

Description.—Female (Figs. 7, 8), body length 4.95 mm, maximal width 3.28 mm, head length 0.90 mm, head width 1.14 mm. No body pigmentation. Pereon weakly sinistral with coxal plates and pereomeres of

left side slightly larger on segments 1–3 (Fig. 7B).

Head wider than long, with thin frontal lamina (Fig. 7B), deeply embedded medially in segment 1; minute eyes obscured by frontal lamina. Antennules of two articles, covered by scales; basal article rounded, meeting medially; second article short with setae at distal end (Fig. 8A). Antennae of two articles with large, U-shaped basal article; terminal article elongate with setae at distal end (Fig. 8B). Maxilliped with rounded distal end and subacute spur; without palp (Fig. 8G). Barbula with 1 pair of lanceolate lateral projections and 2 pairs of rounded lobes medially (Fig. 8D). First oostegite proximal lobe rounded, with distal lobe subtriangular (Fig. 8E); fifth oostegite with setae along posterior edge.

Pereon composed of 7 pereomeres, broadest across pereomere 3, gradually tapering anteriorly and posteriorly; pereomere 1 with approximately straight poste-

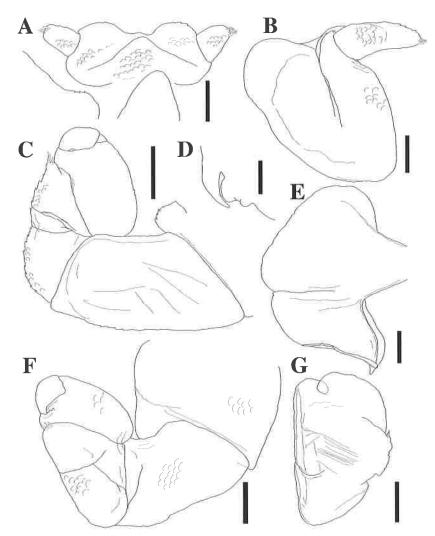


Fig. 8. Pseudione kensleyi. Female, 4.95 mm, ZRC 2004.0650, holotype. A, antennules; B, right antenna; C, right pereopod 1; D, right side of barbula; E, right oostegite 1, external view; F, right pereopod 7; G, right maxilliped, external view. Scale = $75 \mu m$ (A, C, F), $50 \mu m$ (B), $200 \mu m$ (D), $25 \mu m$ (E, G).

rior margin. Margins of pereomeres 2–4 with increasingly concave posterior margins (Fig. 7B). Pereomeres 1–4 strongly bilobed laterally, pereomere 5 weakly bilobed, pereomeres 6–7 entire, produced into rounded lobes, similar in morphology to lateral plates of pleon. Pereomeres 1–4 with rounded coxal plates and dorsolateral bosses. Oostegites nearly enclosing marsupium, lacking pronounced tubercules. First pair of pereopods at anterolateral margin of head;

percopods evenly spaced. All percopods with scales scattered in some regions of segments, distal end of carpus typically with 3 stout setae; posterior percopods larger (Figs. 8C, F).

Pleon with 5 distinct pleomeres plus pleotelson (Fig. 7A, B). Pleomeres with extended foliaceous, biramous pleopods (Fig. 7A), and uniramous overlapping, rounded lateral plates (Fig. 7B); lateral plates and pleopods diminishing in size from anterior

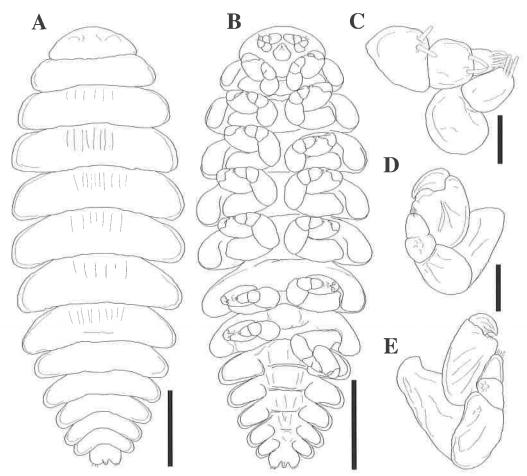


Fig. 9. Pseudione kensleyi. Male, 1.47 mm, ZRC 2004.0651, allotype. A, dorsal view; B, ventral view; C, left antennule and antenna; D, right pereopod 1; E, right pereopod 7. Scale = 250 μ m (A, B), 25 μ m (C), 60 μ m (D, E).

to posterior. Pleotelson (Fig. 7C) trifid with pair of uniramous uropods surrounding a digitiform middle extension (possible anal cone); uropods asymmetrical, right uropod distally rounded, left uropod with wider base, tapering to rounded point (Fig. 7C).

Male (Fig. 9), allotype, length 1.47 mm, maximal width 0.57 mm, head length 0.10 mm, head width 0.29 mm, pleon length 0.31 mm.

Head suboval, widest posteriorly, distinct from first segment of pereon (Figs. 9A, B). Eyes absent. Antennule of two articles, article 2 with 3 stout setae; antenna of three

articles, two stout setae on articles 1 and 2, article 3 with 5 stout setae (Fig. 9C).

Pereomeres 4–5 broadest, tapering anteriorly and posteriorly. All pereomeres directed laterally, distolateral margins rounded. Pereopods 2–5 subequal (Figs. 9D, E); 1, 6, and 7 smaller, all articles distinctly separated, carpus with few stout setae on distal margin, scales scattered in some regions on merus and ischium.

Pleon with five segments plus pleotelson; segments tapering posteriorly, pleomeres directed posterolaterally. All pleomeres distinctly segmented, not markedly narrower than pereomeres, rounded distolateral margins. Five pairs of low rounded pleopods (Fig. 9B); no midventral tubercules. Pleotelson (Fig. 9A, B) notched medially with anal cone, with distolateral rounded lobes extending as far as anal cone, distal margins of lobes with setae; uropods absent.

Distribution and host.—From Pulau Ubin, Singapore on Clibanarius infraspinatus. One C. infraspinatus was infested by Pseudione kensleyi in the left branchial chamber (19 total C. infraspinatus examined; prevalence = 5.2%).

Etymology.—This species is named in honor of the late Brian Kensley in recognition of his extensive work on isopods.

Remarks.—The holotype of Pseudione kensleyi has a trifid pleotelson, a feature unknown in members of the genus Pseudione that infect hermit crabs. The asymmetrical nature of the uropods in this specimen suggest that a developmental abnormality occurred, with enlargement of the anal cone into a digitiform extension between the uropods. It is suspected that the normal morphology of P. kensleyi is similar to that found in other Pseudione parasites of hermit crabs (i.e., symmetrical uropods) but additional specimens are required to determine the typical morphology of this structure. Boyko & Williams (2004) recently reviewed the ten described species of Pseudione that are parasites of hermit crabs. Among these species, females can be separated into two groups based on body shape; those species with faint-to-pronounced S-shaped curvature (P. calcinii Shiino, 1958, P. clibanaricola Shiino, 1933, P. novaeguineensis Danforth, 1971) and those with a nearly straight anteroposterior alignment (P. biacuta Bourdon, 1979, P. brandaoi Brian & Darteville, 1941, P. giardi Calman, 1898, P. hyndmanni (Bate & Westwood, 1868), P. intermedia Nierstrasz & Brender à Brandis, 1932, P. nobilii Nierstrasz & Brender à Brandis, 1923, and Pseudione quasimodo Boyko & Williams, 2004). Pseudione kensleyi exhibits a slight S-shaped curve similar to P. calcinii, with

the left side swollen at the anterior end. In overall appearance, females of P. kensleyi most closely resemble those of P. calcinii known from Calcinus latens (Randall) collected in Japan (Shiino 1958). However, P. calcinii has lateral plates that are narrowly rounded at the distal ends and a maxilliped with a finger-like palp with setae whereas P. kensleyi has large, rounded, overlapping pleopods and a simple maxilliped lacking a palp. In addition, P. calcinii has long thin uniramous uropods. Unfortunately, males of P. calcinii have not been described. Males of P. kensleyi and P. clibanaricola (a parasite of Clibanarius bimaculatus from Japan; see Shiino 1933) are similar in overall body-shape; however, they differ in that the base of the pleotelson is wider in P. kensleyi than P. clibanaricola and the pleomeres gradually reduce in size from the seventh pereomere whereas in P. clibanaricola the first pleomere is longer and thinner than the seventh pereomere. Females of P. clibanaricola have a much stronger S-shaped curvature and, as in P. calcinii, they possess lateral plates that are narrowly rounded at the distal end. In addition, the distal lobe of the maxilliped of P. clibanaricola is narrower and more curved than in P. kensleyi. Thus, despite the questionable morphology of the uropods, P. kensleyi can be distinguished from all other described Pseudione parasites of hermit crabs.

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