

Two new species of *Pagurixus* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Anomura: Paguridae) from submarine caves of the Ryukyu Islands, southwestern Japan

MASAYUKI OSAWA¹, YOSHIHISA FUJITA² & JUNJI OKUNO³

¹ Department of Marine and Environmental Sciences, Graduate School of Engineering and Science, University of the Ryukyus, 1 Senbaru, Nishihara-cho, Okinawa 903-0213, Japan
E-mail: h063116@sci.u-ryukyu.ac.jp

² University Education Center, University of the Ryukyus, 1 Senbaru, Nishihara-cho, Okinawa 903-0213, Japan

³ Coastal Branch of Natural History Museum and Institute, Chiba, 123, Yoshio, Katsuura, Chiba 299-5242, Japan

Abstract

Two new species of *Pagurixus* Melin, 1939, *P. pulcher* and *P. longipes*, are described from the submarine caves of the Ryukyu Islands, southwestern Japan. These species belong to the different informal species group of the genus characterized by the presence or absence of two distinct, longitudinal rows or series of setae on the ventral surface of the antennular ultimate segment. *Pagurixus pulcher* is most closely allied to *P. nomurai* Komai & Asakura, 1995, but is differentiated by the more slender ocular peduncles, setation on the ultimate segment of the antennular peduncle, and shape of the anterior lobe of the sixth thoracic sternite. The extremely long and slender carpus of the left cheliped and dactyli of the ambulatory pereopods clearly distinguish *P. longipes* from other species belonging to the species group characterized by the absence of longitudinal rows or series of setae on the ventral surface of the antennular ultimate segment.

Key words: Crustacea, Anomura, Paguridae, *Pagurixus*, new species, submarine cave, Ryukyu Islands, Japan

Introduction

Owing to a number of taxonomic and faunal studies on the hermit crabs of the shallow waters around the Ryukyu Islands (e.g., Nomura et al. 1996; Asakura 2000, 2004; Osawa