



## A new species of *Geosesarma* from Palawan, Philippines (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Sesarmidae)

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### Abstract

A new species of semi-terrestrial, freshwater sesarmid crab, *Geosesarma lawrencei*, is described from Palawan, the Philippines. It is distinguished from its congeners by a unique suite of characters of the carapace, third maxilliped, ambulatory leg, and male first gonopod. This is the first species of *Geosesarma* described from Palawan and only the fourth from the Philippines.

**Key words:** Crustacea, Brachyura, Sesarmidae, *Geosesarma*, Palawan, Philippines, taxonomy

### Introduction

The semi-terrestrial to freshwater sesarmid crabs belonging to the genus *Geosesarma* De Man, 1892, are currently represented in the Philippines by only three species occurring in three different islands, viz., *G. vicentese* (Rathbun, 1914) [Luzon], *G. rathbunae* (Serène, 1968) [Panay], and *G. protos* (Ng & Takeda, 1992) [Mindanao]. The present work reports on the discovery of a new species of *Geosesarma*, from the island of Palawan, among previously unidentified specimens deposited in the National Museum of the Philippines. The species possesses a unique combination of characters of the carapace, third maxilliped, ambulatory leg, and male first gonopod and is described herein as *Geosesarma lawrencei*, new species, making it the fourth species to be reported from the Philippines. This is also the first species of *Geosesarma* known from Palawan, which possesses a diverse and so far endemic freshwater crab fauna comprising taxa from two other families of wholly freshwater crab, Potamidae and Parathelphusidae (see Freitag & Yeo 2004).

The following abbreviations are used: G1 for male first pleopod, G2 for male second pleopod, and asl for above sea level. Measurements (in millimeters) are of carapace width and length, respectively. Terminology used essentially follows Ng (1988). Specimens examined are deposited in the National Museum of the Philippines (NMCR) and the Zoological Reference Collection (ZRC) of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore.

### Taxonomy

#### Family Sesarmidae Dana, 1851

#### *Geosesarma lawrencei*, new species

(Figs. 1, 2)