



***Pagurus asper* H. Milne Edwards, 1848, a subjective synonym of *Clibanarius longitarsus* (De Haan, 1849) and reversal of precedence (Crustacea: Decapoda: Anomura: Diogenidae)**

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The species-group name *Pagurus longitarsus* was proposed by De Haan (1849: 211, pl. 50, fig. 3) for a species of hermit crab collected from Japan (see Yamaguchi & Baba 1993: 272, 273). Dana (1852b: 464) transferred *Pagurus longitarsus* to the genus *Clibanarius* Dana, 1852 (first established in Dana 1852a). Dana (1852b: 464) also suggested that *Pagurus longitarsus* De Haan, 1849, and *Pagurus asper* H. Milne Edwards, 1848, were possibly synonymous by listing “*Pagurus asper* ? Edwards, Ann. des Sci. Nat., 1848(3), v. [sic] 62” in the synonymy of *Pagurus longitarsus* De Haan, 1849. Fize & Serène (1955: 72) repeated Dana’s (1852b: 464) opinion regarding the synonymy *Pagurus longitarsus* and *Pagurus asper*. McLaughlin (2002: 399) and McLaughlin *et al.* (2010: 20) also considered *Pagurus longitarsus* De Haan, 1849, and *Pagurus asper* H. Milne Edwards, 1848, to be possibly conspecific, but considered *Clibanarius longitarsus* (De Haan, 1849), to be the valid name.

Milne Edwards (1848: 62, 63) described *Pagurus asper* with the following diagnosis: “*Pagurus asper*. *Espèce très voisine des trois précédentes, mais ayant les pédoncules oculaires moins longs; les pattes ambulatoires plus grêles et plus longues et les pattes de la quatrième paire remarquablement petites. Une ligne blanchâtre, bordée de lignes rouges, sur la face externe des pattes ambulatoires; couleur générale brunâtre. Longueur, environ 2 pouces et demi. Rapporté des mers de l’Inde par M. Dussumier*” [“*Pagurus asper*. A species very similar to the previous three, but with shorter ocular peduncles; the ambulatory legs more slender and longer and the fourth pair remarkably small. A white band bordered by red lines is present on the outside of the ambulatory legs; the overall colour is brown. The length is approximately two and a half inches. Collected from the Indian Seas by Mr. Dussumier”].

The “three preceding species” referred to by Milne Edwards (1848: 62) were *Pagurus elongatus* H. Milne Edwards, 1848, *Pagurus lineatus* H. Milne Edwards, 1848, and *Pagurus tuberculosus* H. Milne Edwards, 1836. All three species are currently in the genus *Clibanarius* Dana, 1852: *Clibanarius elongatus* (H. Milne Edwards, 1848), *Clibanarius lineatus* (H. Milne Edwards, 1848), and *Clibanarius sclopetarius* (Herbst, 1791) (see McLaughlin *et al.* 2010: 19, 20).

The species-group name *Pagurus asper* was also proposed by De Haan (1849: 208, pl. 29, fig. 4), and is a junior primary homonym of *Pagurus asper* H. Milne Edwards, 1848. *Pagurus asper* De Haan, 1849, is now a junior synonym of *Dardanus pedunculatus* (Herbst, 1804) (see McLaughlin *et al.* 2010: 20).

As first suggested by Dana (1852b: 464), and as is clear from the original description, *Pagurus asper* H. Milne Edwards, 1848, is a synonym of *Pagurus longitarsus* De Haan, 1849. The description of *Pagurus asper* by H. Milne Edwards (1848: 62, 63) agrees well with the current concept of *Clibanarius longitarsus* (De Haan, 1849), especially in the colouration of the ambulatory legs (see McLaughlin 2002: 399, 400; Rahayu 2003: 100, 101; Rahayu & Forest 1992: 762). The majority of the type material of H. Milne Edwards is deposited in the Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle, Paris, but the type material of *Pagurus asper* H. Milne Edwards, 1848, has not been located despite several searches by the second author.

The Principle of Priority (Article 23 of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*, hereafter the Code; ICZN 1999: 24, 25) requires that the oldest available name for the taxon under consideration must be used, and requires that the well-known species-group name *Pagurus longitarsus* De Haan, 1849, must be replaced by *Pagurus asper* H. Milne Edwards, 1848. This replacement is not in the interest of nomenclatural stability as the latter name is in current

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