

***Codonocera cuspidata*, a New Species
of Pelagic Ostracode from off
Queensland, Australia
(Crustacea: Ostracoda: Cypridinidae)**

LOUIS S. KORNICKER

National Museum of Natural History,
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, USA

ABSTRACT. *Codonocera cuspidata* is described and illustrated. The species was collected in a neuston tow north of Queensland, Australia, and is the second species of the genus reported from Australia. It differs from other species by a combination of characters of the 1st antenna, mandible, maxilla, 5th limb, 7th limb and Bellonci organ. A brief supplementary description of the type species of the genus *Codonocera cruenta* Brady, 1902, is presented, together with a key to *Codonocera* species in the *cruenta* group.

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Members of the genus *Codonocera* are known only from Indo-Pacific and Australasian waters (McKenzie, 1967: 221). The genus has been recorded as far south as New Zealand (Barney, 1921: 178), but the only previous record in the vicinity of Australia is that of Bate & Sheppard (1982: 26), who identified 12 adult males from the Great Barrier Reef as *C. polygonia* Müller, 1906. Over 250 specimens of a new species of *Codonocera* captured in a neuston net north of Townsville, Queensland, provided the opportunity to study both the adult male and female as well as the A-1 and A-2 instars. The type species of the genus is briefly discussed.

***Codonocera* Brady**

Type species. *Codonocera cruenta* Brady, 1902: 188, pl. XXII, figs 1-10, by monotypy.

Distribution. Indo-Pacific and Australasian waters (McKenzie 1967: 221).

Poulsen (1962: 311) divided the genus into 2 informal groups: the *goniacantha* group and the *cruenta* group. The new species described herein is in the latter group.

Diagnosis of *cruenta* group. Mandible with a total of

6 claws and bristles on end joint. Maxilla: exopodite with 2 plumose bristles; 1st endopodial joint with 2 beta-bristles; 2nd endopodial joint with spines on a-bristles, and with a total of 7 b- and c-bristles. 5th limb: 2nd exopodial joint with 5 or 6 a-bristles, and with a total of 5 or 6 b'- and b''-bristles; outer branch of 3rd exopodial joint with 1 bristle much longer than other.

Discussion of type species. Through the courtesy of Mr P. S. Davis, Deputy Curator, the Hancock Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne, I received a slide (no. 1.54.15) containing appendages of the holotype of the type species, *Codonocera cruenta*. Unfortunately, details of many appendages are obscure but some characters are discernable. 1st antenna without spine on ventral margin of 1st joint. Longest end claw of mandible 46% length of 2nd endopodial joint; longest dorsal claw of end joint about $\frac{2}{3}$ length of longest claw; shorter dorsal claw of end joint about $\frac{1}{2}$ length of longest dorsal claw. Maxilla: 1st endopodial joint with 2 beta-bristles; end joint with spinous a-bristles, 7 b- + d-bristles, and posterior c-bristle with marginal spines. 5th limb: main tooth with 6 constituent teeth; outer lobe of 3rd exopodial joint with 1 long and 1 short bristle, but area obscure. Furca not distinct but probably with 3 claws