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1 REVALIDATION OF CARIDINA NATALENSIS

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3	Revalidation of <i>Caridina natalensis</i> De Man, 1908 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Atyidae) in the
4	South Western Indian Ocean.
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7	
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15	
16	Abstract
17	Numerous specimens of a freshwater shrimp with small eggs belonging to the Caridina nilotica complex
18	collected in the South Western Indian Ocean were studied and compared with recent and old collection specimens
19	genetically (16S mitochondrial analysis for recent and type specimens) and morphologically. The results revealed
20	that, in the Indian Ocean, what has been identified by several authors under various species names of the complex
21	C. nilotica, was in fact C. natalensis De Man, 1908. This valid species is re-described and compared with closely
22	related species, often confused with it in this area: C. brachydactyla De Man, 1908, C. brevidactyla Roux, 1920,
23	C. gracilipes De Man, 1892 and C. longirostris H. Milne Edwards, 1837.
24	
25	Keywords: Caridina, Integrative taxonomy, 16S, Morphology, South Africa, Seychelles, Comoros, Madagascar,
26	Mayotte
27	
28	Introduction
29	From 1991 to 2010, several South West Indian Ocean islands were prospected by field trips conducted
30	by the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (MNHN) in Mascarenes archipelago (Reunion, Mauritius and
31	Rodrigues; see Keith et al. 1999 and Keith et al. 2006), in Comoros (Anjouan, Mohéli) and Mayotte (see Keith
32	et al. 2006) and in Seychelles (La Digue, Mahé, Praslin and Silhouette; see Keith et al. 2006). In 2008 and 2010
33	the MNHN conducted also freshwater inventories in the Northeastern rivers of Madagascar, for the DIAMSOI

34 (Diversité des AMphihalins du Sud-Ouest de l'Océan Indien) program. Recently two of us (GM and MM, in

- 35 February 2018) collected various *Caridina* from South Africa. During these prospections, numerous specimens
- 36 of freshwater shrimps with small eggs belonging to the "*Caridina nilotica* complex" were collected.

De Man (1908) compared all the specimens he received from all the Indo-Pacific area, related to the *C*.
 nilotica complex with type material and recognized nine varieties. Four of those with small eggs were then
 reported as occurring in the Indian Ocean: *C. nilotica brachydactyla*, *C. n. longirostris*, *C. n. gracilipes* and *C. n.*

40 *natalensis*. Later, Roux (1920) described *C. n. brevidactyla* and reported it from the Indian Ocean (1929). The

41 first three are considered valid species (Cai & Shokita2006 Cai & Ng, 2001; Richard & Clark 2014), respectively

- 42 C. brachydactyla De Man, 1908, C. longirostris H. Milne Edwards, 1837 and C. gracilipes De Man, 1892,
- 43 whereas C. n. natalensis and C. n. brevidactyla are currently junior synonyms of C. brachydactyla (Richard &

44 Clark, 2010).

Caridina brachydactyla was originally described from Mbawa (Flores) and from Palopo, (Celebes) (De
Man, 1908). According to Lenz (1910) *C. brachydactyla* occurs in Madagascar, Mohéli and Mayotte (Comoros
Islands). Costa (1980) identified *C. brachydactyla brachydactyla* from Seychelles, Mauritius, Comoros and
Reunion islands. More recently, Richard & Clark (2010) have identified *C. brachydactyla*, for the first time,
from Africa (Tanzania, South Africa).

50 *Caridina longirostris* was originally described supposedly from the river Macta, near Oran, Algeria, 51 however, authors like Bouvier (1925) have suggested that this locality indication is erroneous. The types would 52 more likely be coming from Egypt (unpublished data). Richters (1880) identified *C. longirostris* from 53 Seychelles; Holthuis (1965) identified *C. longirostris* from Madagascar, so did Gurney (1984) and Short & 54 Doumenq (2003). Keith *et al.* (2006) reported *C. longirostris* from Comoros, Mascarenes archipelago and 55 Seychelles.

Caridina gracilipes was originally described from Maros (Celebes). According to Lenz (1910) C.
 gracilipes occurs in Mohéli and Madagascar.

58 Caridina n. natalensis De Man, 1908 was described from specimens collected in the river Umgeni, 59 Natal (South Africa) in November 1894. They were wrongly referred by Weber (1897) to C. wyckii (Hickson, 60 1888) and considered by De Man (1908) as a distinct variety of C. nilotica, C. nilotica natalensis. Lenz (1912) 61 also identified C. nilotica var. natalensis near Amawzentoti (Natal, correct spelling: Amanzimtoti) and Bouvier 62 (1925) in the river Tiwi, 20km south of Mombasa (Kenya) and in the river Imanambo in Madagascar. In his key 63 for the South African species and varieties, Barnard (1950) listed C. nilotica var. natalensis with small eggs 64 (0.42-0.46 mm major axis). Recently, according to Richard & Clark (2010), C. n. natalensis was not considered 65 as a valid species but as a junior synonym of C. brachydactyla. However, Klotz & De Grave (2015) predicted 66 that C. n. natalensis should be resurrected for certain African populations, but they were lacking data to 67 effectively do it.

Caridina n. brevidactyla Roux, 1920 described from the Aru Islands, Indonesia, occurs also in
 Madagascar according to Roux (1929). Richard & Clark (2010) considered that *C. nilotica brevidactyla* was also
 a junior synonym of *C. brachydactyla* in contrast of Cai & Ng (2001) who considered it as a valid species.

71 Comparing the new material collected by the MNHN in the South West Indian Ocean to the old collections, the 72 first aim of the present work is to review the status of *C. n. natalensis*, currently a junior synonym of *C.* 73 *brachydactyla*, and provide additional taxonomic information about their respective morphologies and 74 distributions. The second aim of this study is to re-examine existing material and descriptions related to all the 75 species of the *C. nilotica* complex that have historically been reported as occurring in the Western Indian Ocean.

- 76
- 77 Material and Methods
- 78 Field collection data

All specimens were collected in Indian Ocean islands by electrofishing (portable Dekka 3,000 electric device,
 Germany) and by hand nets in South Africa. In the field, caught specimens were fixed in 75%. All material has
 been deposited in the collections of the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (MNHN) or Albany Museum in

- 82 Grahamstown (South Africa).
- 83

Abbreviations for museums. Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris: MNHN; Naturhistorisches Museum
 Basel, Basel: NMB; Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie (now in the Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden):
 RMNH; Zoological Museum Amsterdam (now in the Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden): ZMA.

87

Abbreviations for morphological analyses. The following abbreviations are used in the present text: cl, carapace
 length (mm): measured from the post-orbital margin to the posterior margin of the carapace. P1: first pereiopod.
 P2: second pereiopod. P3: third pereiopod. P5: fifth pereiopod. P11: first pleopod. P112: second pleopod.

91

92 Morphological comparison. The rostrum, the general cephalon, the pereiopods 1, 2, 3 and 5 and the abdomen 93 were observed using a stereoscopic microscope. The proportions of the various joints of the appendages were 94 measured using microphotographs and the AnalySIS Works software (Olympus). Drawings were made using the 95 "Digital Inking" method (Coleman, 2003, 2006) by tracing vectorial paths on high-resolution photographs using 96 Adobe Illustrator (CS6) and a WACOM MPTZ-1230 graphic tablet.

97

98 DNA extraction, amplification and sequencing. For recent specimens, DNA was extracted from abdominal 99 tissues using the semi-automatic Ependorf ep-Motion 5075 robot. Fragments of the mitochondrial 16S rRNA (~ 100 520 bp) were amplified using the newly designed primers 16Sar-Lmod (TACTTCTGCCTGTTTATCAAAAA) 101 and 16Sbmod (GGTCTGAACTCAAATCATGTAAA). DNA amplification was performed in 20µl PCR 102 reactions, containing approximately 3 ng of template DNA, 2.5 mM MgCl2, 0.26 mM of each nucleotide, 0.3 103 uM of each primer, 5% DMSO, 1 ng of BSA and 1.5 units of OBIOTAO polymerase (MPBiomedicals). 104 Amplification products were generated by an initial denaturation step of 4 min at 94°C followed by 35 cycles of 105 denaturation at 94°C for 30 sec, annealing at 52°C for 40 sec, extension at 72°C for 60 sec and a final extension 106 step at 72°C for 7 min. 107 For old collection specimens (Type and non-type specimens of C. brachydactyla, C. brevidactyla, C. gracilipes,

108 C. longirostris and C. natalensis), a CTAB protocol was used to extract DNA from pleopods. A shorter fragment 109 of the 16S rRNA (332 bp) was amplified using the newly designed primers 16S-Car-81F 110 (AGGTAGCATAATAAATAGTC) and 16S-Car-413R (CTGTTATCCCTAAAGTAAC). If these primers 111 could not amplify successfully, another Reverse primer was designed and used to try amplifying a shorter 112 fragment (141 bp): 16S-Car-222R (CTTTATAGGGTCTTATCGT). DNA amplification was performed in 20ul 113 PCR reactions, containing 2.5 mM MgCl2, 0.26 mM of each nucleotide, 0.3 µM of each primer, 1 ng of BSA 114 and 1.5 units of QBIOTAQ polymerase (MPBiomedicals). Amplification products were generated by an initial 115 denaturation step of 4 min at 94°C followed by 45 cycles of denaturation at 94°C for 30 sec, annealing at 55°C 116 for 30 sec, extension at 72°C for 40 sec and a final extension step at 72°C for 7 min.

117 PCR products were sequenced using the same primers and in both directions to insure the accuracy of base calls.

- 118 Chromatograms were edited using Geneious v.8 software (<u>http://www.geneious.com/</u> Kearse *et al.* 2012). All 119 new sequences were deposited in GenBank (Table 1, Numbers MH644413 to MH644429).
- 120

121 (Table 1)

122

123 Molecular analyses DNA sequences were aligned using MEGA7 software (Kumar et al. 2016) with Muscle 124 algorithm (Edgar, 2004). Using Bayesian information criterion in jModelTest (Darriba et al. 2012; Guindon and 125 Gascuel, 2003) we retained the GTR + G model. Best-scoring ML trees were estimated using RAxML HPC2 126 v.8.2.10 (Stamatakis, 2014) and best-scoring Bayesian Inference trees were estimated using MrBayes v.3.2.6 127 (Ronquist and Huelsenbeck, 2003), both methods implemented in the Cyber Infrastructure for Phylogenetic 128 Research (CIPRES) portal v.3.1. (Miller et al. 2010) (https://www.phylo.org/) with the previously determined 129 model, running for 10,000,000 generations, a sampling frequency of 2,000 and a burn in of 25%. Support for 130 nodes was determined using posterior probabilities calculated by MrBayes implemented in CIPRES. One 131 hundred independent searches, each starting from distinct random trees, were conducted. Robustness of the 132 nodes was assessed using non-parametric bootstrapping (Felsenstein, 1985) with 1,000 bootstrap replicates. We 133 considered a group to be 'moderately supported' if it had a bootstrap support value (B) between 75 and 89% or a 134 posterior probability (PP) between 0.80 and 0.94 and 'highly supported' when $B \ge 90\%$ or $PP \ge 0.95$.

135

136 **Results**

137 Molecular results

138 Due to their old age, no DNA in sufficient quantity and quality could be extracted using our method for the type 139 specimens of C. brachydactyla, C. brevidactyla, C. longirostris and C. natalensis, thus, no 16S sequence was 140 amplified for these specimens. However, the approach was successful for type specimens of C. gracilipes and 141 non-type specimen of C. brachydactyla. Furthermore, we tried to obtain recent specimens as close as possible to 142 the type locality for C. brachydactyla (Palopo, Sulawesi, Indonesia) and C. natalensis (Durban, South Africa). 143 Four major clades can be separated in the 16S tree. The first one (A in Fig. 1), highly supported (B = 95% PP = 144 0.99) comprises the specimens of C. brevidactyla and is separated from all the others grouped in a moderately 145 supported clade (PP = 0.89). Within this clade, the specimens of C. brachydactyla (B) cluster together in a 146 highly supported clade (B = 99% PP = 1) away from the others grouped in a moderately supported clade (PP =147 0.84). This clade is split in two, the first one (C), highly supported (B = 100% PP = 1), comprises the type and 148 non-type specimens of C. gracilipes and the other one (D), moderately supported (PP = 0.84) with all the 149 specimens of C. natalensis from different Indian Ocean localities.

- 150
- 151 (Figure 1)
- 152

153 Morphological comparison

154 Our morphological study, confirming the molecular study results, reveals that what has been attributed by

several authors to various species names is in fact *C. natalensis* De Man, 1908. Until now, *C. natalensis* was
considered a synonym of *C. brachydactyla*.

4

157	
158	(Figure 2)
159	
160	Detailed description.
161	Infraorder Caridea Dana, 1852
162	Family Atyidae De Haan, 1849
163	Genus <i>Caridina</i> H. Milne Edwards, 1837
164	Caridina natalensis De Man, 1908
165	Caridina nilotica var. natalensis De Man, 1908: 262-263 pl.20, fig.3, 3a, 3b; Lenz, 1912: 5; Bouvier, 1925:
166	154–155 fig. 320; Barnard, 1950: 655 (key).
167	Caridina longirostris Richters, 1880:162-163 ; Holthuis, 1965: 20-23 fig. 6 ; Keith et al. 2006: 50-51.
168	Caridina nilotica var. brachydactyla Lenz, 1910: 568; Roux, 1929: 303-304 tab.1 no.15.
169	Caridina nilotica var. gracilipes Lenz, 1910: 568.
170	Caridina brachydactyla brachydactyla Costa 1980: 673–700.
171	
172	Material examined
173	Type material:
174	Caridina nilotica natalensis De Man, 1908: SOUTH AFRICA. Lectotype. ZMA.CRUS.D.102886, 19 ovig. cl
175	6.4mm; Umgeni River, Durban, Natal, coll. M. Weber, 1898, det. J.G. De Man. Paralectotypes.
176	ZMA.CRUS.D.102886, 2 ^o ovig. cl 5.7–6.4mm; same data.
177	Caridina nilotica var. brachydactyla De Man, 1908: INDONESIA. Lectotype. RMNH.CRUS.D.977, 1 ^o / ₊ ovig. cl
178	4.8mm; Near Reo, Flores, coll. M. Weber. Paralectotypes. RMNH.CRUS.D.2552, 2♀ ovig. cl 5.3–5.4mm; river
179	near Palopo Luwu, Sulawesi, coll. M. Weber
180	Caridina brevidactyla Roux, 1920: INDONESIA. Lectotype. NMB 4.VI.b 1, 1 d cl 4,8mm; Sungi Manumbai,
181	Wokam Island, Aru, April 14–15,1908. Paralectotypes. NMB 4.VI.a, 18 cl 3.3mm; Aru, Udjir Island, April 15,
182	1908, NMB 4.VI.b, 2 ^{\opencycleft} cl 5.8–6.4mm; Sungi Manumbai, Wokam Island, Aru, April 14–15,1908. NMB 00004
183	VIc, Wokamar, Wokam Island, Aru, April 17, 1908, 19 ovig. 5,7mm; NMB 4.VI.d; 29 ovig. cl 5.7mm, Seltutti,
184	Kobroor Island, Aru, May 2, 1908.
185	Caridina gracilipes De Man, 1892: INDONESIA. Paralectotypes. ZMA.CRUS.D.102635, 1♂ cl 4.1mm (DNA:
186	CA025), 1 ^o ovig. cl 5.9mm (DNA: CA023), 3 ^o cl 5.1mm (DNA: CA027), 5.2mm (DNA:CA024) and 5.6mm;
187	in a rice field, Makassar, Sulawesi, coll. M. Weber, 1888. NMB 1061e, 1♂ 3.8mm; 2♀ cl 5.8-5.9mm; same
188	data.
189	Caridina longirostris H. Milne Edwards, 1837: ALGERIA. Paralectotypes. MNHN-IU-2013-19419, 3 d cl 2.9-
190	3.1mm; from the river Macta, near Oran. MNHN IU-2013-19418, 2 3.2–3.6mm; same data.
191	
192	Non- types :
193	Caridina natalensis KENYA. MNHN-IU-2015-1854, Tiwi river, 20km south of Mombasa. TANZANIA. NHM
194	1982.576, 3♀ ovig. cl 5.5–7.2mm, Ruo Lukuledi, Tanganyika. SOUTH AFRICA. MNHN-IU-2018-61, 1♂ cl
195	3.3mm (DNA: CA2079) and MNHN-IU-2018-62, 1♀ ovig. cl 6.0mm, River Mbanyana, 32°13.123'S

196 28°55.031'E, altitude 9m, coll. Maliwa L., Mlambo M., Marquet G. & Tiberghien, P., February 11, 2018; 197 MNHN-IU-2018-63, 1♀ ovig. cl 6.9mm and MNHN-IU-2018-64, 1♀ ovig. cl 6.8mm, River Umtata, altitude 198 2m, 31°34.144'S, 28°45.523'E, coll. Maliwa L., Mlambo M., Marquet G. & Tiberghien, P., February 13, 2018; 199 MNHN-IU-2018-65, 1♀ ovig. cl 6.3mm and MNHN-IU-2018-66, 1♀ ovig. cl 6.3mm (DNA: CA2083), River 200 Mzumbe, altitude 6m, 30°36.151'S 30°32.817'E, coll. Maliwa L., Mlambo M., Marquet G. & Tiberghien, P., 201 February 16, 2018; MNHN-IU-2018-67, 1♀ovig. cl 6.8mm and MNHN-IU-2018-68, 1♀ovig. cl 7.0mm, River 202 iLovu, altitude 8m, 17°05.858'S 30°49.390'E, coll. Maliwa L., Mlambo M., Marquet G. & Tiberghien, P., 203 February 17, 2018. MAYOTTE. MNHN-IU-2018-69, 1Qovig cl 6.1mm, River Bouyoni, altitude 14m, 204 12°43.966'S 45°8.250'E, coll. ARDA, May 15, 2006; MNHN-IU-2018-70, 1♀ cl 4.5mm and MNHN-IU-2018-205 71, 1♀ cl 6.0mm, River Dembeni, altitude 19m, 12°50.402'S 45°10.461'E, coll. ARDA, November 12, 2003; 206 MNHN-IU-2018-72, River Kwalé, altitude 39m, 12°48'092'S 45°11.520'E, coll. ARDA, November 10, 2003; 207 MNHN-IU-2018-73, 1♀ cl 4.6mm, MNHN-IU-2018-74, MNHN-IU-2018-76 and MNHN-IU-2018-75, 1♀ cl 208 5.2mm, River Soulou, altitude 14m, 12°45.812'S 45°5.951'E, coll. ARDA, November 9, 2003. COMOROS. 209 MNHN-IU-2018-77, 1♀ ovig. cl 3.8mm (DNA: CA1344), River Bwanifunge, Moheli Island, altitude 39m, 210 12°19.642'S, 43°40.240'E, coll. A. Abdou December 30, 2013; MNHN-IU-2018-78, 1♀ ovig. cl 4.5mm (DNA: 211 CA1343), River Mdjawashe, Moheli Island altitude 18m, 12°21.386'S, 43°41.944'E, coll. A. Abdou, December 212 31, 2013. MADAGASCAR. MNHN-IU-2018-79, 1♀ ovig. cl 4.1mm (DNA: CA1035), MNHN-IU-2018-80, 1♀ 213 ovig. 4.8mm (DNA: CA1037), MNHN-IU-2018-81, 1♀ cl 4.3mm and MNHN-IU-2018-82, 1♂ cl 4.8mm, River 214 Ambodiforaha, altitude 9m, 15°43.054'S 49°57.637'E, coll. R. Fara, H. Grondin, G. Marquet, T. Robinet, May 215 15, 2010; MNHN-IU-2018-87, 1♀ ovig cl 3.5mm, MNHN-IU-2018-83, 1♀ ovig cl 5.2mm, MNHN-IU-2018-88 216 1♀ cl 4.0mm, MNHN-IU-2018-85, 1♀ cl 4.0mm, MNHN-IU-2018-86, 1♀ cl 4.3mm and MNHN-IU-2018-84, 217 16 cl 4.0mm, River Andempona, Ampanasanovy estuary, altitude 0m, 14°35.298'S 50°10.105'E, coll. C. Ellien, 218 R. Fara, E. Feunteun, N. Mary, T. Robinet, July 04, 2008; MNHN-IU-2018-89, 1♀ ovig. cl 4.7mm, MNHN-IU-219 2018-90, 1♀ cl 4.7mm, MNHN-IU-2018-92, 1♀ cl 4.9mm, MNHN-IU-2018-91, 1♀ cl 5.5mm, MNHN-IU-220 2018-93, 1♂ cl 3.8mm and MNHN-IU-2018-94, 1♂ cl 4.0mm, River Ankavia, altitude 23m, 14°59.488'S 221 50°11.095'E, coll. C. Ellien, R. Fara, E. Feunteun, N. Mary, T. Robinet, July 03, 2008; MNHN-IU-2018-95, 1♀ 222 ovig. cl 4.0mm, MNHN-IU-2018-96, 1♀ cl 4.8mm, MNHN-IU-2018-97, 1♀ cl 5.5mm and MNHN-IU-2018-98, 223 13 cl 3.0mm, River Fanambana, altitude 11m, 14°33.517'S 50°10.017'E, coll. C. Ellien, R. Fara, E. Feunteun, N. 224 Mary, T. Robinet, July 4, 2008; MNHN-IU-2018-99, 1♀ovig cl 3.9mm (DNA: CA1184) and MNHN-IU-2018-225 100, 1º cl 4.8mm (DNA: CA1185), unknown locality, coll. C. Ellien, R. Fara, E. Feunteun, N. Mary, T. 226 Robinet. SEYCHELLES ISLANDS. MNHN-IU-2017-1445, 12 ovig. cl 4.8mm (DNA: CA1195) and MNHN-IU-227 2017-1446, 1^Q cl 4.8mm (DNA: CA1194), unknown river, Mahé Island, coll. ARDA, November 24, 2004; 228 MNHN-IU-2017-1447, 1^o ovig. cl 4.5mm (DNA: CA1186) and MNHN-IU-2017-1448, 1^o cl 4mm (DNA: 229 CA1187), River Nouvelle Découverte, Praslin Island, altitude 8m, 4°19.304'S 55°42.351'E, coll. ARDA, October 230 08, 2003.; MNHN-IU-2017-1449, 1^o ovig. cl 4.9mm (DNA: CA1197) and MNHN-IU-2017-1450, 1^o cl 231 4.1mm (DNA: CA1196), River Grande Barbe, Silhouette Island, 4°30.052'S 55°13.537'E, coll. ARDA, 232 November 20, 2004. MAURITIUS. MNHN-IU-2017-1451, 1^o ovig. cl 4.2mm, MNHN-IU-2017-1452, 1 juvenile 233 cl 2.3mm, MNHN-IU-2017-1454, 1 juvenile cl 2.4mm and MNHN-IU-2017-1453, 1 juvenile cl 2.6mm;

234 Forested lake, saline, near Camp Poorun, altitude 11m, 20°10.517'S 57°45.767'E, coll. C. R. Turner, December

- 235 11, 2005.
- 236

237 Diagnosis.

- 238 Carapace (Fig. 2m, n, o) smooth, glabrous, with sharp antennal spine placed at lower orbital angle. 239
- Pterygostomian margin rounded. Rostrum rather constantly long, 0.8–1.3 of cl, straight or curved up distally, 240 reaching well beyond scaphocerite. 15-26 dorsal teeth, leaving distally unarmed part of rostrum 0.4-1.2 times
- 241 that of armed part, except for one to three subapical tooth, 1 to 2 post-orbital teeth present. 7–23 teeth present on
- 242 the ventral margin extending from highest part of the rostrum either to tip or with short distal part unarmed.
- 243 Number of dorsal teeth on the rostrum before the most proximal ventral tooth 10-14. Rostral formula: (1-2) 15–
- 244 26 + 1 - 3 / 7 - 23.
- 245 First pereiopod (Fig. 2a): Stout, chela about 1.8–2.4 times as long as wide, dactylus 2.5–6.0 times as long as
- 246 wide, 0.8–1.6 length of palm; carpus 1.7–3.3 times as long as wide with shallow excavation on anterior margin.
- 247 Second pereiopod (Fig. 2b): More slender and longer than first pereiopod. Chela 1.9-3.0 times as long as wide,
- 248 dactylus 3.5–7.0 times as long as wide, 1.1–1.9 times length of palm; carpus 4.3–6.0 times as long as wide.

249 Third pereiopod (Fig. 2c): Dactylus (Fig. 2d): 2.9-4.0 times as long as wide (terminal spine included) with 6-9

- 250 spineson flexor margin in addition to the terminal one; propodus 12.7-18.6 times as long as wide, 4.1-6.6 times 251 as long as dactylus.
- 252 Fifth pereiopod (Fig. 2e): Dactylus (Fig. 2f): 3.0-6.01 times as long as wide with 31-61 spiniform setae on
- 253 flexor margin; propodus 15.2–22.0 times as long as wide, 4.3–5.7 as long as dactylus.
- 254 First male pleopod (Fig. 2k): Endopod leaf-like with a developped appendix interna in males.
- 255 Second male pleopod (Fig. 21): Appendix masculina on second pleopod reaching 0.52 times length of endopod;
- 256 appendix interna reaching about 0.84 times length of appendix masculina.
- 257 Egg size (Fig. 2j): $0.35-0.46 \times 0.22-0.29$ mm.
- 258 Preanal carina (Fig. 2h): with a strong spine.
- 259 Telson (Fig. 2i): ending triangular with a posteromedian projection; 1 pair of longer lateral simple setae and 2 to
- 260 3 pairs of shorter intermediate simple setae shorter or slightly longer.
- 261 Uropodal diaeresis (Fig. 2g): with 9–14 short spinules.
- 262 263
- 264 Colour pattern. Colours (Fig. 3) vary and tend to match the substrate the shrimp lives on. The body can vary 265 from hyaline to brownish with red dots, with sometimes a large red border on the ventral side of the rostrum. An 266 oblique brown or carmine red band on the cephalothorax is very characteristic. The coloration is lost on 267 preserved animals.
- 268
- 269 (Figure 3)
- 270
- 271 Habitat. All specimens were collected in the lower course of rivers, (altitude 5-25 m), among macrophytes in 272
- running water.
- 273

274	Distribution. C. natalensis occurs in Comoros (Anjouan, Mohéli), Mayotte, Seychelles (La Digue, Mahé,							
275	Praslin and Silhouette), Mauritius, in Madagascar and South Africa. Present before in Reunion Island (Costa							
276	1980; Kiener & Duchochois 1981) this species seems now absent despite extensive propspections made there							
277	since (Fig. 4).							
278								
279	(Figure 4)							
280								
281	Key for studied species							
282	1.1 Preanal carina with spine							
283	1.2 Preanal carina unarmedC. brevidactyla							
284								
285	2.1 P1 carpus greater than 1.9 times as long as wide and P2 carpus mostly than							
286	4.3							
287	2.2 P1 carpus less than 1.8 (1.4–1.8) times as long as wide and P2 carpus than 4.2							
288 289	4.2C. longirostris							
289	3.1 P1 Chela greater than 2.1 times (2.1–2.3) as long as wide; P3 dactylus with mostly 5-6 spines (5–7) on flexor							
291	margin in addition to the terminal one							
292	P1 Chela less than 2.1 times as long; P3 dactylus with mostly 6–9 spines on flexor margin in addition to the							
293	terminal one							
294								
295	4.1 P5 propodus 4.3–5.7 as long as dactylusC. natalensis							
296	4.2 P5 propodus mostly 3.4–4.1 (3.4–5.8) as long as dactylusC. gracilipes							
297								
298								
299								
300	Discussion							
301								
302	Caridina natalensis, not a junior synonym of C. brachydactyla							
303	The molecular and morphological analyses of specimens collected from a large geographic range,							
304	covering the entire known distribution of C. brachydactyla (sensu Richard & Clark (2010)) in the							
305	Indian Ocean and including localities close to most of the type localities of its synonyms, suggest that							
306	<i>C. n. natalensis</i> is a valid species. These results disprove Richard and Clark (2010) study, which based							
307	on old collection specimens (from which molecular studies are difficult to do), thus using morphology							
308	only, recognized C. n. natalensis and C. n. brevidactyla as junior synonyms of C. brachydactyla.							
309	Indeed, Richard and Clark (2010) found that the dactylus to propodus ratios of the first and second							
310	pereiopods in <i>C. n. natalensis</i> fell into the range calculated for <i>C. brachydactyla</i> . They also showed							
311	that the Natal specimens differed from topotypical specimens of <i>C. brachydactyla</i> in having the							
312	appendix interna slightly turned down towards the exopod, whereas it was straight in the Indonesian							
514	appendix morna signity turned down towards the exopod, whereas it was straight in the multislan							

313 material. This was regarded by the authors as a non-significant character for the separation of species. 314 Here, the molecular results show that the specimens from the Southwestern Indian Ocean (here 315 attributed to C. natalensis - type locality: Umgeni River, Durban, South Africa) are genetically highly 316 distinct from the specimens collected in Indonesia (here attributed to C. brachydactyla - type locality: 317 Sulawesi, Indonesia) and to specimens from Melanesia (here attributed to C. brevidactyla - type 318 locality: Aru Island, Indonesia). The morphological examination of the specimens used in the 319 molecular tree allowed finding new characters that are stable within genetic clusters but clearly 320 different among clusters. Having examined the type specimens of C. brachydactyla, we show that it 321 can be separated from C. natalensis by P1 chela greater than 2.1 times as long as wide (vs mostly 1.8– 322 2.1) and P3 dactylus with mostly 5–6 spines on flexor margin in addition to the terminal one (vs 6–9). 323 Having also examined the type specimens of C. n. brevidactyla, we show that it can be separated from 324 C. natalensis by the tooth on the preanal carina that is present in C. natalensis but absent in C. 325 brevidactyla. Indeed, in a not yet published work, we show based on many specimens from the Pacific 326 Ocean that C. brevidactyla is also a valid species (see de Mazancourt et al. unpublished).

327

328 Taxonomy of Caridina nilotica complex in the Indian Ocean

329 Of the 298 known species of Caridina (WoRMs database as of May 2018), the complex C. nilotica, 330 which includes 22 described varieties and/or species (Karge & Klotz 2007) has a very confuse 331 systematic (Johnson 1963). Although, assumed to be broadly distributed across the Indo-West Pacific 332 (from Africa to Fiji), C. nilotica complex remains ill defined and subject to many confusions. In this 333 study, we focussed on the Indian Ocean members of the C. nilotica complex. Since the studies of De 334 Man (1908) and Roux (1920), six varieties were generally reported in the Western Indian Ocean: C. n. 335 brachydactyla; C. n. longirostris; C. n. gracilipes; C. n. natalensis and C. n. brevidactyla. Here, based 336 on a large geographic range, covering the entire known distribution of C. nilotica complex in the 337 Indian Ocean and including localities close to most of the type localities of its varieties, molecular and 338 morphological analyses suggest that the only variety of C. nilotica that occurs in the Indian Ocean is 339 C. n. natalensis, that we here resurrect as a valid species.

340 As demonstrated above, the 16S molecular tree showed that C. brachydactyla only occurs in 341 Indonesia, and C. brevidactyla only occurs in the West Pacific. Moreover, the inclusion of the 342 paralectotypes of C. gracilipes in the molecular tree also suggested that this species is absent from the 343 Western Indian Ocean. Indeed, in this study, none of the specimens collected in the Indian Ocean and 344 morphologically resembling C. brachydactyla, C. brevidactyla or C. gracilipes, fell into the genetic 345 clusters containing specimens of each of these three species. On the contrary, all of these specimens 346 collected in the Indian Ocean formed a single clade, genetically highly differentiated from C. 347 brachydactyla, C. brevidactyla and C. gracilipes, and morphologically close to the type specimen of 348 C. natalensis.

- 349 In this study, we have compared the specimens of C. natalensis with all the species of the C. 350 nilotica complex that have been historically reported as occurring in the Western Indian Ocean, 351 namely: C. n. gracilipes, C. n. brevidactyla, C. n. brachydactyla and C. n. longirostris. These 352 comparisons showed that not only these species do not occur in the Western Indian Ocean, but they 353 also are distinguishable from C. natalensis. Morphologically, C. gracilipes, can be separated from C. 354 natalensis by the P5 propodus mostly 3.3-4.1 as long as dactylus (vs 4.3-5.7). As mentioned earlier, 355 C. brevidactyla and C. brachydactyla can be morphologically separated from C. natalensis. Finally, 356 although the type specimens of C. n. longirostris could not be genetically analyzed, they were 357 morphologically easy to separate from C. natalensis (or from other variants of C. nilotica complex) 358 because of their P1 and P2 carpus respectively 1.7-2.3 (vs 1.4-1.8) and 4.3-8.0 (vs 3.9-4.7), P3 359 dactylus stouter, dactylus 2.9-4.0 (vs 4.0-4.8) times as long as wide, with propodus 4.1-6.6 (vs 3.4-360 4.0) times as long as dactylus, and P5 dactylus stouter with propodus 4.3–5.7 (vs 3.2–3.7) times as 361 long as dactylus.
- 362

363 Conclusion

Further studies should be led on a larger geographic coverage in the Indian Ocean to determine more precisely the northern limit of *C. natalensis* distribution range. This species is abundant in lower course of rivers from South Africa, Madagascar, Comoros, Mayotte and Seychelles, however, it has a critical status in Mascarene archipelago. Indeed *C. natalensis* seems to have now disappeared from Reunion Island (Keith *et al.* 2006) like *Macrobrachium hirtimanus* (Olivier, 1811).

369

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509

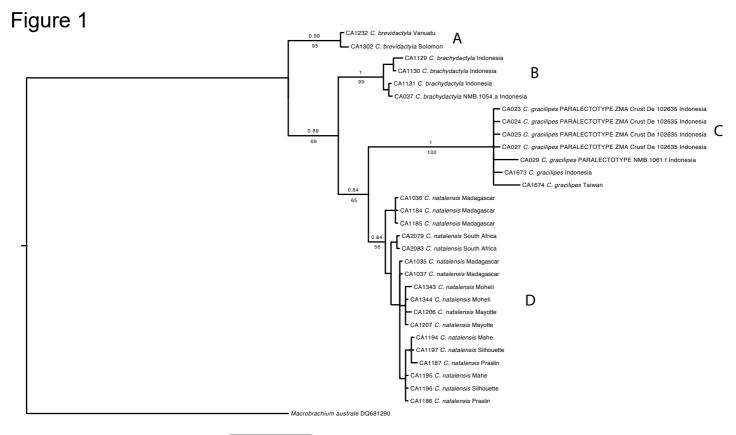
510	Legends to figures:						
511							
512	FIGURE 1: Bayesian 16S rRNA phylogenetic tree showing the relationships of some of the species discussed						
513	in this study. Numbers above branches indicate bayesian posterior probabilities; numbers under branches						
514	indicate Maximum Likelihood bootstrap values.						
515							
516	FIGURE 2: Caridina natalensis; a. first pereiopod; b. second pereiopod; c. third pereiopod; d. fifth						
517	pereiopod; e. dactylus of fifth pereiopod; f. dactylus of third pereiopod; g. uropodal diaeresis; h. pre-anal carina;						
518	i. telson; j. eggs; k. second male pleopod; l. first male pleopod; m. anterior region of cephalothorax: n, o. rostrum						
519	variations.						
520							
521	FIGURE 3: a, b, c, d: Views of living specimens of Caridina natalensis showing their coloration; a.						
522	Specimen from Madagascar (G. Marquet); b. Specimen from Seychelles (P. Keith); c, d. Specimen from South						
523	Africa (G. Marquet). e: Example of habitat where C. natalensis lives; Iharaka river, Madagascar (G. Marquet).						
524							
525	FIGURE 4: Distribution of Caridina natalensis with sampling localities of the specimens of this species						

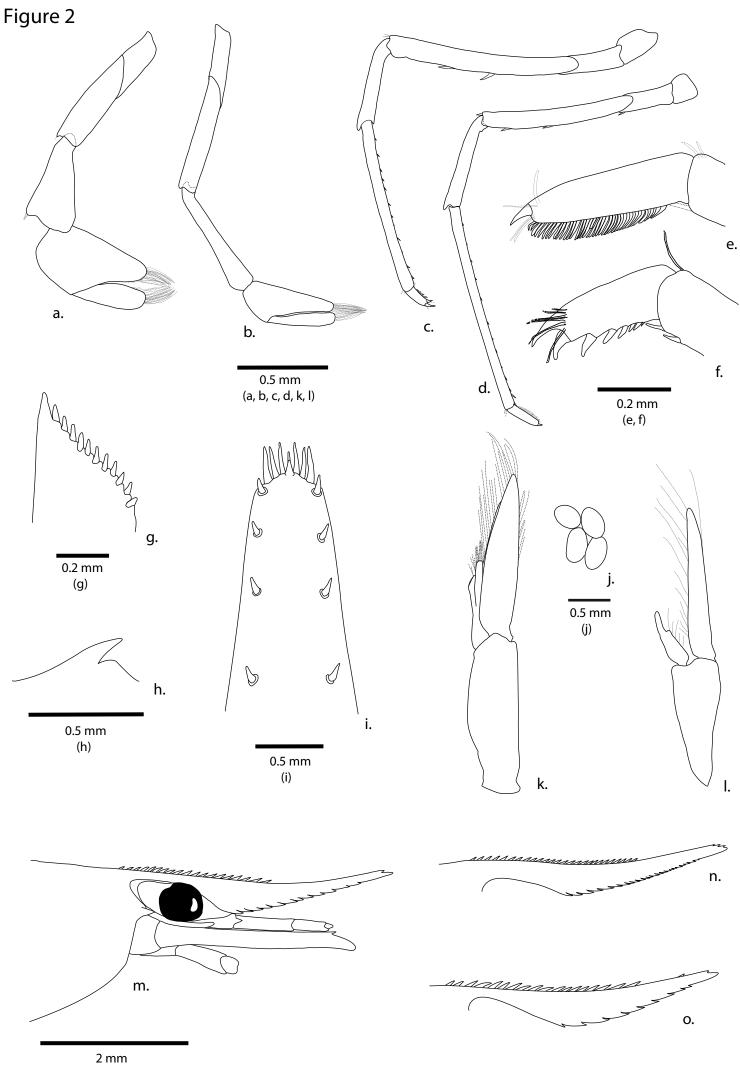
526 examined for the study (black circles) and its type locality (white star).

Species	Locality	DNA voucher	Museum n°	Type status	GenBank n°	Reference
C. brachydactyla	Bali	CA037	NMB 1054a		MH497490	de Mazancourt <i>et</i> <i>al</i> , in press
	Sulawesi	CA1129	WK 63-10	Topotypical	MH497500	de Mazancourt <i>et</i> <i>al</i> , in press
		CA1130	WK 63-10-1	Topotypical	MH497501	de Mazancourt <i>et</i> <i>al</i> , in press
		CA1131	WK 64-10-3	Topotypical	MH497502	de Mazancourt <i>et</i> <i>al</i> , in press
C. brevidactyla	Solomon Islands	CA1302	MNHN-IU- 2018-175		MH497513	de Mazancourt <i>et al</i> , in press
	Vanuatu	CA1232	MNHN-IU- 2018-191		MH497508	de Mazancourt <i>et</i> <i>al</i> , in press
C. gracilipes	Borneo	CA1673	MNHN-IU- 2018-209		MH497535	de Mazancourt <i>et</i> <i>al</i> , in press
	Flores	CA029	NMB 1061f		MH497489	de Mazancourt <i>et</i> <i>al</i> , in press
	Sulawesi	CA023	ZMA.CRUS.D .102635 1	Paralectotype	MH497485	de Mazancourt <i>et</i> <i>al</i> , in press
		CA024	ZMA.CRUS.D .102635 2	Paralectotype	MH497486	de Mazancourt <i>et</i> <i>al</i> , in press
		CA025	ZMA.CRUS.D .102635 3	Paralectotype	MH497487	de Mazancourt <i>et</i> <i>al</i> , in press
		CA027	ZMA.CRUS.D .102635 5	Paralectotype	MH497488	de Mazancourt <i>et</i> <i>al</i> , in press
	Taiwan	CA1674	MNHN-IU- 2018-208		MH497536	de Mazancourt <i>et</i> <i>al</i> , in press
C. natalensis	Comoros	CA1343	MNHN-IU- 2018-78		MH644416	This study
		CA1344	MNHN-IU- 2018-77		MH644417	This study
	Madagascar	CA1035	MNHN-IU- 2018-79		MH644413	This study
		CA1036	MNHN-IU- 2017-1455		MH644414	This study
		CA1037	MNHN-IU- 2018-80		MH644415	This study
		CA1184	MNHN-IU- 2018-99		MH644424	This study
		CA1185	MNHN-IU- 2018-100		MH644425	This study

Mayotte	CA1206	MNHN-IU- 2017-1456		MH644418	This study
	CA1207	MNHN-IU- 2017-1457		MH644419	This study
Seychelles	CA1186	MNHN-IU- 2017-1447		MH644426	This study
	CA1187	MNHN-IU- 2017-1448		MH644427	This study
	CA1194	MNHN-IU- 2017-1446		MH644420	This study
	CA1195	MNHN-IU- 2017-1445		MH644421	This study
	CA1196	MNHN-IU- 2017-1450		MH644422	This study
	CA1197	MNHN-IU- 2017-1449		MH644423	This study
South Africa	CA2079	MNHN-IU- 2018-61	Topotypical	MH644428	This study
	CA2083	MNHN-IU- 2018-66	Topotypical	MH644429	This study
I					

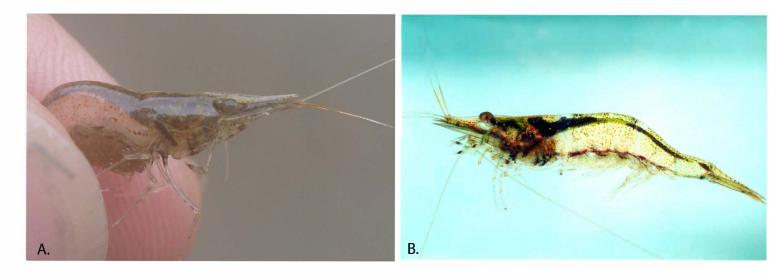
Table 1: List of the specimens used in the genetic study





(m, n, o)

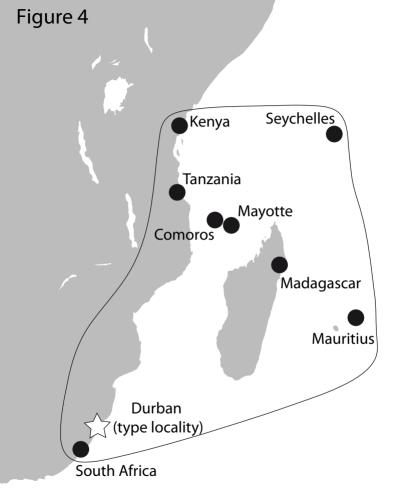
Figure 3











1,000km