



Article

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A new species of palicid crab (Crustacea, Decapoda: Brachyura: Palicidae) from the Andaman Sea, west coast of Thailand

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Abstract

Pseudopalicus bidens (Brachyura, Palicidae) is described as a new species from the Andaman Sea, on the western coast of Thailand. The new species can be distinguished from its congeners by its anterolateral teeth on each side of the carapace, with the first two being considerably larger than the last two, as well as for morphology of the gonopods. The new species will bring the number of described *Pseudopalicus* Moosa & Serene, 1981, species to twelve.

Key words: Decapoda, Brachyura, Palicidae, *Pseudopalicus*, new species, Thailand, Andaman Sea

Introduction

The genus *Pseudopalicus* Moosa & Serène, 1981, (Brachyura, Palicoidea, Palicidae) currently contains eleven species (Castro 2000; Ng *et al.* 2008), all from the Indo-West Pacific region: *P. acanthodactylus* Castro, 2000; *P. amadaibai* (Sakai, 1963); *P. declivis* Castro, 2000; *P. glaber* Castro, 2000; *P. investigatoris* (Alcock, 1900); *P. macromeles* Castro, 2000; *P. oahuensis* (Rathbun, 1906); *P. pictus* Castro, 2000, *P. serripes* (Alcock & Anderson, 1895); *P. sexlobatus* (Kensley, 1969); *P. undulatus* Castro, 2000. During examination of the materials from the continental shelf in the Andaman Sea deposited in the Reference Collection of the Phuket Marine Biological Center, Phuket, Thailand, a previously undescribed specimen of *Pseudopalicus* was found. The characteristics of its anterolateral teeth of the carapace and gonopods are clearly different from other congeners.

Materials And Methods

Materials were collected by the BIOSHELF project onboard R.V. *Chakratong Tongyai* during 1996–2000 using an Agassiz trawl and a rectangular dredge at a depth of about 300 m on the continental shelf of the Andaman Sea coast of Thailand. The morphological descriptions and terminology essentially follows those used by Castro (2000: Figs. 1, 2). Pereopods are referred to by the abbreviations P2 to P5 (= ambulatory legs; P1 = chelipeds); male first pleopods (gonopods) by G1. The measurements provided are of the carapace length (CL) by the carapace width (CW). All type specimens have been deposited in the Reference Collection of the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC), Phuket, Thailand.