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***Munidopsis lauensis* Baba & de Saint Laurent, 1992 (Decapoda, Anomura, Munidopsidae), a newly recorded squat lobster from a cold seep in Taiwan**

CHIA-WEI LIN^{1,2}, SHINJI TSUCHIDA³, SAULWOOD LIN⁴, CHRISTIAN BERNDT⁵ & TIN-YAM CHAN^{6*}

¹*Institute of Marine Biodiversity and Evolutionary Biology, National Dong Hwa University, Hualien 97401, Taiwan, R.O.C.*

²*Department of Exhibition, National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium, Pingtung, 944, Taiwan, R.O.C.*

³*Japan Agency of Marine Science and Technology, 2-15 Natsushima-cho, Yokosuka, Kanagawa, 237-0061, Japan.*

⁴*Institute of Oceanography, National Taiwan University, Taipei 106, Taiwan, R.O.C.*

⁵*GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, 24248 Kiel, Germany.*

⁶*Institute of Marine Biology and Center of Excellence for the Oceans, National Taiwan Ocean University, Keelung 202, Taiwan, R.O.C. E-mail: tychan@mail.ntou.edu.tw*

*Corresponding author.

Abstract

The squat lobster, *Munidopsis lauensis* Baba & de Saint Laurent, 1992, is recorded from Taiwan for the first time. This species was previously known only from deep-sea hydrothermal vents in the South-West Pacific but it was now found at a deep-sea cold seep site off southwestern Taiwan. The identity of the Taiwanese material is confirmed by comparison of sequences from the barcoding gene COI. *Munidopsis lauensis* can be easily separated from other congeners in Taiwanese waters by the eyes bearing a strong mesiodorsal spine and a small mesioventral spine, smooth carapace, fingers of the cheliped distally spooned and fixed finger without a denticulate carina on the distolateral margin. The discovery of this species in Taiwan increases the *Munidopsis* fauna of the island to 38 species. A color photograph and line drawings illustrating distinctive characters are provided for the Taiwanese material.

Key words: *Munidopsis lauensis*, Taiwan, cold seep

Introduction

Squat lobsters of the genus *Munidopsis* Whiteaves, 1874 are very diverse (with over 200 species known to date, Baba *et al.* 2008). They are often considered as “classical” deep-sea animals, with 21 species reported from hydrothermal vents or cold seeps (Williams 1988; Williams & Baba 1989; Baba & de Saint Laurent 1992; Baba 1995, 2005; Macpherson & Segonzac 2005; Martin & Haney 2005; Cubelio *et al.* 2007a–c). Taiwan has a rich *Munidopsis* fauna with 37 species recorded (Baba *et al.* 2008; Lin & Chan 2011; Osawa *et al.* 2013). A recent survey in a cold seep site off southwestern Taiwan at about 1100 m deep collected several specimens of a *Munidopsis* species previously unknown from Taiwan. Careful examination revealed that the newly collected Taiwanese material is *Munidopsis lauensis* Baba & de Saint Laurent, 1992, which was previously known only from hydrothermal vents in the South-West Pacific. The identity of the Taiwanese material was also confirmed by DNA barcoding. The present work reports this finding. With the addition of *M. lauensis*, 38 species of *Munidopsis* are now reported from Taiwan, which is the most speciose country for *Munidopsis* in the world (Osawa *et al.* 2013). The specimens examined are deposited at the National Taiwan Ocean University (NTOU) and Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle, Paris (MNHN). The measurement (CL) refers to the carapace length excluding rostrum.

Taxonomic account

Family Munidopsidae Ortmann, 1898

Genus *Munidopsis* Whiteaves, 1874

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