Little is known about blue copepods in marine habitats (Herring 1965). To date, a few copepod species from the family Pontellidae including Pontella fera Dana 1849 (Herring 1965), Labidocera glauca Smith 1941 (Smith 1941) and Labidocera acutifrons Dana 1849 (Zagalsky and Herring 1972) and a few species from the family Corycaeidae such as Corycaeus amazonicus Dahl 1894 (Johnson and Allen 2012) have been recorded to be blue-pigmented. Here we report, for the first time, a blue-colored Acartia erythraea (Giesbrecht 1889), a member of the family Acartiidae from the coral reefs of Tioman Island (02°49′–51′N, 104°02′E) off the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia (Fig. 1a–c). The fringing reefs have no distinct reef crest separating the inner and outer reef zones and the reef flat is ca. 2–6 m. We identified the species to A. erythraea following Ueda (1997) which include morphological features such as both the female and male have a strong spine at each corner of the posterior metasome segment, female have two spines on the first segment of the antennules, and male have a pair of spinules at the posterodorsal segment of the third urosomite. In our specimens, translucent blue pigmentation
could be seen throughout the whole body, especially the swimming legs and the posteriolateral edges of the prosome. This blue *Acartia* is a common zooplankton in the reef environment and their abundance ranged 0 to 27 inds. m$^{-3}$ (average = 8.3 ± 9.2 inds. m$^{-3}$, n = 6) via net tows (100 µm mesh) during October 2004. All individuals of this species collected at Tioman Island were blue pigmented. However, the congeneric *Acartia pacifica* (Steuer 1915) collected in the same sample was not blue. We have also been collecting samples from non-reef areas of the Malacca Strait (west coast of Peninsular Malaysia) where *A. erythraea* and *A. pacifica* populations co-occur (Yoshida et al. 2012), but did not find any blue specimens of both species. Although the reason for the blue color in *A. erythraea* in the present study area is unknown, it may act to provide concealment from visual predators (i.e. animal color matches the background) and/or protection against UV radiation (Herring 1965, Hairston 1976).

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