



# Article

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## ***Pleisticanthoides* Yokoya, 1933, a valid genus of deep-sea inachid spider crabs (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Majoidea), with descriptions of two new species from the Philippines, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu**

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### Abstract

The inachid spider crab genus *Pleisticanthoides* Yokoya, 1933, is revalidated and removed from the synonymy of *Pleistacantha* Miers, 1879, distinguished by the absence of strong spines on the carapace (with only spinules or setae), unarmed pereopods (with only stiff setae along margins and not spines), possession of a relatively longer, more slender ocular peduncle with a smaller cornea, slender adult male chelae, and a gently curved male first gonopod which has the distal part dorsoventrally flattened and without a subdistal process. Three species are recognised from the Indo-West Pacific region: *Pleisticanthoides simplex* (Rathbun, 1932) (= *Pleisticanthoides nipponensis* Yokoya, 1933) from Japan, *P. cameroni* n. sp. from the Philippines, and *P. piccardorum* n. sp. from Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea.

**Key words:** *Pleisticanthoides*, valid genus, Inachidae, western Pacific, deep sea, Inachidae, new species

### Introduction

Inachid spider crabs of the genus *Pleistacantha* Miers, 1879 (type species *Pleistacantha sanctijohannis* Miers, 1879), are currently represented by 14 species, all from the Indo-West Pacific region (Ng *et al.* 2008). Members of this genus are typically characterised by their prominent bifid rostrums, pyriform carapaces and spiny carapaces and pereopods (Guinot & Richer de Forges 1982; Griffin & Tranter 1986). *Echinoplax* Miers, 1885 (type species *Echinoplax moseleyi* Miers, 1885), *Parapleistacantha* Yokoya, 1933 (type species *Parapleistacantha japonica* Yokoya, 1933) and *Pleisticanthoides* Yokoya, 1933 (type species *Pleisticanthoides nipponensis* Yokoya, 1933) are all regarded as subjective junior synonyms of *Pleistacantha* by Griffin & Tranter (1986), Sakai (1976, 1986) and Ah Yong *et al.* (2005). These decisions were followed by Ng *et al.* (2008) although they expressed doubts and commented that ‘The status of the genus *Pleisticanthoides* [sic] Yokoya, 1933, is unclear’ (Ng *et al.* 2008: 114).

Recently, the authors examined deep-water material from the Philippines, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu that had carapaces superficially similar to *Pleistacantha*, but were dorsally unarmed and eyes that were more slender than those of the typical members of the genus. They proved to belong to *Pleisticanthoides* Yokoya, 1933, with a number of characters arguing against the genus being a synonym of *Pleistacantha* Miers, 1879 *s. str.* We here revalidate *Pleisticanthoides* as a distinct genus and discuss the differences from other genera. The type species, *Pleisticanthoides nipponensis* Yokoya, 1933, was synonymised under *Pleistacantha simplex* Rathbun, 1932, by Sakai (1976). *Pleistacantha simplex*, however, is also a species of *Pleisticanthoides*. While superficially similar to the type species from Japan, specimens of *Pleisticanthoides* from the Philippines, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu are here regarded as belonging to two new species, *P. cameroni* and *P. piccardorum*.

The terminology used essentially follows that by Griffin & Tranter (1986) and the classification of the families is after Ng *et al.* (2008). The abbreviations G1 and G2 are used for the male first and second pleopods, P2–P5 for the first to fourth ambulatory legs, respectively. Measurements, in millimeters, are of the maximum carapace length (excluding the pseudorostrum) and width. Material examined is deposited in the Crustacean Collection, Philippine