



On a new genus and species of euryplacid crab (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Goneplacoidea) from the Philippines

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Abstract

A new genus and new species of euryplacid crab (Brachyura, Goneplacoidea) is described from the Philippines. It superficially resembles species of *Carcinoplax* H. Milne Edwards, 1852 (Goneplacidae) but the structure of the sternum, abdomen, and gonopods show that it is a euryplacid. Comparisons are made with *Eucrate* De Haan, 1835.

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, Brachyura, Euryplacidae, Goneplacidae, new genus, new species, Philippines

Introduction

Among the collections of the PANGLAO 2004 Expedition to the Philippines, there were three specimens of a peculiar deep-water goneplacid crab that superficially resembled species in the genus *Carcinoplax* H. Milne Edwards, 1852 (Goneplacidae). The male abdomen and gonopods, however, are very different from what is now regarded as typical for members of the Goneplacidae; and instead identify it as a member of the Euryplacidae Stimpson, 1871. The present paper describes the new genus and species.

The following abbreviations are used: cl = carapace length, cw = carapace width, P2–P5 = first to fourth ambulatory legs respectively, G1 = male first gonopod and G2 = male second gonopod. The suture between the thoracic sternites is denoted by a “/”, e.g. suture 4/5 = suture between sternites 4 and 5. Specimens examined are deposited in the Crustacean Collection of the Philippine National Museum, Manila (NMCR); and Zoological Reference Collection of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore (ZRC). Measurements provided are of the carapace width and length respectively.

Taxonomic account

Family Euryplacidae Stimpson, 1871

Remarks. The taxonomy of the Goneplacidae *sensu lato* has always been contentious, with many workers using it as a “dumping ground” for problematic taxa. Over the years, some workers have started to reappraise the status of the various subfamilies traditionally placed in the family. The reappraisal of the Goneplacidae *sensu lato* started with the pioneering work of Guinot (1969a–c, 1971, 1979) when she introduced suites of characters that demonstrated the family grouping was heterogeneous. In recent years, the structure of the Goneplacidae has been discussed and re-examined by a number of authors (Karasawa & Kato 2003a, b;