

A new species of *Calappa* Weber, 1795 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Calappidae) from East and South Africa

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Abstract

A new species of box crab, *Calappa africana*, new species (Brachyura: Calappidae) is described from East and South Africa. The species, previously misidentified as *C. japonica* Ortmann, 1892, differs from *C. japonica* by its live colouration, carapace shape, and the morphologies of the manus and merus of the cheliped and male first gonopod. In addition, a new lectotype for *C. exanthematosa*, a junior synonym of *C. japonica*, is selected.

Key words: Calappidae, *Calappa*, new species, East Africa, South Africa

Introduction

Ten species of box crabs belonging to the genus *Calappa*, Weber, 1795, are known from the coasts of East and South Africa: *C. bicornis* Miers, 1884, *C. calappa*, Linnaeus, 1758, *C. capellonis* (Laurie, 1906), *C. clypeata* (Borradaile, 1903), *C. conifera* (Galil, 1997), *C. depressa* Miers, 1886, *C. gallus* (Herbst, 1803), *C. hepatica* (Linnaeus, 1758), *C. lophos* (Herbst, 1782), *C. japonica* Ortmann, 1892, and *C. acutispina* Lai, Chan & Ng, 2006 (see Barnard, 1950; Galil, 1997; Lai et al., 2006). We recently had the opportunity to examine some African specimens that had been identified as *C. japonica*. Our studies showed that it is not *C. japonica* but a closely allied and undescribed species instead. The new species is described, illustrated and compared with *C. japonica*.

Specimens examined in this study are deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore (ZRC); National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. (USNM); Zoological Museum of the University of Copenhagen (ZMUC); The Naturalis, Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Leiden (ex Rijksmuseum