



## A new freshwater species of *Neorhynchoplax* Sakai, 1938 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Hymenosomatidae) from Patna, Bihar, India

PETER K. L. NG<sup>1,4</sup>, HASKO F. NESEMANN<sup>2</sup> & GOPAL SHARMA<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, Faculty of Science, National University of Singapore, 14 Science Drive 4, 117543 Singapore

<sup>2</sup>Central University of Bihar (CUB), Centre for Environmental Science, BIT Campus, P.O.-B.V. College, Patna 800 014, Bihar, India

<sup>3</sup>Zoological Survey of India, Gangetic Plains Regional Centre, Patna-800016, Bihar, India

<sup>4</sup>Corresponding author. E-mail: peterng@nus.edu.sg

### Abstract

A new species of hymenosomatid freshwater crab, *Neorhynchoplax* Sakai, 1938, is described from Patna, Bihar, northern India. The species resembles the Indian *N. woodmasoni* (Alcock, 1895) and *N. alcocki* Kemp, 1917, but differs in the form of the carapace, armature on the cheliped merus, number of spines on the dactylus of the ambulatory legs, and structure of the male abdomen.

**Key words:** Crustacea, Brachyura, Hymenosomatidae, *Neorhynchoplax*, fresh water, new species, India

### Introduction

The hymenosomatid *Neorhynchoplax* Sakai, 1938 (type species *Rhynchoplax introversus* Kemp, 1917) currently contains 30 species, all from the Indo-West Pacific (updated from Ng *et al.* 2008). Of these, five species: *N. introversa* (Kemp, 1917) (China), *N. kempii* (Chopra & Das, 1930) (Iraq), *N. inermis* Takeda & Miyake, 1971 (Palau), *N. dentata* Ng, 1995 (Sarawak), and *N. prima* Ng & Chuang, 1996 (Pulau Bintan) are regarded as true freshwater species (see Abele 1972; Ali *et al.* 1995; Chuang & Ng 1995; Naruse *et al.* 2008; Ng *et al.* 1999; Shen 1932).

We describe herein a new species of *Neorhynchoplax* from inland waters at Patna in northeastern India. Interestingly, while India has a completely freshwater genus *Hymenicoides* Kemp, 1917 (type species *H. carteri* Kemp, 1917) reported from waters of the Hooghly River near Calcutta (see also Naruse & Ng 2007), this is the first true inland species of *Neorhynchoplax* reported from India. *Neorhynchoplax nasalis* (Kemp, 1917) has been reported from the Bidyadhari River near Port Canning near Calcutta, and while the water is mostly fresh (Kemp 1917: 267), the river remains under significant tidal influence as it is near the sea.

Material examined is deposited in the Zoological Survey of India, Patna (ZSI-GPRC). Measurements provided, in millimetres, are of the maximum carapace width and length (including rostrum), respectively. The following abbreviations are used: G1 = male first pleopod; G2 = male second pleopod; P2–P5 = pereopods 2–5 (ambulatory legs 1–4), respectively. The terminology used essentially follows that used by Lucas (1980) and Ng & Chuang (1996), with additional characters discussed in Guinot & Richer de Forges (1997) and Guinot (2011).

### Systematic account

#### Family Hymenosomatidae MacLeay, 1838