



***Calappa karenae*, a new species of box crab from Guam (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Calappidae)**

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Abstract

A new deep-water species of box crab, *Calappa karenae* **sp. nov.** (Brachyura: Calappidae) is described from Guam. The new species differs from its congeners by its distinctive colouration and conspicuously wide carapace. It is one of the largest *Calappa* species known from the Indo-West Pacific.

Key words: *Calappa karenae*, new species, Guam, deep water, Calappidae

Introduction

In 2000, Gustav Paulay (now at Florida Museum of Natural History) invited the first author to work on the Brachyura of Guam, a study that eventually led to an inventory of the island's crustacean fauna (Paulay *et al.* 2003). A photograph by Roy Kropp (now at Battelle Marine Sciences Laboratory, Washington State) of a bright red *Calappa* specimen with an unusually broad carapace obtained from relatively deep water caught the author's eye (Fig. 1). The specimen, however, could not be found even though it was known to have been deposited in the U.S. Natural History Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. (USNM). Several visits by the first author and his students to the USNM failed to find this unusual *Calappa*, although the rest of the Paulay and Kropp collections were located. The USNM wet collection was moved from Washington D.C. to the Museum Sorting Centre (MSC) in Maryland in 2008. In January 2011, during a workshop on xanthoid systematics hosted at the MSC, the authors, assisted by collection manager Karen Reed, looked through unidentified calappid material to check on a number of taxa and the elusive jar with two specimens, including the one photographed by Kropp, was found. It proved to be a new species, and is described herein.

Measurements provided are of the carapace width (including clypeiform extensions) by length. The posterolateral border described here includes the entire margin of the clypeiform expansion. The posterior margin in this case refers only to the margin flanked by the abdomen. The abbreviations G1 and G2 are used for the male first and second gonopods, respectively.

Taxonomic account

Family Calappidae

***Calappa* Weber, 1795**

***Calappa karenae* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 1–5)

Calappa sp. 1 (aff. *sebastiani* Galil, 1997)—Paulay *et al.* 2003: 496 [not *Calappa sebastiani* Galil, 1997]