



Calappoidea and Leucosioidea (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura) from Luzon, Philippines, with descriptions of two new species of *Mursia*

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Abstract

Twenty-two species of calappoid and leucosiid crabs were identified among the material collected off Aurora Province, western coast of Luzon, Philippines, in 1987. This includes two new species of calappids, *Mursia aurorae* n. sp., and *M. steinhardti* n. sp. Two leucosiid species are new records for the Philippines: *Iphiculus convexus* Ihle, 1918 (Iphiculidae), and *Myra digitata* Galil, 2004 (Leucosiidae).

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, Brachyura, Calappidae, Iphiculidae, Leucosiidae, new species, Philippines

Introduction

Several of the major 19th and 20th marine biological expeditions collected decapod crustaceans in the Philippines, among them the U.S. Exploring (1838–1842), *Challenger* (1873–1876), *Siboga* (1899–1900) and *Albatross* (1907–1910) expeditions, as well as three expeditions conducted by the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris (1976, 1980, 1985). The Philippines National Museum, Philippines Bureau of Fisheries, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle in Paris, National Taiwan Ocean University, and the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity of the National University of Singapore, have in recent years conducted a series of expeditions to the central Philippines, including several cruises to sample the deep-sea fauna. Material was collected by local shell fishermen using tangle nets to depths of 500 m, by trawling the deeper soft bottoms, dredging hard bottoms, coral brushing and by hand collecting in the intertidal zone. These collections have already resulted in a number of reports on the calappoid and leucosiid fauna: Ng (2002), Galil (2003a, b), Galil & Takeda (2004), Komatsu *et al.* (2004, 2005) and Galil & Ng (2007). The most recent expedition was conducted between 20 May and 4 June 2007 off Aurora Province, western Luzon, using trawls and dredges.

Twenty-two calappoid and leucosiid species are here identified from the *Aurora* Expedition, of which two are new to science, *Mursia aurorae* n. sp. and *M. steinhardti* n. sp. (Calappidae), with two other species being new records for the Philippines, *Iphiculus convexus* Ihle, 1918 (Iphiculidae) and *Myra digitata* Galil, 2004 (Leucosiidae). These new species are described and illustrated herein. While many of the other calappoid and leucosiid species have previously been reported from elsewhere in the Philippines, all the present material is from the northeastern part of the Pacific coast of the archipelago, an area for which there have been almost no records of brachyurans.

Specimens examined are deposited in the Crustacean Collection of the National Museum of the Philippines (NMCR); Zoological Reference Collection of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore (ZRC); and Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris (MNHN). The synonymy provided is generally restricted to those that recently deal with records from the Philippines. The