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A New Polychaete from Three Kings Islands

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*Abstract*

A new species of *Rhamphobrachium* is described from shallow water at Three Kings Islands. It resembles *R. capense* from shallow water in South Africa more than *R. chuni*, found in deeper water off New Zealand.

INTRODUCTION

THE genus *Rhamphobrachium* (Eunicidae) is widely distributed through the oceans with most of its species occurring on the continental slope. A single specimen taken by Mr A. Baker with skin-diving gear at Three Kings Islands in 25 feet of water proved to be a new species. I am indebted to Mr Baker for the opportunity to report on the specimen.

Family EUNICIDAE

Subfamily ONUPHIDINAE

*Rhamphobrachium* Ehlers, 1887

Type species *Rhamphobrachium agassizi* Ehlers, 1887

*Rhamphobrachium maculatum* n.sp. (Figs. 1-3)

**DESCRIPTION.** A single anterior fragment with 42 setigers, 14mm long and 1.5mm wide. Generally colourless, but with black pigment specks in groups between the bases of the occipital tentacles, on the bases of the styles of the occipital tentacles, and on the bases of parapods 1 and 2. Dorsal surface of the peristomium and the lateral parts of the ventral surface between the bases of the modified feet quite darkly pigmented, with traces of pigment on the setal lobes and the dorsal and ventral edges of the modified feet.

The head is ovoid, eyes lacking. Occipital tentacles tapering, the median one shorter than the inner laterals which reach to setiger 4. Their ceratophores are half as long as the styles, cylindrical, with two rings at the base. Because of the angle of view this is not shown clearly in Fig. 1.

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