

***Eriocheir ogasawaraensis* Komai, a new species of mitten crab
(Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Varunidae) from the
Ogasawara Islands, Japan, with notes on the systematics of
Eriocheir De Haan, 1835**

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Abstract

A new mitten crab species of the genus *Eriocheir* De Haan, 1835, *E. ogasawaraensis* n. sp., is described from the Ogasawara Islands, Japan. It is morphologically most similar to *E. japonica* (De Haan, 1835), found on the Japanese mainland, the Ryukyu Islands, Taiwan, the Russian Far East, Korea and China, but diagnostic is the proportionately broader and dorsally flattened carapace which usually lacks the fourth anterolateral tooth, the ornamentation of the epistome, the male first gonopod and its the coloration. The biology of the new species and the different interpretations concerning the systematics of *Eriocheir* are briefly discussed.

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, Brachyura, Varunidae, *Eriocheir*, new species, Ogasawara Islands, Japan

Introduction

The Ogasawara (Bonin) Islands are composed of about 30 islands of various sizes, located to the south of the Izu Islands, and about 1000 km south of Japan. These islands are oceanic, having been formed by protrusions of ancient submarine volcanoes. Flatlands are rare and there are many steep cliffs on along the coasts. The climate is oceanic and subtropical. Because the islands have never being adjacent connected to the Japanese mainland or the continent since they were formed, endemism is high.