Zootaxa 2372: 37–52 (2010)
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

Article

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

On two new genera of Asian prawns previously assigned to *Macrobrachium* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Caridea: Palaemonidae)*

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* *In*: De Grave, S. & Fransen, C.H.J.M. (2010) Contributions to shrimp taxonomy. *Zootaxa*, 2372, 1–414.

Abstract

Two new genera of palaemonid prawns are described from South and Southeast Asia. The new genera are allied to *Macrobrachium* Bate, 1868, but can easily be separated by having a slender and glabrous second pereiopod, a long fifth pereiopod which is distinctly longer than the second pereiopod, a bilobed posterolateral margin of the fifth abdominal pleurite, the presence of one or two pairs of plumose setae at the ventroposterior margin of the telson, the absence of anterior lobes on male thoracic sternite 8 and distinctly larger adult females than males. *Arachnochium* gen. nov. (type species *Palaemon mirabilis* Kemp, 1917), can be distinguished from *Tenuipedium* gen. nov. (type species *Macrobrachium palaemonoides* Holthuis, 1950) by having a relatively shorter branchiostegal groove running from the base of the hepatic spine to the antennal carapace margin below the antennal spine, and having plumose setae which are longer than the inner pair of spines on the ventroposterior margin of the telson.

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, Palaemonidae, *Arachnochium*, *Tenuipedium*, new genera, Asia

Introduction

When Kemp (1917) described *Palaemon mirabilis* from India, he stated that this species was quite different from typical members of the genus *Palaemon* by having a peculiar rostral form and extremely slender appendages, especially the fourth and the fifth pereipods which are unusually long. However, the presence of a hepatic spine made Kemp (1917) put the species in *Palaemon*. He was in doubt about the classification of his new species and believed that it was probably closer to *Leander* (presently known as *Palaemon* Weber, 1795) than to *Palaemon* (= present *Macrobrachium* Bate, 1868). Chace & Bruce (1993) agreed with Kemp (1917) and suggested that this species should be assigned to a new genus. The comparatively longer posteroventral branchiostegal suture behind and below the hepatic spine of *Macrobrachium palaemonoides* Holthuis, 1950, also led Chace & Bruce (1993) to consider that this species should be assigned to the genus *Palaemon s. str.*, although the presence of a hepatic spine would exclude it. Chace & Bruce (1993) retained it in *Macrobrachium* with considerable reservation.

For the present study, the available material of *Palaemon mirabilis* Kemp, 1917, and *Macrobrachium palaemonoides* Holthuis, 1950, has been re-examined and following Chace & Bruce (1993), two new genera are here established for these two species. *Macrobrachium kulsiense* Jayachandran, Lal Mohan & Raji, 2007, an Indian species allied to *P. mirabilis*, is also transferred to *Arachnochium*. Specimens examined are deposited in the Museum Zoologicum Bogoriense (MZB), Indonesian Institute of Sciences, Cibinong, Indonesia; the Zoological Reference Collection (ZRC) of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research,

Accepted by S. De Grave: 14 Nov. 2009; published: 26 Feb. 2010