



Article

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A new species of freshwater crab of the genus *Phallangothelphusa* Pretzmann, 1965, from Colombia (Crustacea: Decapoda: Pseudothelphusidae)

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Abstract

A new species of *Phallangothelphusa* Pretzmann, 1965, is described from Cesar Department, Colombia, increasing the number of species in the genus to four: *P. dispar* (Zimmer, 1912), *P. magdalenensis* Campos, 1998, *P. juansei* Campos, 2010, and *P. martensis* **new species**. The new species is distinguished from its congeners primarily by the morphology of the first male gonopod, specifically the greater curvature of the angle between distal and proximal projections of the mesial process, the shape of the distal projection and outline of the apex, and the orientation of the lateral process. An updated key for the identification of the species of *Phallangothelphusa* is given.

Key words: Taxonomy, Brachyura, Strengerianini, Neotropical region, Colombia

Introduction

The genus *Phallangothelphusa* Pretzmann, 1965, belongs to the Tribe Strengerianini Rodríguez, 1982, that also includes *Strengeriana* Pretzmann, 1971, *Chaceus* Pretzmann, 1965, and *Martiana* Rodríguez, 1980. These genera are endemic to Colombia, and exhibit the most primitive morphological characters of the family Pseudothelphusidae. *Phallangothelphusa* currently comprises three species: *P. dispar* (Zimmer, 1912), from the slopes of the Central and Eastern Andes in watersheds that drain into the Magdalena River; *P. magdalenensis* Campos, 1998, from the middle stretch of the Magdalena River, and *P. juansei* Campos, 2010, from the eastern slope of the Central Andes. Recent explorations resulted in the discovery of a new species, which extends the range of the genus to the southern foothills of the Serranía de Perijá.

Rodríguez & Campos (1989) undertook a cladistic analysis of the tribe Strengerianini including the monotypic genus *Phallangothelphusa*. Campos (2005) eventually undertook a taxonomic and distributional study of *P. dispar* and *P. magdalenensis*.

The first male gonopod of the species of *Phallangothelphusa* is characterized by being straight or slightly bent laterally and the mesial process is formed by two projections, the distal being nearly ovate, semicircular, sub-triangular or triangular, the proximal rectangular, nearly square or finger-like. A curvature between these projections shows in some species at different angles; the lateral lobe is expanded into a semicircular process that is perpendicular to the axis or inwardly turned and parallel to the axis of the gonopod (60%), then projected mesially; the apex outline is sub-triangular, semicircular, circular or oval. The orifice of the efferent branchial channel presents a slight extension of the lateral lobe of the epistome. The exognath of the third maxilliped is 0.8 to 0.9 as long as the ischium.

The terminology used to describe the gonopod morphology follows Smalley (1964), Rodríguez (1982) and Campos (1998, 2005, 2010). The material is deposited in the Museo de Historia Natural, Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá (ICN-MHN). The abbreviations cb and cl stand for carapace breadth (measured at the widest point) and carapace length (measured along the midline), respectively. The color nomenclature used follows Smithe (1975).