



Squat lobsters (Crustacea: Decapoda: Galatheoidea and Chirostyloidea) collected during the TALUD XIV cruise in the Gulf of California, Mexico, and rediscovery of *Gastroptychus perarmatus* (Haig, 1968) in the eastern Pacific

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Abstract

Seven species of squat lobsters were collected during the TALUD XIV cruise in the Gulf of California, Mexico. *Gastroptychus perarmatus* (Haig, 1968) was collected for the second time since it was described and represents a first record of the genus in the tropical eastern Pacific. Its association with gorgonians is also noted from color pictures taken during a deep-water dive in another cruise in the area. *Janetogalatea californiensis* (Benedict, 1902) was captured in four sampling stations, in the same area where it has been previously reported. Three species of *Munida* Leach, 1820 were collected (*M. bapensis* Hendrickx, 2000, *M. mexicana* Benedict, 1902, and *M. tenella* Benedict, 1902). Records of *M. bapensis* of this cruise combined with additional captures of this species in 2007 in the same area indicate that it is the most abundant deep-water species of squat lobster in the northern part of the central Gulf of California. Among the species of *Munida*, *M. tenella* was second in abundance and included specimens much larger than previously known. The single record for *M. mexicana* fits within the currently known depth and geographical ranges. Only one species of *Munidopsis* Whiteaves, 1874 (*M. depressa* Faxon, 1892) was collected, in one of the deeper sampling stations visited during the cruise and its northernmost distribution limit within the Gulf of California is increased by ca two degrees of latitude. The seventh species collected during this survey, *Pleuroncodes planipes* Stimpson, 1860, is a common inhabitant of the California Current and the Gulf of California.

Key words: deep-water squat lobsters, Galatheoidea, Chirostyloidea, Gulf of California, Mexico

Introduction

The squat lobsters of the eastern Pacific (including the remote island of Juan Fernandez, Chile) comprise 77 species belonging to eight genera: *Janetogalatea* Baba & Wicksten, 1997 (1 species) and *Galathea* Fabricius, 1793 (1) (Galatheidae); *Gastroptychus* Caullery, 1896 (4) and *Uroptychus* Henderson, 1888 (3) (Chirostylidae); *Munida* (18), and *Pleuroncodes* Stimpson, 1860 (2) (Munididae); *Galacantha* A. Milne Edwards, 1880 (2) and *Munidopsis* Whiteaves, 1874 (46) (Baba *et al.* 2008; Hendrickx & Ayon-Parente 2010). Since Faxon (1893, 1895) studied the squat lobsters collected by the steamer “Albatross” off the Pacific coast of America, there has been only a few contributions dealing specifically with the Galatheoidea and Chirostyloidea (*sensu* Ahyong *et al.* 2010) off the eastern Pacific. In his study of the specimens of squat lobsters held at the United States National Museum, Benedict (1902) included all species known for the eastern Pacific at that time and described 14 new taxa for the region. Posterior contributions in which new taxa were added to the local fauna include those by Haig (1968: 1 species), Pequegnat & Pequegnat (1971: 1 species), Khodkina (1973; 4 species), Baba (1977; 2005; 4 species), Ambler (1980; 2 species), Williams (1988; 1 species), Williams & Baba (1989: 2 species), Baba & Haig (1990; 1 species), Hendrickx (2000, 2003; 3 species), Jones & Macpherson (2007: 5 species), and Hendrickx & Ayón Parente (2010; 1 species). A review paper published by Fierro *et al.* (2008) included all species of squat lobsters known to the neotropics, 161 in total (both sides of America; 59 for the Pacific), but this figure also includes some species exclusively reported in temperate provinces of the eastern Pacific.

During the TALUD XIV cruise in the northern part of the central Gulf of California, Mexico, a large series of specimens of squat lobsters was collected while sampling macrobenthos fauna and this material is reported here.