

**First Record of the genus *Cancellus* Edwards
(Crustacea: Anomura: Diogenidae) along
the Pacific coast of Mexico**

M. E. Hendrickx

Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnología, Estación Mazatlán, UNAM, Apdo postal 811, Mazatlán, Sinaloa, México.

(Received: October 20, 1986)

Resumen: *Cancellus tanneri* Faxon (Crustacea: Anomura: Diogenidae) se registra por cuarta ocasión en el Pacífico Este Tropical, extendiéndose su límite Norte de distribución hasta la entrada del Golfo de California, México.

Only one species of the genus *Cancellus* Edward is presently known from the Pacific coast of America. Members of this small diogenid genus are easily recognized for the characteristic shape of the facets of the chelipeds and of the first pair of ambulatory legs that form an efficient cover to their dwellings (Benedict, 1901).

Their small size and dwelling habits, however, make them difficult to detect in samples or to collect by using conventional fishing gears.

During samplig operations on the continental shelf at the entrance of the Gulf of California (CORTES Project), one specimen of *Cancellus tanneri* Faxon was found in a grab sample, representing the first record of the genus for this area and for the Pacific coast of México.

Cancellus tanneri Faxon, 1893

Previous record: 1 ♂, off Cocos Island (holopyte), Columbia; 1 ♀ Isla Perlas, Panamá; 1 ♂, Post Office Bay, Islas Galápagos, Ecuador (Shuler Mayo, 1973).

New record: 1 ♂, off Banco Gordo, Baja California Sur, México (23°08'N – 109°28'W), collected with an oyster dredge at 36 m on sandy bottom.

Observations: The specimen of *Cancellus tanneri* collected off the coast of Baja California represents the fourth of its kind ever reported for the Eastern Pacific. This species has apparently no been collected since 1934, when a male specimen was found by the Veleiro III at 27 m on rocky bottom at Post Office Bay.

The calcified part of the carapace presents a pair of dorsal reddish spots, a little away from the anterior margin, and another pair laterally.

REFERENCES

- Benedict, J. E. 1901. Four new symmetrical hermit crabs (Pagurids) from the West India region. Proc. U. S. Natl. Mus., 23: 771-778.
- Shuler Mayo, B. 1973. A review of the genus *Cancellus* (Crustacea: Diogenidae) with the description of a new species from the Caribbean Sea. Smithson. Contr. Zool., 150: 1-63.