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Two new species of freshwater crabs of the genus *Sundathelphusa* Bott, 1969 (Decapoda: Brachyura: Gecarcinucidae) from caves in Luzon, Philippines

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Abstract

Two cave species of *Sundathelphusa* are described from a karst area in southern Luzon, Philippines. Both species have elongated ambulatory legs but the eyes and carapace pigmentation are well developed, indicating they are not troglobites. *Sundathelphusa danae* **sp. nov.** is superficially more similar to *S. longipes* (Balss, 1937) than to *S. holthuisi* Ng, 2010, which was described from the same locality. *Sundathelphusa danae* **sp. nov.** is distinguished from its closest congeners by its strongly convex anterolateral margin, more swollen branchial regions, possession of a complete frontal median triangle, laterally inflated subbranchial region and the more slender ambulatory legs. *Sundathelphusa vienae* **sp. nov.** is unusual among *Sundathelphusa* species in that its carapace is more quadrate, with the slender and almost straight male first gonopod tapered and having a pointed terminal segment.

Key words: Gecarcinucidae, *Sundathelphusa*, cave species, new species, taxonomy, Luzon, Philippines

Introduction

Freshwater crabs of the genus *Sundathelphusa* Bott, 1969, are widespread in many parts of the Philippine archipelago, inhabiting a wide range of freshwater habitats. In some cases, a particular area can have several species (e.g., see Ng & Sket 1996). We here describe two new species from caves in the karst region of Quezon Province, Luzon, the same area where another species, *S. holthuisi* Ng, 2010, was recently described (Ng 2010). The distinctive characters of the two new species from southern Luzon are also figured and discussed.

Measurements provided are of the carapace width and length, respectively, in millimeters. The terminology essentially follows that of Ng & Sket (1996). Specimens examined were deposited at the National Museum of the Philippines, Manila (NMCR); National Museum of Nature and Science (formerly National Science Museum), Tokyo (NSMT); and the Zoological Reference Collection (ZRC), Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore. The abbreviations G1 and G2 are used for male first and second gonopods, respectively.

Systematic account

Family Gecarcinucidae Rathbun, 1904

Sundathelphusa Bott, 1969

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about two kilometers apart and both have underground rivers that are connected to the surface. The two caves receive allochthonous materials from the surface ecosystem. Seasonal flooding occurs in both caves every year during rainy season and there is always some water, even during the driest summer.

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