



# Article

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## A new species of *Platepistoma* Rathbun, 1906 (Decapoda: Brachyura: Cancridae) from deep water off South Africa

PETER J. F. DAVIE<sup>1,3</sup> & PETER K. L. NG<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Queensland Museum, PO Box 3300, South Brisbane, Queensland, Australia (e-mail: Peter.Davie@qm.qld.gov.au)

<sup>2</sup> Tropical Marine Science Institute and Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore, Kent Ridge, Singapore 119260, Republic of Singapore (e-mail: peterng@nus.edu.sg)

<sup>3</sup> Corresponding author

### Abstract

*Platepistoma seani* sp. nov. is described from deep water off KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa. It can be separated from its nearest relative, *Platepistoma guezeti* (Crosnier, 1976), by its thicker setal covering that completely hides the anterolateral teeth from dorsal view, less well defined carapace regions, more spinous anterolateral and posterolateral carapace margins, sparser but more prominent dorsal carapace spines, more prominent spines on the carpus of the cheliped, and a relatively narrower male telson.

**Key words:** Cancridae, *Platepistoma*, deep water, continental slope, South Africa, Indian Ocean, new species, taxonomy

### Introduction

The Indo-West Pacific cancrinid genus *Platepistoma* Rathbun, 1906, was revised by Davie (1991), who removed it from *Cancer* Linnaeus, 1758, and recognised seven species, including three new ones. Sean Fennessy (Oceanographic Research Institute at Durban, South Africa), recently sent the second author a number of crabs for identification. Among these was a specimen of *Platepistoma* caught off Durban in relatively deep water. It is here described as a new species.

The abbreviated terminology used for carapace regions is that used by Serène (1984) following Dana (1852). Material examined is deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection (ZRC) of the Raffles Museum, National University of Singapore. The abbreviations G1 and G2 are used for the male first and second gonopods, respectively. Measurements are of carapace width and length, respectively.

### Taxonomy

CANCRIDAE Latreille, 1802

#### *Platepistoma* Rathbun, 1906

*Platepistoma* Rathbun, 1906: 876; Schweitzer & Feldmann 2000: 241; Davie 2002: 134; Ng *et al.* 2008: 53; Schram & Ng 2012: 670 (see Davie 1991: 494 for complete synonymy).

Type species: *Platepistoma macrophthalmus* Rathbun, 1906, by monotypy. Gender neuter.

#### *Platepistoma seani* sp. nov.

(Figs 1, 2, 3B, 4–6)

**Material Examined.** HOLOTYPE: ♂ (45.5 x 34.5 mm) (ZRC 2012.0719), off Durban, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa, 29°50.5'S, 31°36.7'E, bottom trawl, F.V. *Ocean Surf*, 365–475 m, coll. S. Fennessy, 25 February 2006.