



On a new genus and new species of deep-water spider crab from the Philippines (Crustacea, Decapoda, Brachyura, Majidae)

BERTRAND RICHER DE FORGES¹ & PETER K. L. NG²

¹Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, BPA5, Nouméa cedex, New Caledonia. E-mail: richer@noumea.ird.nc

²Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore, Kent Ridge, Singapore 119260, Republic of Singapore. E-mail: peterng@nus.edu.sg

Abstract

A new genus and new species of majid crab, *Kasagia arbastoi*, is described from the Philippines. Superficially, *Kasagia*, new genus, is most similar to the pisine genera *Eurynome* Leach, 1814, *Choniognathus* Rathbun, 1932, and *Seiitaoides* Griffin & Tranter, 1986, but can immediately be separated by its simple carapace armature and extremely long chelipeds.

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, Brachyura, Majidae, taxonomy, new genus, new species, Philippines

Introduction

The deep-sea fauna of the steep reef slopes below 100 m in the Philippines is proving to be of substantial interest. Many of the species in this habitat have been shown to be either rare or new. One of the sampling methods used is novel – the setting of tangle nets in deep-water along the surfaces of the deep-cliff surfaces (see Bouchet & Ng 2004; McLay & Ng 2004, 2005). Among the numerous specimens of majid crabs collected were several belonging to a small-size species of Pisinae. While superficially resembling members of the genus *Eurynome* Leach, 1814, it possesses several unusual characters that showed that it is not only a new species, but also belongs to a new genus.

Specimens are deposited in the Crustacean Collection of the National Museum of the Philippines (NMCR), Manila; Zoological Reference Collection (ZRC) of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore; and Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (MNHN), Paris. The terminology used essentially follows that of Griffin & Tranter (1986). The abbreviations G1 and G2 refer to the male first and second pleopods respectively, while the P2-P4 refer to the first to fourth ambulatory legs respectively. The measurements provided, in millimetres, are of the carapace length and width respectively. For the carapace length, the postrostral proportions are provided. For the carapace width, the lateral teeth or spines are included.

Systematic account

Subfamily Pisinae Alcock, 1895

Kasagia, new genus

Diagnosis. Carapace ovoid. Dorsal face almost round, ornamented with fungiform granules; regions weakly defined. Ocular peduncle short, eye rounded, totally concealed orbit when retracted. Front with 2 sharp pseu-