Phylogeny and New Classification of Hydrothermal Vent and Seep Shrimps of the Family Alvinocarididae (Decapoda)

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Abstract

The paper addresses the phylogeny and classification of the hydrothermal vent shrimp family Alvinocarididae. Two morphological cladistic analyses were carried out, which use all 31 recognized species of Alvinocarididae as terminal taxa. As outgroups, two species were included, both representing major caridean clades: Acanthephyra purpurea (Acanthephyridae) and Alpheus echiurophilus (Alpheidae). For additional support of the clades we utilised available data on mitochondrial Cytochrome c Oxidase I gene (CO1) and 16S ribosomal markers. Both morphological and molecular methods resulted in similar tree topologies and nearly identical clades. We consider these clades as evolutionary units and thus erect two new subfamilies: Rimicaridinae (Alvinocaridinidae, Manuscaris, Opaepele, Shinkaicaris, Rimicaris), Alvinocaridinae (Alvinocaris), whilst recognising Mirocaridinae (with genera Mirocaris and Nautilocaris) at subfamily level. One genus, Keldyshicaris could not be assigned to any subfamily and is thus left as incertae sedis. The monophyly of Alvinocardinae was supported by morphological data, but not supported by molecular data (two analyses); the monophyly of all subfamilies was supported both by morphological and molecular data. Chorocaris is herein synonymized with Rimicaris, whilst Opaepele vavilovi is herein transferred to a new genus Keldyshicaris. Morphological trends within Alvinocarididae are discussed and short biogeographical remarks are given. We provide emended diagnoses for all subfamilies and genera along with keys to all recognized species.

Introduction

Shrimps of the family Alvinocarididae inhabit deep-sea cold-seeps and hydrothermal vent areas around the world, and have been found in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans [1] within the depth range of 252 to 4960 m [2–3]. Most species of the family occur at hydrothermal vents, but a few are found in cold-seep areas [3]; one species, Alvinocaris longirostris, has been reported from both vents and seeps [4–7]. The first record of the family was based on a few specimens from the Galapagos Rift, which were described in 1982 as Alvinocaris lusca by Austin Williams and Fenner Chace [8]. Later the first author described a further two species of
a new genus, *Rimicaris* from the hydrothermal vent field TAG [9]. One of these species was subsequently transferred to a new genus *Chorocaris* in 1990 [10]. In the middle of the 1990s, Russian and American scientists described two further genera *Opaepele* [11] and *Mirocaris* [12]; whilst more recently the genera *Nautilocaris*, *Shinkaicaris*, and *Alvinocaridinides* were described by Japanese and French researchers [2], [13], [14].

Due to drastic metamorphosis in ontogeny, the history of the family systematics has not been smooth and some taxa were later synonymised. For example, the genus *Iorania* [15] and the species *Rimicaris aurantiaca* [16] are now considered to be juveniles of *Rimicaris exoculata*. There was no consensus on the status of the new family Mirocarididae established for a single genus *Mirocaris* [12]; phylogenetics showed a significant distance between this group and the rest of Alvinocarididae [17–18], although taxonomists kept *Mirocaris* as a genus within Alvinocarididae [19]. Status for *Opaepele vavilovi* also remains unsatisfactory [20].

Three new species and a new genus *Manuscaris* have recently been described from hydrothermal vents in the Pacific Ocean [21]. In this comprehensive study, partial sequences of mitochondrial COI were used, resulting in a minor change in the classification of Alvinocarididae, the transfer of *Opaepele susannae* into *Chorocaris* [21].

At present, 9 genera and 31 species are known within the family and a comprehensive phylogenetic analysis is needed to disentangle existing problems and to elucidate the status of all genera.

This task is eased by the presence of a significant amount of information on partial sequences of mitochondrial COI gene in GenBank, unusually rich for decapods. Much of this data was used in a previous comprehensive study [17], which confirmed three distinct clades consistent with morphology at that time: (1) *Rimicaris*/*Chorocaris*/*Opaepele*, (2) *Alvinocaris*, and (3) *Mirocaris*. Evolutionary relationships of vent-endemic shrimp species were shown to correlate neither with their current biogeographic distribution nor with the history of sea-floor spreading. Later studies have incorporated further molecular data for several recently described species and enhanced information for the species studied in [3], [17], [18], [21–26]. However, no attempt to carry out a complete phylogenetic analysis of the whole family Alvinocarididae has been carried out to date.

Combining both morphological and molecular evidence should shed light on the complex relationships in Alvinocarididae.

In this paper we summarize original and literature data about the composition, morphology, and genetic diversity of the family Alvinocarididae. Further, we (1) find and describe morphological characters, (2) perform cladistic morphological analyses, (3) analyze molecular data, (4) combine and compare morphological and molecular results, (5) discuss supported taxa, and (6) provide a new classification, emended diagnoses, and identification keys for all subfamilies, genera, and species.

**Material and Methods**

**Material for morphological analysis**

Material was collected along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge during six cruises of R/V “Akademik Mstislav Keldysh” with the use of two deep-sea manned submersibles “Mir–1” and “Mir–2” (34th cruise, August-October 1994, 39th cruise, August-October 1996, 41st cruise, August-December 1998, 47th cruise, June-July 2002, 49th cruise August 2003, 50th cruise, August 2005). Seven vent fields were investigated during 1994–2005, including Menez Gwen (37.8417 N 31.525 W), Lucky Strike (37.2933 N 32.2733 W), Rainbow (36.23 N 33.902 W), Broken Spur (29.17 N 43.1717 W), TAG (26.1367 N 44.8267 W), Snake Pit (23.3683 N 44.95 W) and Logatchev
Shrimps were collected using baited traps and suction samplers. Immediately after retrieval all specimens were sorted, measured, and preserved in 80% alcohol. Measurements follow established methods for shrimp morphological description [27]. Shrimp morphology and its temporal/spatial variations were thoroughly investigated for this material on the basis of 5861 individuals [28], [29]. A detailed description of this material and discussion of the various species may be found in [20], [29], [30].

Analysis of the morphology of all species within the family was made with the use the above original data and all other available literature data (Table 1).

Terminal taxa, outgroups, and characters used for morphological analysis

All thirty-one recognized species of Alvinocarididae were included as terminals. Outgroup selection was made on the basis of a comprehensive molecular study [31], which revealed two major clades of Caridea: (1) Alpheidae, Hippolytidae, Crangonidae, Glyphocrangonidae, Barbouriidae, Pandalidae, Hymenoceridae, Gnathophyllidae, and Palaemonidae and (2) Rhynchocinetidae, Ophlophoridae, Nematocarcinidae, Alvinocarididae, Campylonotidae, Pasiphaeidae and Eugonatontidae. The first outgroup species, *Acanthephyra purpurea* A. Milne-Edwards, 1881 [32], represents the first clade: Wong et al. [33] have shown that family Acanthephyridae is sister to Ophlophoridae and advocate combining both families as Ophlophoridae. We chose *A. purpurea* partly because this species is present in GenBank and could also be used as the out-group in the molecular analysis. The second outgroup species, *Alpheus echiurophilus* Anker, Komai and Marin 2015 [34], belongs to Alpheidae and represents the second major clade of Caridea. Both species are ecologically very different (pelagic and burrowing) as well as morphologically and a comparison of cladograms is thus instructive.

Sixty-three morphological characters (ten multistate) were used in the analysis, and are listed in Table 2, along with character states, brief descriptions, and references to figures (see also Figs 1–3). The data matrix is presented in Table 3.

Analytical method for cladistic analysis

Data were analyzed using a combination of programs by maximum parsimony: Winclada/ Nona, TNT, and Mesquite [35–37].

All characters were unordered (non-additive) and equally weighted, missing data were scored as unknown. Characters were unordered, so the score given for each state (i.e., 0, 1, 2) implies nothing about order in a transformation series [38]. Trees were generated in TNT under the implicit enumeration. Relative stability of clades was assessed by standard bootstrapping (sample with replacement) with 10000 pseudoreplicates and by Bremer support (algorithm TBR, saving up to 10000 trees up to 3 steps longer).

Molecular data

Both Mitochondrial Cytochrome c Oxidase I (CO1) and 16S ribosomal markers were selected for phylogenetic analyses, as only these markers have been sequenced for a representative number of alvinocaridid species, with CO1 sequences for 20 (out of 31) species available (Table 4). For the present phylogenetic analyses, we used all publicly available 271 CO1 sequences for individuals identified to species-level. Partial 16S sequences are only available for 10 alvinocaridid species (Table 4). For the present phylogenetic analyses, we used all 29 sequences available in the GeneBank.
Table 1. List of all valid species of the family Alvinocarididae, with remarks on their former and current status.

| Genus          | Species          | Description, author and year | Type locality, depth |
|----------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Alvinocaris-dinides | Alvinocaris-dinides | formosa Komai, Chan, 2010 | Gueishandao, Yilan County, Taiwan, 24°51.231’N 0121°59.204’E, 252–275 m |
| Alvinocaris    | Alvinocaris      | alexander Ahyong, 2009      | Rumble V Seamount, 36°08.27’–07.96’S 78°11.74–11.70’E, 485–415 m |
| Alvinocaris    | Alvinocaris      | brevitielsonis Kikuchi, Hashimoto, 2000 | “Depression C” of the Minami-Ensei Knoll, 28°23.35’N 127°38.38’E, 705 m |
| Alvinocaris    | Alvinocaris      | chelys Komai, Chan, 2010   | Gueishandao, Yilan County, Taiwan, 24°49.682’N 122°0.254’E, 300–276 m |
| Alvinocaris    | Alvinocaris      | dissimilis Komai, Segonzac, 2005 | Depression C, Minami-Ensei Knoll, 28°23.35’N 127°38.38’E, 705 m |
| Alvinocaris    | Alvinocaris      | komaii Zelnio, Hourdez, 2009 | Kilo Moana, Eastern Lau Spreading Center, Lau Basin, southwest Pacific.; 20°9’S 76°12’E, 2620 m |
| Alvinocaris    | Alvinocaris      | longirostris Kikuchi, Ohta, 1995 | Depression C, Minami-Ensei Knoll, 28°23.35’N 127°38.38’E, 705 m |
| Alvinocaris    | Alvinocaris      | lusca Williams, Chace, 1982 | Galapagos Rift Rose Garden area, 0°48.25’N 86°13.48’W, maximum of 2450 m |
| Alvinocaris    | Alvinocaris      | markensis Williams, 1988    | Mid-Atlantic Rift Valley about 70 km south of Kane Fracture Zone, 23°22.09’N 44°57.12’W, 3437 m |
| Alvinocaris    | Alvinocaris      | methanophila Komai, Shank, Van Dover, 2005 | ODP site 996, Blake Ridge Diapir, 32°29.623’N 76°30.467’W, 2155 m |
| Alvinocaris    | Alvinocaris      | muricola Williams, 1988    | West Florida Escarpment, 26°01’N 84°54.61’W, 3277 m |
| Alvinocaris    | Alvinocaris      | niwa Webber, 2004          | Rumble V, 36°8.63–8.57’S 178°11.77–11.50’E, 877–655 m |
| Alvinocaris    | Alvinocaris      | stactophila Williams, 1988 | north central Gulf of Mexico about 129 km S of Louisiana, 27°46.94’N 91°30.34’W, 534 m |
| Alvinocaris    | Alvinocaris      | solitaire Yahagi, Watanabe, Kojima, Beedessee, Komai, 2014 | Central Indian Ridge, Solitare hydrothermal vent field,19°33.413’S, 65°50.888’E, 2606 m |
| Alvinocaris    | Alvinocaris      | williamsi Shank, Martin, 2003 | Menez Gwen hydrothermal field, North Atlantic Ocean, 37°50.5’N 31°31.3’W, 850 m |
| Chorocaris     | Rificaricaris     | chacei (Williams, Rona, 1986) | TAG Hydrothermal Field, Mid-Atlantic Ridge, 26°08.3’N 44°49.6’W, 3620–3650 m |
| Chorocaris     | Rimicaris         | paulexa Martin, Shank, 2005 | Homer Vent (347OC black smoker), 17°37.220’S 113°15.123’W, 2595 m, southern East Pacific Rise |
| Chorocaris     | Rificaricaris     | parva Komai, Tsuchida, 2015 | Manus Basin, South Su, Wave Mercury 2007 (Luk Luk) Campaign, 03°08.09’S, 152°10.5’E, 1310 m |
| Chorocaris     | Rificaricaris     | van-doovera Martin, Hessler, 1990 | Alice springs vent field, Mariana Back-Arc Basin, 18°12.599’N 144°42.431’E, 3640 m |
| Chorocaris     | Rificaricaris     | variabilis Komai, Tsuchida, 2015 | Manus Basin, South Su, Wave Mercury 2007 (Luk Luk) Campaign, 03°08.09’S, 152°10.5’E, 1310 m |
| Mirocaris      | Mirocaris         | fortunata (Martin, Christiansen, 1995) | Vent site 3, Lucky Strike hydrothermal vent, Azores, 37°17.6’N 32°16.5’W, 1624 m |
| Mirocaris      | Mirocaris         | indica Komai, Martin, Zala, Tsuchida, Hashimoto, 2006 | Central Indian Ridge, Kairei Field, 25°19.2’S 70°02.4’E, 2422 m |
| Nautilocaris   | Nautilocaris      | acuminatus Komai, Tsuchida, 2015 | Manus Basin, South Su, Wave Mercury 2007 Campaign, 03°08.09’S, 152°10.5’E, 1310 m |
| Opaepele       | Opaepele          | loihi Williams, Dobbs, 1995 | North Fiji Basin, White Lady site, 16°59.50’S 173°55.47’E, 2000 m |

(Continued)
Analysis of molecular data

Multiple alignments were made with the use of the Clustal W algorithm [39]. Six CO1 sequences were discarded after alignment, as they represented non-barcoding parts of the CO1 gene or were too short. The remaining 265 aligned sequences were trimmed according to the shortest sequences (Accession Numbers: KC840928-KC840940, HM125910-HM125956) with a total length of 471 bp. Amino acid sequences received from the nucleotide sequences had no stop codons within the open reading frame using the invertebrate mitochondrial code. All 16S sequences after alignment were trimmed according to the shortest sequences (Accession Numbers: AM087916-AM087925) with a total length of 286 bp.

Phylogenetic analysis was performed using both Maximum Likelihood (ML) and Bayesian analyses. To root the resultant trees, *Acanthephyra purpurea* was used (also see section 2.2). The best-fit model selected using jModelTest 2.1.7 [40] was the Tamura-Nei model with a gamma distribution and invariable sites (TrN+G+I) for CO1 and the Hasegawa-Kishino-Yano model with a gamma distribution (HKY+G) for 16S data set. These models were used to generate ML gene trees in MEGA 5. Support for branches was assessed using bootstrap analyses with 1,000 replicates [41]. Bayesian phylogenetic analysis was made with the use of MrBayes v3.2.1 [42]. A general time-reversible model (GTR) of sequence evolution with a gamma distribution and invariable sites for CO1 data set was chosen as it represents the closest approximation of the Tamura—Nei model in MrBayes. HKY+G model was used for 16S data set. The Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) analysis was further used with the following settings: (1) for CO1—18 million generations, trees sampled every 5000 generation, and the first 900 trees discarded; (2) for 16S—1.5 million generations, trees sampled every 1000 generation, and the first 375 trees discarded. The average standard deviation of split frequencies between two runs of MCMC was less than 1% for each analysis, thus indicating convergence.

Estimation of clade robustness

For morphological analyses, we considered the clades robust if they received simultaneous Bremer support ≥3 after both analyses. For molecular analyses, we considered the clades robust if they received Bayesian posterior probability value 75%.
| No | Character | Character state | State No | Figure |
|----|-----------|-----------------|----------|--------|
| 0  | Rostrum   | absent          | 0        | 1A     |
|    |           | present         | 1        | 1B     |
| 1  | Rostrum   | not reaching end of 1st antennular segment | 0 | 1B |
|    |           | reaching end of 1st antennular segment | 1 | 1C |
|    |           | overreaching end of 2nd antennular segment | 2 | 1D |
| 2  | Rostrum, | tip acute       | 0        | 1C     |
|    |           | tip obtuse      | 1        | 1B     |
| 3  | Rostrum   | laterally compressed | 0 | 1C |
|    |           | not laterally compressed | 1 | 1B |
| 4  | Rostrum   | not dorsoventrally compressed | 0 | 1C |
|    |           | dorsoventrally compressed | 1 | 1B |
| 5  | Rostrum   | dorsally carinate | 0 | 1C |
|    |           | not dorsally carinate | 1 | 1B |
| 6  | Rostrum   | dorsally smooth | 0 | 1E |
|    |           | dorsally notched | 1 | 1F |
|    |           | dorsally toothed | 2 | 1C,D |
| 7  | Rostrum, minimal number of dorsal teeth or notches | 0 | 0 |
|    |           | 5–10  | 1 |
|    |           | 11–15 | 2 |
|    |           | 16 or more | 3 |
| 8  | Rostrum, maximal number of dorsal teeth or notches | 0 | 0 |
|    |           | 4–10  | 1 |
|    |           | 11–15 | 2 |
|    |           | 16 or more | 3 |
| 9  | Rostrum   | ventrally carinate | 0 | 1C |
|    |           | not ventrally carinate | 1 | 1B |
| 10 | Rostrum   | ventrally smooth | 0 | 1E |
|    |           | ventrally notched | 1 | 1F |
|    |           | ventrally toothed | 2 | 1D |
| 11 | Rostrum, minimal number of ventral teeth or notches | 0 | 0 |
|    |           | 1–2  | 1 |
|    |           | 3–6  | 2 |
| 12 | Rostrum, maximal number of ventral teeth or notches | 0 | 0 |
|    |           | 1–2  | 1 |
|    |           | 6–11 | 2 |
| 13 | Rostrum, minimal number of teeth or notches on carapace | 0 | 0 |
|    |           | 1–5  | 1 |
|    |           | 6–10 | 2 |
| 14 | Rostrum, maximal number of teeth or notches on carapace | 0 | 0 |
|    |           | 1–5  | 1 |
|    |           | 6–10 | 2 |
| 15 | Carapace, postrostral dorsal carina extending beyond the midlength | absent | 0 | |
|    |           | present | 1 | |
| 16 | Carapace, antennal angle | blunt | 0 | |
|    |           | acute | 1 | |
| 17 | Carapace, acute pterygostomial tooth | absent | 0 | |

(Continued)
### Table 2. (Continued)

| No. | Character | Character state                        | State No. | Figure |
|-----|-----------|----------------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| 18  | Dorsal organ under carapace | absent or inconspicuous | 0 |        |
|     |           | conspicuous | 1 |        |
| 19  | Dorsal organ under carapace | restricted to postorbital region | 0 |        |
|     |           | extended beyond the postorbital region | 1 |        |
| 20  | Dorsal organ | nearly entire | 0 |        |
|     |           | four-lobed, without pores | 1 |        |
|     |           | four-lobed, with a pore | 2 |        |

#### ABDOMEN AND TELSON

| No. | Character | Character state                        | State No. | Figure |
|-----|-----------|----------------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| 21  | Third abdominal segment, posterior margin of pleura | smooth | 0 | 2A     |
|     |           | serrated | 1 | 2B     |
| 22  | Telson, long linear row of movable dorsolateral spines (≥ 5 in row) | absent | 0 |        |
|     |           | present | 1 |        |
| 23  | Telson, long sinuous row of movable dorsolateral spines (≥ 5 in row) | absent | 0 |        |
|     |           | present | 1 |        |
| 24  | Telson, number of strong spines on posterior margin | 2–4 | 0 | 2C     |
|     |           | 6 or more | 1 | 2D     |
| 25  | Telson, posterior margin | convex | 0 | 2C     |
|     |           | concave | 1 | 2D     |

#### THORACIC APPENDAGES

| No. | Character | Character state                        | State No. | Figure |
|-----|-----------|----------------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| 27  | Eyestalks | not fused partly | 0 |        |
|     |           | fused partly, mould seam present | 1 |        |
| 28  | Eyestalks | not fused entirely | 0 |        |
|     |           | fused entirely, without mould seam | 1 |        |
| 29  | Eyes, anterior margin | entire | 0 |        |
|     |           | with conspicuous tubercle | 1 | 1C     |
| 30  | Antenna II | not operculiform | 0 |        |
|     |           | operculiform | 1 |        |
| 31  | Maxilla II, plumose bacteriophorous setae on scaphognathite | absent | 0 | 2E     |
|     |           | present | 1 | 2F     |
| 32  | Maxilliped III, epipod | subtriangular | 0 |        |
|     |           | strap-like | 1 | 3A     |
| 33  | Maxilliped III, epipod | not terminated in hook | 0 |        |
|     |           | terminated in hook | 1 | 3A     |
| 34  | Maxilliped III, merus | unarmed | 0 |        |
|     |           | with 1–2 distal spines | 1 |        |
| 35  | Pereopod I, epipod | absent or rudimentary | 0 |        |
|     |           | strap-like | 1 | 3A     |
| 36  | Pereopod I, epipod | not terminated in hook | 0 |        |
|     |           | terminated in hook | 1 | 3A     |
| 37  | Pereopod I, grooming apparatus | absent or inconspicuous | 0 |        |
|     |           | conspicuous | 1 |        |
| 38  | Pereopod II, epipod | absent or rudimentary | 0 |        |
|     |           | strap-like | 1 | 3A     |
| 39  | Pereopod II, epipod | not terminated in hook | 0 |        |

(Continued)
### Table 2. (Continued)

| No | Character                                                      | Character state                                      | State No | Figure |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------|
| 40 | Pereopod II, movable spines on ischium                       | absent                                               | 0        | 3A     |
| 41 | Pereopod III, epipod                                        | absent or rudimentary                                 | 0        |        |
|    |                                                               | strap-like                                           | 1        | 3A     |
| 42 | Pereopod III, epipod                                        | not terminated in hook                               | 0        |        |
|    |                                                               | terminated in hook                                   | 1        | 3A     |
| 43 | Pereopod III, strong movable spines on ischium               | absent                                               | 0        |        |
|    |                                                               | present                                              | 1        | 3B     |
| 44 | Pereopod III, proximal strong movable spines on merus        | absent                                               | 0        |        |
|    |                                                               | present                                              | 1        | 3B     |
| 45 | Pereopod III, distal movable spines on merus                 | absent                                               | 0        |        |
|    |                                                               | present                                              | 1        | 3B     |
| 46 | Pereopod III, dactyl                                        | single row of accessory spinules absent               | 0        |        |
|    |                                                               | single row of accessory spinules present              | 1        |        |
| 47 | Pereopod III, dactyl                                        | two or more rows of accessory spinules absent         | 0        |        |
|    |                                                               | two or more rows of accessory spinules present        | 1        |        |
| 48 | Pereopod IV, epipod                                        | absent                                               | 0        |        |
|    |                                                               | not terminated in hook                               | 0        |        |
|    |                                                               | terminated in hook                                   | 1        | 3A     |
| 49 | Pereopod IV, epipod                                        | single row of accessory spinules present              | 1        |        |
|    |                                                               | strap-like                                           | 1        | 3A     |
| 50 | Pereopod IV, strong movable spines on ischium                | absent                                               | 0        |        |
|    |                                                               | present                                              | 1        | 3C     |
| 51 | Pereopod IV, proximal strong movable spines on merus         | absent                                               | 0        |        |
|    |                                                               | present                                              | 1        | 3C     |
| 52 | Pereopod IV, distal movable spines on merus                  | absent                                               | 0        |        |
|    |                                                               | present                                              | 1        | 3C     |
| 53 | Pereopod IV, dactyl                                        | single row of accessory spinules absent               | 0        |        |
|    |                                                               | single row of accessory spinules present              | 1        |        |
| 54 | Pereopod IV, dactyl                                        | two or more rows of accessory spinules absent         | 0        |        |
|    |                                                               | two or more rows of accessory spinules present        | 1        |        |
| 55 | Pereopod V, strong movable spines on ischium                 | absent                                               | 0        |        |
|    |                                                               | present                                              | 1        | 3D     |
| 56 | Pereopod V, dactyl                                        | single row of accessory spinules absent               | 0        |        |
|    |                                                               | single row of accessory spinules present              | 1        |        |
| 57 | Pereopod V, dactyl                                        | two or more rows of accessory spinules absent         | 0        |        |

**ABDOMINAL APPENDAGES**

| No | Character                                                   | Character state                     | State No | Figure |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|--------|
| 58 | Pleopod II, appendix interna                                | developed                           | 0        | -      |
|    |                                                             | much reduced                        | 1        | 3E     |
| 59 | Pleopod III, appendix interna                               | developed                           | 0        | -      |
|    |                                                             | much reduced                        | 1        | 3E     |
| 60 | Pleopod IV, appendix interna                                | developed                           | 0        | -      |
|    |                                                             | much reduced                        | 1        | 3E     |
| 61 | Uropodal exopod, a single movable spine mesial to posterolateral tooth | absent | 0 | - |
|    |                                                             | present                             | 1        | -      |
| 62 | Uropodal exopod, two movable spines mesial to posterolateral tooth | absent | 0 | - |
|    |                                                             | present                             | 1        | -      |

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Fig 1. Morphological characters used for phylogenetic analysis. Anterior part of body. (A)–(E) after [13], (F) after [20], (G) after [70].

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Fig 2. Morphological characters used for phylogenetic analysis. Posterior part of body and maxilla. (A), (C)-(E) after [13], (B) after [70], (F) after [9].
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Results

Morphological clades

Analysis 1 with *Acanthephyra purpurea* as the outgroup retrieved 36 minimal length trees of length 145 (Fig 4A). The basal clade *Alvinocaris* (pink in Fig 4A) forms a sister clade to the rest of the family and is followed by *Keldyshicaris* and two sister clades: *Nautilocaris + Mirocaris* (blue) and *Opaepele + Alvinocaridinides + Manuscaris + Shinkaicaris + Rimicaris* (light green). Within the clade *Alvinocaris*, *Alvinocaris niwa* is the most basal, followed by the other species of *Alvinocaris*. Within the light green clade, there are three clades: *Opaepele, Alvinocaridinides*
| Species                        | States of characters                                                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Acanthephyra purpurea         | 101111 2 111 2 22000100 -- 0000 0 -- 00000010 11101110 1 111101 1 11110000000 |
| Alpheus echiurophilus         | 100111 0 011 0 00000000 -- 00000010 11011111 1 000000 1 000000100010 |
| Alvinocaridinides formosa     | 110000 2 130 2 11211110 -- 0100 0 -- 10100001 11011000 1 11110000000 |
| Alvinocaris alexander         | 110000 2 230 2 11211110 -- 0100 0 -- 10100000 10100000 1 11110000000 |
| Alvinocaris brevitelsonis     | 111000 2 130 2 11211110 -- 0100 0 -- 10100000 10100000 1 11110000000 |
| Alvinocaris dissimilis        | 110000 2 130 2 11211110 -- 0100 0 -- 10100000 10100000 1 11110000000 |
| Alvinocaris komail            | 110000 2 130 2 11211110 -- 0100 0 -- 10100000 10100000 1 11110000000 |
| Alvinocaris longirostris      | 110000 2 130 2 11211110 -- 0100 0 -- 10100000 10100000 1 11110000000 |
| Alvinocaris markensis         | 110000 2 130 2 11211110 -- 0100 0 -- 10100000 10100000 1 11110000000 |
| Alvinocaris methanophila      | 110000 2 130 2 11211110 -- 0100 0 -- 10100000 10100000 1 11110000000 |
| Alvinocaris muricola          | 110000 2 130 2 11211110 -- 0100 0 -- 10100000 10100000 1 11110000000 |
| Alvinocaris niwa              | 110000 2 130 2 11211110 -- 0100 0 -- 10100000 10100000 1 11110000000 |
| Alvinocaris williamsi         | 110000 2 130 2 11211110 -- 0100 0 -- 10100000 10100000 1 11110000000 |
| Alvinocaris lusca             | 110000 2 130 2 11211110 -- 0100 0 -- 10100000 10100000 1 11110000000 |
| Alvinocaris stactophila       | 110000 2 130 2 11211110 -- 0100 0 -- 10100000 10100000 1 11110000000 |
| Alvinocaridinides formosa     | 110000 2 130 2 11211110 -- 0100 0 -- 10100000 10100000 1 11110000000 |
| Rimicaris chacei              | 110111 0 001 0 00000011 1000 0 -- 01000001 1000000 0 000100 0 00101000001 |
| Rimicaris paulexa             | 110111 0 001 0 00000011 1000 0 -- 01000001 1000000 0 000100 0 00101000001 |
| Rimicaris vanzoverae          | 110111 0 001 0 00000011 1000 0 -- 01000001 1000000 0 000100 0 00101000001 |
| Rimicaris parva               | 110111 0 001 0 00000011 1000 0 -- 01000001 1000000 0 000100 0 00101000001 |
| Rimicaris variabilis          | 110111 0 001 0 00000011 1000 0 -- 01000001 1000000 0 000100 0 00101000001 |
| Rimicaris susannae            | 110111 0 001 0 00000011 1000 0 -- 01000001 1000000 0 000100 0 00101000001 |
| Rimicaris exoculata           | 0 -- 1111 0 001 0 00000011 1000 0 -- 01000001 1000000 0 000100 0 00101000001 |
| Rimicaris kairei              | 0 -- 1111 0 001 0 00000011 1000 0 -- 01000001 1000000 0 000100 0 00101000001 |
| Rimicaris hybisea             | 101111 0 001 0 00000011 1000 0 -- 01000001 1000000 0 000100 0 00101000001 |
| Rimicaris lothi               | 101111 0 001 0 00000011 1000 0 -- 01000001 1000000 0 000100 0 00101000001 |
| Shinkaicaris leurocolos       | 111100 2 111 0 00100111 1000 0 -- 01000001 1000000 0 000100 0 00101000001 |
| Manuscaris acuminata          | 110000 2 230 2 00111011 1000 0 -- 01000001 1000000 0 000100 0 00101000001 |
| Mirocaris fortunata           | 110111 0 001 0 00000011 1000 0 -- 01000001 1000000 0 000100 0 00101000001 |
| Mirocaris indica              | 110100 0 001 0 00000011 1000 0 -- 01000001 1000000 0 000100 0 00101000001 |
| Nautilocaris saintlaurentiae  | 110111 0 001 0 00000011 1000 0 -- 01000001 1000000 0 000100 0 00101000001 |
| Keldyschicaris vavilovi       | 110111 0 001 0 00000011 1000 0 -- 01000001 1000000 0 000100 0 00101000001 |

Missing data indicated by question marks (?); inapplicable data by hyphens (-); polymorphism indicated by brackets [01]

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+Manuscaris+Shinkaicaris, and Rimicaris (green). After discard of all unsupported clades with Bremer support <3, all considered coloured clades persist (Fig 5A).

Analysis with Alpheus echiurophilus as the outgroup retrieved 437 minimal length trees of length 146; the tree topology slightly differs from that in Analysis 1, but the principal clades are the same (Fig 4B, same colours). The clade Nautilocaris+ Mirocaris is basal and followed by three clades: (1) Opeaepele+Alvinocaridinides+Manuscaris+Shinkaicaris+Rimicaris, (2) Keldyschicaris, and (3) Alvinocaris. After discard of all unsupported clades with Bremer support <3, all considered coloured clades persist (Fig 5B).
Table 4. GenBank accession numbers for COI and 16S sequences of species used for phylogenetic analyses.

| Species                          | NCBI GenBank Accession number, Locality                              | Reference |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Alvinocaris dissimilis          | AB779491–AB779494                                                    | [72],[73] |
| Alvinocaris komai               | EU031816 Eastern Lau Spreading Center, southwest Pacific             | [18]      |
| Alvinocaris longirostris        | AB2222050, AB222051 Hatoma Knoll, Okinawa Trough                   | [73],[22] |
|                                 | NC020313, JQ035659 Hatoma Knoll, Okinawa Trough                    | [25]      |
|                                 | AB821296 Hatoma Knoll, Okinawa Trough                              | [72]      |
|                                 | GG131897                                                            | [74]      |
| Alvinocaris lusca               | AF125404-AF125407 Galapagos hydrothermal vent field; 9°50’N hydrothermal vent field | [17]      |
| Alvinocaris markensis           | KC840879-KC840886, KC840893 Logatchev, Mid-Atlantic Ridge (MAR)    | [44]      |
|                                 | AF125408, AF125409 Snake Pit, MAR                                    | [17]      |
| Alvinocaris muricola (including Alvinocaris aff. muricola) | KC840887-KC840892, KC840894-KC840927 Gulf of Mexico, GC852 site; Regab, West Africa | [45] |
|                                 | EU031814, EU031815 Gulf of Mexico                                    | [75]      |
|                                 | EU868627, EU868628                                                  | [76]      |
| Alvinocaris solitaria           | LC007114 Solitaire hydrothermal vent field, Central Indian Ridge    | [69]      |
| Alvinocaris stactophila         | AF125410, AF125411 Louisiana Slope, Gulf of Mexico                  | [17]      |
| Alvinocaris chelys              | NC 018777, JX184903 vent field off Gueishandao (or Kueishan Island), Yilan County, northeastern Taiwan | [77] |
| Alvinocaris methanophila        | AY163260 the Blake Ridge Diapir, Caribbean                          | [45],[69] |
| Chorocaris chacei               | AF125395-AF125397, AF125414, AF125415 Snake Pit, TAG, MAR           | [17]      |
|                                 | KC840928-KC840940 Logatchev, Lucky Strike, MAR                      | [45]      |
|                                 | AM076957, Lucky Strike, MAR                                          | [78]      |
|                                 | AM087920-AM087922                                                   | [79]      |
| Chorocaris parva                | AB772278, AB772282 PACMANUS, Manus Basin, South West Pacific        | [21]      |
| Chorocaris vandoverae           | AF125417, AF125418 Alice Springs, Mariana Back-Arc Basin             | [17]      |
| Chorocaris variabilis           | AB772279-AB772281 PACMANUS, Manus Basin, South West Pacific         | [21]      |
| Mirocaris fortunata (including Mirocaris keldyshii) | AF125424-AF125429, AF125430-AF125433 Lucky Strike, Broken Spur, Menez Gwen, TAG, Logatchev, MAR | [17] |
|                                 | FJ769225, FJ769226 Menez Gwen, MAR                                  | [23]      |
|                                 | AM076959, Lucky Strike, MAR                                          | [78]      |
|                                 | AM087916-AM087919                                                   | [79]      |
| Nautilocaris saintlaurentae     | NC021971, KF226726 vent the Tofua Arc (Tonga)                       | [80]      |
| Opaepete loihi                  | DO328819-DO328838 Mariana Arc                                       | [81]      |
|                                 | AF125436, AF125437 Loihi Seamount                                   | [17]      |
|                                 | NC020311, JQ035657 Nikko Seamount, Philippine Sea Plate             | [25]      |
| Rimicaris exoculata             | AF125398-AF125403, AF125419, AF125420, AF125440 TAG, Lucky Strike, Broken Spur, Rainbow | [17] |
|                                 | AF044057 MAR                                                        | [82]      |
|                                 | FN392996-FN393005 Rainbow, TAG, Logatchev, South MAR                | [24]      |
|                                 | HM125910-HM125956 Rainbow, TAG, Logatchev, Ashadze, South MAR       | [83]      |
|                                 | AF035459, TAG, South MAR                                             | [82]      |
|                                 | AM087923-AM087925                                                   | [79]      |
|                                 | AM076958, Lucky Strike, MAR                                          | [78]      |
| Rimicaris kairei                | AB813087-AB813108 Dodo, Solitaire, Edmond and Kairei fields         | [84]      |
|                                 | NC020310, JQ035656 Kairei Field (Rodriguez Triple Junction)         | [25]      |
| Rimicaris hybisae               | JN850606, JN850607 Beebe and Von Damm vent fields (Caribbean)       | [3]       |
|                                 | KJ566968-KJ5678003 Beebe and Von Damm vent fields (Caribbean)       | [85]      |
| Acanthephyra purpurea           | GU183787, GU183788                                                  | [86]      |
|                                 | KP075887, KP075899                                                  | [87]      |

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Molecular clades

The molecular phylogenetic Analysis 1 with use of CO1 gene resulted in a tree (Fig 6A), which resembles the morphological tree except the branching of *Alvinocaris* (Fig 5B). In the morpho analysis *Alvinocaris* forms a single clade (not internally resolved), but in the genetic analysis three (COI) or two (16S) clades occur.

**The clade Mirocaris+Nautilocaris** (Fig 6A, coloured in blue) is supported both by ML bootstrap (98) and Bayesian posterior probability (100). This clade comprises two genera: *Mirocaris* (*M. fortunata*) and *Nautilocaris* (*N. saintlaurentae*). Genetic difference between the genera

![Phylogeny and New Classification of Alvinocarididae](Image)

**Fig 4.** Strict consensus trees of Alvinocarididae and synapomorphies (numbers in circles). A, analysis 1 with *Acanthephyra purpurea* as the outgroup. B, analysis 2 with *Alpheus echiurophilus* as the outgroup. Supported clades are marked by different colors: Mirocaridinae (blue), Alvinocaridinae (pink), Rimicaridinae (light green), *Rimicaris* (green).

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**Fig 5.** Statistically robust clades of Alvinocarididae with bootstrap support (numbers above the clade) and Bremer support (numbers below the clade in circles). A, analysis 1 with *Acanthephyra purpurea* as outgroup. B, analysis 2 with *Alpheus echiurophilus* as outgroup. Supported clades are marked by different colors: Mirocaridinae (blue), Alvinocaridinae (pink), Rimicaridinae (light green), *Rimicaris* (green).

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reaches 5.1%. This clade is identical to the clade Nautilocaris + Mirocaris revealed by both morphological analyses. The basal clade is followed by four clades.

The clade Alvinocaris komaii (Fig 6A, pink) comprises only one species of Alvinocaris. Position of this on the tree topology is unresolved and thus requires further research.

The clade Alvinocaris solitaire + Alvinocaris markensis + Alvinocaris muricola + Alvinocaris lusca + Alvinocaris longirostris (Fig 6A, pink) is supported by ML bootstrap (81) and Bayesian posterior probability (100). This clade comprises a significant part of the genus Alvinocaris (Fig 6A, coloured in pink). Alvinocaris solitaire is basal and followed by A. markensis, A. muricola and Alvinocaris lusca + Alvinocaris longirostris. Genetic differences between three terminal subclades range from 5 to 6.7%.

The clade Alvinocaris dissimilis + Alvinocaris stactophila + Alvinocaris chelis (Fig 6A, pink) is supported by ML bootstrap (99) and Bayesian posterior probability (100). This clade comprises the rest of Alvinocaris used in Analysis 1 (Fig 6A, coloured in pink). The former two species are genetically identical, while the genetic distance (p-distance) between them and A. chelys reaches 0.5%.

The clade Rimicaris variabilis + Rimicaris parva + Rimicaris vandoverae + Rimicaris exoculata + Rimicaris chacei + Rimicaris kairei + Alvinocaris methanophila + Rimicaris...
**hybisae+ Opaepеле loihi** (Fig 6A, light green) is supported by Bayesian posterior probability (100). This clade comprises a part of the genus *Rimicaris* (Fig 6A, coloured in green) and two other genera: *Alvinocaris* (a single sequence) and *Opaepеле*. Specimens of *C. chacei* are divided into two distant groups with genetic differences 7.9%.

The molecular phylogenetic Analysis 2 with use of 16S gene resulted in a tree with similar clades (Fig 6B). The monophyly of the clades *Mirocaris+Nautilocaris* and *Rimicaris exoculata + Rimicaris chacei + Rimicaris kairei + Rimicaris hybisae+* was supported (Bayesian posterior probability 100 and 76, respectively). *Alvinocaris* created two clades *Alvinocaris longirostris+Alvinocaris muricola* and *Alvinocaris chelis* (Bayesian posterior probability 85 and 99, respectively), which agree with two clades of Analysis 1.

**Discussion**

Both morphological analyses revealed three major robust monophyletic clades, herein assign to them subfamiliar status, as Mirocaridinae, Rimicaridinae subfam. nov. and Alvinocaridinae subfam. nov.

**The clades**

**The clade/subfamily Mirocaridinae** (Fig 5A and 5B, blue) comprises three species and two genera: *Nautilocaris* and *Mirocaris*. This clade is supported by the following synapomorphies common for both morpho analyses (starting from the character number):

(48–49) presence of strap-like epipods terminating in a hook, on the fourth pereopod,

(58–60) much reduced appendix interna in second to fourth pleopods

The clade is well supported by molecular data (Fig 6A).

**The clade/subfamily Rimicaridinae** (Fig 5A and 5B, light green) comprises thirteen species and five genera: *Opaepеле*, *Alvinocaridinides*, *Manuscaris*, *Shinkaicaris*, and *Rimicaris*. This clade is also supported by the following synapomorphies common for both morpho analyses:

(28) entirely fused eyestalks without mould seam,

(47, 54, 57) presence of two or more rows of accessory spinules on the dactyls of the third to fifth pereopods.

The clade is supported by molecular data (Fig 6A). The position of *A. methanophila* within Rimicaridinae is worthy of comment. This result is based on a single specimen of *A. methanophila*, which was collected at the Blake Ridge Diapir site, sequenced and deposited in GenBank (Accession No AY163260) under the name «Alvinocaris sp. TMS-2002». The shrimp was originally named «Blake Ridge shrimp» [43]. Later this specimen along with 33 other adult specimens was described as a new species *A. methanophila* [44]. Tixeira et al [45] used the same sequence and included this in their clade “ESU 2” which comprised specimens from three genera. We feel that the resulting position of *A. methanophila* in a common clade with *R. chacei* and *R. hybisae* is a result of incorrect identification or processing the material.

Molecular analyses indicate close relation between *Opaepеле* (*O. loihi*) and *Rimicaris*, however morphologically they are quite distinct and for now we keep both genera as valid. Both morphological analyses supported validity of remaining genera of the clade Rimicaridinae: *Alvinocaridinides, Shinkaicaris*, and *Manuscaris*.

**The clade Rimicaris** is nested within the clade Rimicaridinae and comprises all species of the currently recognised genera *Chorocaris* and *Rimicaris* (Fig 5A and 5B, green). This clade received very high support during morphological and molecular analyses and is also supported by the synapomorphies common for both morpho analyses:

(19) dorsal organ under carapace extended beyond the postorbital region,

(61–62) presence of two movable spines mesial to posterolateral tooth on uropodal exopod.
As this is a robust monophyletic clade (except terminal *R. exoculata*+*R. kairei*), we herein synonymize *Chorocaris* with *Rimicaris*, with *Rimicaris* being the older name. We note that the type species of *Chorocaris, Chorocaris chacei*, was initially described as *Rimicaris* [9]. Our analyses also show that the former *Opaepele susannae* was correctly removed from the genus *Opaepele* (and transferred to *Chorocaris*) [21].

Recent molecular studies by Texeira et al. [45] based on studies from the Tropical Atlantic have previously showed a common clade for *Rimicaris* and *Chorocaris*. “These showed very low genetic divergence at levels similar to divergence between individuals of the same species. We posit that these taxa belong to the same genus, possibly even the same species” [45].

The clade is well supported by our molecular data (Fig 6A). A chequerwise arrangement of the species belonging to the former *Rimicaris* and *Chorocaris* within Rimicaridinae gives additional evidence for their genetic similarity and thus synonymising both genera.

One of the unexpected results of our molecular analyses is the position of specimens of *R. chacei* in two different and well supported clades (distance 7.9%). Those specimens which are closer to *R. exoculata*, were identified and sequenced by T.M. Shank (NN AF125395-397, AF125414-415 from Snake Pit and TAG [17]. The specimens closer to *Opaepele loihi* (NN KC840928-KC840940 from Logatchev and Lucky Strike) are from Teixeira et al. [45]. This division of *R. chacei* into two groups may be caused by various factors:

- mitochondrial introgression in which mitochondrial DNA of *R. exoculata* may have been incorporated in the populations of *C. chacei* at Snake Pit and TAG. Similar effects were found in other marine Malacostraca [46], [47] and also in vent Bivalvia [48], [49],
- existence of cryptic species of *C. chacei* recognized as a single morphological species.

**The clade/subfamily Alvinocaridinae** (Fig 5A and 5B, pink) comprises fourteen species of the genus *Alvinocaris*. This clade is also supported by the following synapomorphies common for both morpho analyses:

- (3, 9) laterally compressed and ventrally carinate rostrum,
- (15) presence of postrostral dorsal carina extending beyond the midlength of carapace.

Molecular analyses indicate presence of three supported clades of *Alvinocaris* (Fig 6A). Here we consider the genus and the subfamily as monophyletic on the basis of the two morphological analyses and leave the possibility of a polyphyletic origin of the clade to be resolved by more data in the future.

**The clade Keldyshicaris** comprises a single species, *Keldyshicaris vavilovi*. Both morphological analyses did not support monophyly of the former genus *Opaepele* and we suggest division of this genus into two monotypic genera, *Opaepele* with *O. loihi* (subfamily Rimicaridinae) and *Keldyshicaris* gen.n. with *K. vavilovi* n. comb. The status of this genus may be further clarified after receiving molecular data.

**Morphological trends in Alvinocarididae**

Mirocaridinae and Rimicaridinae share a degenerate rostrum, reduced external spines and the presence of the dorsal organ. This type of rostrum may be advantageous in the vicinity of shimmering waters and vent fluids where Mirocaridinae and Rimicaridinae occur. Predators are rare in these extreme biotopes where sulphides, heavy metals, and methane are actively leaching from surrounding rocks [50]. A shorter unarmed rostrum along with reduced spines reduces impact of strong turbulent water fluxes, which are common in the microbiotopes where the shrimps thrive [51].

The dorsal organ has been described inside the carapaces of all recent genera of Mirocaridinae and Rimicaridinae [2], [20], [52–53]. These spot-like organs are believed to be homologous
to the ‘dorsal eye’ found in *R. exoculata* [2], [54–55], but are smaller and do not comprise four lobes. The dorsal organ, also called ‘dorsal eye’, is an extremely efficient photoreceptor, used for detecting light emitted from the vents [56–58].

Mirocardinae further differ from other Alvinocarididae in having strap-like epipods terminating in a hook and in much reduced appendix interna in second to fourth pleopods. The strap-like pereopodal epipods are common for many caridean families and these characters may be retained from the ancestor. Modification in pleopodal characters may be related to specific traits in movement or copulation, which may be adaptive in the shimmering waters where Mirocardinae thrive.

Rimicaridinae possess entirely fused eyestalks and presence of two or more rows of accessory spinules on the dactyls of the third to fifth pereopods—adaptations favouring anchoring close to the strong currents hydrothermal fluids. Within the clade Rimicaridinae, the genus *Rimicaris* shows further modification of external structures on the rostrum and frontal part of carapace, further development of the dorsal organ, and elaboration of uropodal exopod. The polarization of the characters 19 along with inflation of carapace and extension of scaphognathite shows deeper association of *Rimicaris* with vent fluids than any of other genera of the subfamily [51],[59], [60]. Presence of two strong movable spines instead of one (the polarization of characters 61–62) may indicate importance of the tail fan, which is used in the escape behaviour of shrimps ([61]. The presence of additional spines may make this behaviour more efficient when high-temperature turbulent water fluxes can suddenly erupt from the rocks and damage shrimps [51].

Alvinocaridinae are characterized by a well-developed instead of reduced rostrum and postrostral carina, by a frontal ocular tubercle, and by the spination of the fourth-fifth pereopods. These traits are plausibly accounted for by their habitat at the periphery of hydrothermal vent fields [60]. In these habitats, predatory fish do occur and frontal armature may partly protect the shrimps from attacks. The frontal ocular tubercle indicates that the eyes may have additional chemo- or mechanosensory function facilitating orientation at the vent field by means of the frontal tubercle. If so, the tubercle may represent a sensory mechanism alternative to the photoreceptory dorsal organ of other Alvinocarididae. Distal movable spines on the merus of third and fourth pereopods (characters 45 and 51) are present in Alvinocaridinae, potentially enabling more efficient prey catching and sorting and processing the organic particles which the species live on.

**Classification of Alvinocarididae**

**Subfamily Mirocardinae, subfam. nov**

_urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:1383E6D1-E57C-4EA0-8CD2-F0CDE9767A97_

**Diagnosis.** Carapace dorsally smooth, without postrostral carina; dorsal organ conspicuous; telson bearing 12–19 strong spines. Eyes partly fused, anterior margin of cornea without developed tubercle; epipods of first to fourth pereopods strap-like, terminating in a hook; meri of third and fourth pereopods without movable spines; appendix interna in pleopods II–V much reduced.

**Type genus.** *Mirocaris* Vereshchaka, 1997 [12], by original designation.

**Genera included.** *Mirocaris* Vereshchaka, 1997 [12], *Nautilocaris* Komai, Segonzac, 2004 [14].

**Remarks.** The type species of the genus *Mirocaris* is *M. keldyshi*, a junior subjective synonym of *Chorocaris fortunata*. Although the generic status of *Mirocaris* has largely been supported, the family Mirocarididae Vereshchaka, 1997 has not been recognized, but is herein
resurrected at subfamily level [19]. Molecular data have been previously indicating high status of *Mirocaris* [17].

**Genus Mirocaris Vereshchaka, 1997 [12]**

**Diagnosis.** Rostrum dorsoventrally compressed, not reaching end of first antennular segment, apically obtuse, dorsally and ventrally not carinate, smooth; carapace with antennal angle acute, pterygostomial tooth present; dorsal organ restricted to postorbital region; third abdominal segment not serrated; telson with sinuous row of movable dorsolateral spines. Anterior margin of cornea without tubercle; scaphognathite not much expanded, without heavily plumose bacteriophore setae; third maxilliped with distal movable spine on antepenultimate segment; first pereopod with grooming apparatus; second pereopod with a distal movable spine on ischium; ischia of third to fifth pereopods with or without movable spines; dactyli of third to fifth pereopods with a single row of accessory spinules; uropodal exopod with a single movable spine mesial to posterolateral tooth.

**Type species.** *Mirocaris keldyshi* Vereshchaka, 1997 (junior subjective synonym of Chorocaris fortunata Martin & Christiansen, 1995) [62].

**Species included.** *Mirocaris fortunata* (Martin, Christiansen, 1995) [62], *Mirocaris indica* Komai, Martin, Zala, Tsuchida, Hashimoto, 2006 [63].

**Remarks.** The genus includes 2 species, one from the Atlantic, and the other from the Indian Ocean. Both species are so similar in morphology that supporting molecular data are necessary to prove the validity of *M. indica*. We keep here, however, a conservative approach and recognize both species.

**Genus Nautilocaris Komai, Segonzac, 2004 [14]**

**Diagnosis.** Rostrum dorsoventrally compressed, overreaching end of first antennular segment, apically acute, dorsally not carinate, toothed, ventrally smooth; carapace with antennal angle acute, pterygostomial tooth present; dorsal organ restricted to postorbital region; third abdominal segment serrated; telson with sinuous row of movable dorsolateral spines. Anterior margin of cornea without tubercle; scaphognathite not much expanded, without heavily plumose bacteriophore setae; third maxilliped with a distal movable spine on antepenultimate segment; first pereopod with grooming apparatus; second pereopod with distal movable spine on ischium; ischia of third to fifth pereopods with or without movable spines; dactyli of third to fifth pereopods with a single row of accessory spinules; uropodal exopod with a single movable spine mesial to posterolateral tooth.

**Type species.** *Nautilocaris saintlaurentae* Komai & Segonzac, 2004 [14], by monotypy.

**Species included.** *Nautilocaris saintlaurentae* Komai & Segonzac, 2004 [14].

**Remarks.** *Nautilocaris* differs from the closely related genus *Mirocaris* in having a longer and denticulate rostrum and in the serrated pleura of the third abdominal somite.

**Subfamily Rimicaridinae, subfam.nov**

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:1E84ACE4-B031-43BA-8B91-CD0AFB4DBF77

**Diagnosis.** Carapace dorsally smooth, without postrostral carina; dorsal organ conspicuous; telson bearing 12–19 strong spines. Eyes fused entirely, anterior margin of cornea without developed tubercle; epipods of first to fourth pereopods rudimentary; meri of third and fourth pereopods without movable spines; appendix interna in pleopods II–V developed.

**Type genus.** *Rimicaris* Williams & Rona, 1986 [9], by present designation.
Genera included. *Alvinocaridinides* Komai & Chan, 2010 [2], *Manuscaris* Komai & Tsuchida, 2015 [21], *Opaepele* Williams & Dobbs, 1995 [11], *Rimicaris* Williams & Rona, 1986 [9], and *Shinkaicaris* Komai & Segonzac, 2005 [13].

**Genus Alvinocaridinides** Komai & Chan, 2010 [2]

**Diagnosis.** Rostrum dorsoventrally compressed, not reaching end of first antennular segment, apically blunt, dorsally toothed, ventrally smooth; carapace dorsally smooth, antennal angle acute, pterygostomial tooth present; dorsal organ restricted to postorbital region; third abdominal segment not serrated; telson with sinuous row of movable dorsolateral spines, posterior margin bearing 4 strong spines. Anterior margin of cornea without tubercle; scaphognathite not much expanded, without heavily plumose bacteriophage setae; third maxilliped with 1 distal movable spine on antepenultimate segment; epipods of first to fourth pereopods rudimentary; first pereopod with grooming apparatus; second pereopod without distal movable spine on ischium; ischia of third to fifth pereopods with or without movable spines; dactyls of third to fifth pereopods with two or more rows of accessory spinules; appendix interna in pleopods II-V developed; uropodal exopod with a single movable spine mesial to posterolateral tooth.

**Type species.** *Alvinocaridinides formosa* Komai & Chan, 2010 [2], by original designation and monotypy.

**Species included.** *Alvinocaridinides formosa* Komai & Chan, 2010.

**Remarks.** Komai and Chan [2] established this genus for a single new species, *A. formosa*. Our analyses support the validity of this genus.

**Manuscaris** Komai & Tsuchida, 2015 [21]

**Diagnosis.** Rostrum laterally compressed, reaching end of first antennular segment, apically acute, dorsally carinate, toothed, ventrally smooth; carapace dorsally toothed, pterygostomial tooth present; third abdominal segment serrated; telson with linear row of movable dorsolateral spines, posterior margin bearing 2–4 strong spines. Anterior margin of cornea without tubercle; scaphognathite not much expanded, without heavily plumose bacteriophage setae; third maxilliped with a distal movable spine on antepenultimate segment; epipods of first to fourth pereopods rudimentary; first pereopod with grooming apparatus; second pereopod with distal movable spine on ischium; ischia of third to fifth pereopods with or without movable spines; dactyls of third to fifth pereopods with two or more rows of accessory spinules; appendix interna in pleopods II-V developed; uropodal exopod with a single movable spine mesial to posterolateral tooth.

**Type species.** *Manuscaris acuminata* Komai and Tsuchida, 2015, by monotypy.

**Species included.** *Manuscaris acuminata* Komai and Tsuchida, 2015 [21].

**Remarks.** This genus was recently erected [21] and our analyses support its validity.

**Opaepele** Williams and Dobbs, 1995 [11]

**Diagnosis.** Rostrum dorsoventrally compressed, not reaching end of first antennular segment, apically blunt, dorsally and ventrally not carinate, notched or smooth; carapace dorsally smooth, antennal angle acute, pterygostomial tooth present; dorsal organ restricted to postorbital region; third abdominal segment serrated; telson with sinuous row of movable dorsolateral spines, posterior margin bearing 2–4 strong spines. Anterior margin of cornea without tubercle; scaphognathite not much expanded, without heavily plumose bacteriophage setae; third maxilliped with a distal movable spine on antepenultimate segment; epipods of first to fourth pereopods rudimentary; first pereopod with grooming apparatus; second pereopod...
without distal movable spine on ischium; ischia of third to fifth pereopods without movable spines; dactyli of third to fifth pereopods with two or more rows of accessory spines; appendix interna in pleopods II–V developed; uropodal exopod with a single movable spine mesial to posterolateral tooth.

**Type species.** *Opaepele loihi* Williams, Dobbs, by monotypy.

**Species included.** *Opaepele loihi* Williams, Dobbs, 1995 [11]

**Remarks.** *Opaepele* is herein restricted to the type species only, *O. loihi*. *Opaepele susannae* has been recently transferred to *Chorocaris* [21] and our analyses confirm this decision. *Opaepele vavilovi* is transferred to a new genus, *Keldyshicaris* (see below).

**Genus Rimicaris** Williams & Rona, 1986 [9]

**Diagnosis.** Rostrum if present dorsoventrally compressed, not reaching end of first antennular segment, apically obtuse, dorsally and ventrally not carinate, smooth; carapace dorsally smooth, antennal angle blunt or acute, pterygostomial tooth present or absent; dorsal organ extending beyond the postorbital region; third abdominal segment smooth or serrated; telson with sinuous row of movable dorsolateral spines, posterior margin bearing 2–4 strong spines. Eyes fused entirely, anterior margin of cornea without developed tubercle; scaphognathite expanded, with or without heavily plumose bacteriophage setae; third maxilliped with 0–2 distal movable spines on antepenultimate segment; epipods of first to fourth pereopods rudimentary; first pereopod with or without grooming apparatus; second pereopod without distal movable spine on ischium; ischia of third to fifth pereopods with or without movable spines; dactyli of third to fifth pereopods with two or more rows of accessory spines; appendix interna in pleopods II–V developed; uropodal exopod with two movable spines mesial to posterolateral tooth.

**Type species.** *Rimicaris exoculata* Williams & Rona, 1986 [9], by original designation.

**Species included.** *Rimicaris chacei* (Williams, Rona, 1986) [9], *Rimicaris exoculata* Williams, Rona, 1986, *Rimicaris hybisae* Nye, Copley, Plouviez, 2012 [3], *Rimicaris kairei* Watabe, Hashimoto, 2002 [64], *Rimicaris parva* (Komai, Tsuchida) [21], *Rimicaris paulexa* (Martin, Shank, 2005) [65], *Rimicaris susannae* (Komai, Giere, Segonzac, 2007) [66], *Rimicaris vandoverae* (Martin, Hessler, 1990) [10], and *Rimicaris variabilis* (Komai, Tsuchida) [21].

**Remarks.** The genus includes all species of the former genera *Chorocaris* sensu Komai and Tsuchida [21] and *Rimicaris*.

*Rimicaris exoculata* from the Atlantic and *R. kairei* from the Indian Ocean are very similar in morphology and are not statistically distinct on the molecular tree (Fig 6A). We keep a conservative approach and recognize both species, while pointing out a need of additional research to confirm their validity.

*Rimicaris vandoverae* and *R. paulexa* are so similar morphologically that it is impossible to articulate sharp distinctions between them. The species are geographically isolated and the minor morphological distinctions may refer to an inter-population difference rather than to an inter-specific variability. Molecular data (now missing for *R. paulexa*) will help in understanding the status of these species.

As stated above, *R. chacei* may include at least two cryptic species. New sequences are desirable to clarify this situation.

**Genus Shinkaicaris** Komai & Segonzac, 2005 [13]

**Diagnosis.** Rostrum laterally compressed, overreaching end of first antennular segment, apically acute, dorsally carinate, toothed, ventrally smooth; carapace dorsally toothed, antennal angle acute, pterygostomial tooth present; dorsal organ restricted to postorbital region; third
abdominal segment not serrated; telson with sinuous row of movable dorsolateral spines, posterior margin bearing 2–4 strong spines. Anterior margin of cornea without tubercle; scaphognathite not much expanded, without heavily plumose bacteriophore setae; third maxilliped with a distal movable spine on antepenultimate segment; epipods of first to fourth pereopods rudimentary; first pereopod with grooming apparatus; second pereopod without distal movable spine on ischium; ischia of third to fifth pereopods without movable spines; dactyli of third to fifth pereopods with two or more rows of accessory spines; appendix interna in pleopods II–V developed; uropodal exopod with a single movable spine mesial to posterolateral tooth.

**Type species.** *Alvinocaris leurokolos* Kikuchi & Hashimoto, 2000 [67], by monotypy.

**Genera included.** *Shinkacidaris leurokolos* Kikuchi, Hashimoto, 2000.

**Remarks.** Our analyses support the validity of the genus.

### Subfamily Alvinocaridinae, subfam. nov

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:87404656-6EDE-490E-A8E5-0F2464B370A7

**Diagnosis.** Rostrum laterally compressed, overreaching end of first antennular segment, apically acute, dorsally carinate and toothed, ventrally carinate, toothed or smooth; carapace dorsally toothed or smooth, with postrostral carina extending beyond midlength of carapace, antennal angle acute, pterygostomial tooth present; dorsal organ inconspicuous; third abdominal segment smooth or serrated; telson with linear row of movable dorsolateral spines, posterior margin convex or concave, bearing 4–18 strong spines. Eye partly fused, anterior margin of cornea with developed tubercle; scaphognathite not much expanded, without heavily plumose bacteriophore setae; third maxilliped with 1–2 distal movable spines on antepenultimate segment; epipods of first to fourth pereopods rudimentary; first pereopod with grooming apparatus; second pereopod with distal movable spines on ischium; meri of third and fourth pereopods with movable spines; ischia of third to fifth pereopods with movable spines; dactyli of third to fifth pereopods with a single row of accessory spines; appendix interna in pleopods II–V developed; uropodal exopod with a single movable spine mesial to posterolateral tooth.

**Type genus.** *Alvinocaris* Williams, Chace, 1982 [8], by present designation

**Genera included.** *Alvinocaris* Williams, Chace, 1982 [8].

### Genus Alvinocaris Williams, Chace, 1982 [8]

**Diagnosis.** As in subfamily.

**Type species.** *Alvinocaris lusca* Williams, Chace, 1982 [8], by monotypy.

**Species included.** *Alvinocaris alexander* Ahyong, 2009 [38], *A. brevitelsonis* Kikuchi, Hashimoto, 2000 [67], *A. chelys* Komai, Chan, 2010 [2], *A. dissimilis* Komai, Segonzac, 2005 [13], *A. komaii* Zelnio, Hourdez, 2009 [18], *A. longirostris* Kikuchi, Ohta, 1995 [7], *A. lusca* Williams, Chace, 1982 [8], *A. markensis* Williams, 1988 [68], *A. methanophila* Komai, Shank, Van Dover, 2005 [69], *A. muricola* Williams, 1988 [68], *A. niwa* Webber, 2004 [70], *A. solitaire* Yahagi, Watanabe, Kojima, Beedessee, Komai, 2014 [71], *A. stactophila* Williams, 1988 [68], *A. williamsi* Shank, Martin, 2003 [70].

**Remarks.** Molecular data indicate a presence of three species groups at least: (1) *A. komaii*, (2) *A. solitaire*, *A. markensis*, *A. muricola*, *A. lusca*, *A. longirostris*, and (3) *A. dissimilis*, *A. stactophila*, *Alvinocaris chelis*. Morphological analyses do not provide robust clades within *Alvinocaris*.

### Keldyshicaris gen.nov

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:4D7D81BC-2C9A-45A0-93EC-D276E33FA174
Diagnosis. Rostrum dorsoventrally compressed, not reaching end of first antennular segment, apically blunt, dorsally not carinate, dorsally and ventrally notched; carapace dorsally smooth, antennal angle acute, pterygostomial tooth present; dorsal organ restricted to postorbital region; third abdominal segment serrated; telson with linear row of movable dorsolateral spines, posterior margin bearing 2–4 strong spines. Anterior margin of cornea with rudimentary tubercle; scaphognathite not much expanded, without heavily plumose bacteriophore setae; third maxilliped with a distal movable spine on antepenultimate segment; epipods of first to fourth pereopods rudimentary; first pereopod with grooming apparatus; second pereopod with distal movable spine on ischium; dactyli of third to fifth pereopods with two or more rows of accessory spinules; appendix interna in pleopods II-V developed; uropodal exopod with a single movable spine mesial to posterolateral tooth.

Type species. *Opaepele vavilovi* Lunina and Vereshchaka, 2010.

Species included. *Keldyshicaris vavilovi* (Lunina and Vereshchaka, 2010) [20].

Etymology. Named after the Russian R/V ”Akademik Mstislav Keldysh” which significantly contributed to the studies of vent fauna.

Remarks. The proper position and status of *Keldyshicaris* within Alvinocarididae remains uncertain.

Key to subfamilies, genera, and species of Alvinocarididae (Table 5)

Table 5.

| 1. Carapace with conspicuous postrostral carina extending beyond the midlength; no conspicuous dorsal organ. Meri of pereopods III-IV with strong movable spines | 2 (subfamily Alvinocaridinae, Alvinocaris) |
|---|---|
| - Carapace without conspicuous postrostral carina extending beyond the midlength; dorsal organ conspicuous; Meri of pereopods III-IV without strong movable spines | 13 |
| 2. Dorsal teeth present only on rostrum | *Alvinocaris niwa* |
| - Dorsal teeth both on rostrum and on carapace | 3 |
| 3. Telson with 2–4 strong spines on posterior margin | 4 |
| - Telson with 6 or more strong spines on posterior margin | 8 |
| 4. No strong movable spines on ischium of fourth pereopods | *Alvinocaris chelys* |
| - Ischium of fourth pereopod with strong movable spines | 5 |
| 5. Rostrum not reaching end of second antennular segment | *A. methanophyla* in the Atlantic and *A. alexander* in the Pacific Ocean |
| - Rostrum overreaching end of second antennular segment | 6 |
| 6. Ventral margin of rostrum with 1–2 small subdistal teeth | *Alvinocaris dissimilis* |
| - Ventral margin of rostrum with 3 or more teeth | 7 |
| 7. Posterior margin of telson with >2 pairs of spines | *Alvinocaris brevitelsonis* |
| - Posterior margin of telson with 2 pairs of spines at lateral corners and 12–14 plumose setae | *A. muricola* in the Atlantic and *A. longirostris* in the Pacific Ocean |
| 8. Posterior margin of telson concave | 9 |
| - Posterior margin of telson convex | 11 |
| 9. Pleura of third abdominal somite smooth; posterior margin of telson bilobed; dactyli of third to fifth pereopods with two or more rows of accessory spinules | *Alvinocaris komai* |
| - Pleura of third abdominal somite serrated; posterior margin of telson slightly concave; dactyli of third to fifth pereopods with a single row of accessory spinules | 10 |
| 10. Rostrum not reaching end of second antennular segment, with 3 or more ventral teeth | *Alvinocaris markensis* |
| - Rostrum overreaching end of second antennular segment, with 1–2 ventral teeth | *Alvinocaris solitaire* |
| 11. Rostrum with ventral teeth | 12 |

(Continued)
Table 5. (Continued)

| Description                                                                 | Species                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| - No ventral teeth on rostrum                                             | Alvinocaris williamsi                                        |
| 12. Rostrum with a single ventral tooth. Carapace with 6–10 dorsal teeth  | Alvinocaris stactophyla                                      |
| - Rostrum with 2–6 ventral teeth. Carapace with 1–5 dorsal teeth          | Alvinocaris lusca                                            |
| 13. Epipods of first to fourth pereopods developed, strap-like, ending in | 14 (subfamily Mirocaridinae)                                 |
| hook; appendices internae of second to fourth pereopods rudimentary       |                                                              |
| - Epipods of first to fourth pereopods rudimentary, not strap-like, ending| 15 (subfamily Rimicaridinae)                                 |
| in hook; appendices internae of second to fourth pereopods normally       |                                                              |
| developed                                                                 |                                                              |
| 14. Rostrum not reaching end of first antennular segment, dorsally        | Mirocaris (M. fortunata in the Atlantic, M. indica in the     |
| smooth. Pleura of third abdominal somite smooth                            | Indian Ocean)                                               |
| - Rostrum overreaching end of first antennular segment, with dorsal teeth | Nautilocaris, the only species N. saintlaurentae             |
| pleura of third abdominal somite serrate                                  |                                                              |
| 15. Rostrum overreaching end of 1st antennular segment, carapace with     | 16                                                           |
| dorsal teeth                                                               |                                                              |
| - Rostrum not reaching end of 1st antennular segment, carapace without    | 17                                                           |
| dorsal teeth                                                              |                                                              |
| 16. Rostrum and carapace bearing a total of 11 or more dorsal teeth;     | genus Manuscaris, the only species Manuscaris acuminata      |
| pleura of third abdominal somite serrate; row of dorsolateral spines on  |                                                              |
| telson linear; ischia of third and fourth pereopods with movable spines   |                                                              |
| Rostrum and carapace bearing a total of 10 or less dorsal teeth; pleura   | Shinkaiacaris, the only species Shinkaiacaris leurokolan     |
| of third abdominal somite not serrate; row of dorsolateral spines on      |                                                              |
| telson sinuous; ischia of third and fourth pereopods without movable      |                                                              |
| spines                                                                     |                                                              |
| 17. Rostrum with dorsal teeth or notches; dorsal organ restricted to       | 18                                                           |
| postorbital region; uropodal exopod with a single movable spine mesial    |                                                              |
| to postero-lateral tooth.                                                  |                                                              |
| - Rostrum without dorsal teeth or notches; dorsal organ extending beyond  | 20 (genus Rimicaris)                                         |
| postorbital region; uropodal exopod with two movable spines mesial to     |                                                              |
| postero-lateral tooth                                                     |                                                              |
| 18. Rostrum with acute tip, bearing >10 dorsal teeth, ventrally unarmad;  | Alvinocaridinides, the only species Alvinocaridinides         |
| pleura of third abdominal somite not serrate                              | formosa.                                                     |
| - Rostrum with blunt tip, bearing <10 dorsal notches, ventrally armed     |                                                              |
| 19. Telson with sinuous row of dorsolateral spines and 2–4 spines on      | Opaepele, the only species Opaepele loihi.                   |
| posterior margin; cornea without anterior tubercle; ischia of third and    |                                                              |
| fifth pereopods without strong movable spines; dactyl of third to fifth   |                                                              |
| pereopods with two or more rows of accessory spinules                      |                                                              |
| - Telson with linear row of dorsolateral spines and >10 spines on         | Keldyshicaris, the only species Keldyshicaris vavilovi       |
| posterior margin; cornea with anterior tubercle; ischia of third and fifth|                                                              |
| pereopods with strong movable spines; dactyl of third to fifth pereopods  |                                                              |
| with a single row of accessory spinules                                   |                                                              |
| 20. Carapace width not exceeding carapace height in adults; dorsal organ   | 21                                                           |
| nearly entire; scaphognathite without heavily plumose bacteriophore       |                                                              |
| setae                                                                       |                                                              |
| - Carapace width exceeding carapace height in adults; dorsal organ four-   | 25                                                           |
| lobed; scaphognathite with heavily plumose bacteriophore setae             |                                                              |
| 21. Dactyl of third to fifth pereopods with two rows of accessory          | 22                                                           |
| spinules                                                                   |                                                              |
| - Dactyl of third to fifth pereopods with 3–4 rows of accessory spinules  | 23                                                           |
| 22. Pleura of fourth and fifth abdominal somites not serrated              |                                                              |
| - Pleura of fourth and fifth abdominal somites serrated                    | Chorocaris parva                                             |
| 23. Pterigostomial tooth absent                                            | Chorocaris chacei                                            |
| - Pterigostomial tooth present                                             | 24                                                           |
| 24. Pleura of fourth and fifth abdominal somites serrated                  | Chorocaris variabilis                                        |
| - Pleura of fourth and fifth abdominal somites not serrated                |                                                              |
| 25. Rostrum short but conspicuous; dorsal organ with a pore;              | Chorocaris vandoverae from the Mariana Back Arc Basin and    |
| antepenultimate segment of third maxilliped with 1–2 distal movable       | Chorocaris paulexa from the East Pacific Rise               |
| spines                                                                     |                                                              |
| - Rostrum absent; dorsal organ without pores; antepenultimate segment of  | R. exoculata–R. kairei complex (R. exoculata in the Atlantic, |
| third maxilliped without distal movable spines                            | R. kairei in the Indian Ocean)                               |

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Author Contributions

Analyzed the data: AV DK AL. Wrote the paper: AV DK.

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