



A new species of freshwater crab of the genus *Sodhiana* Yeo & Ng, 2012 (Decapoda: Brachyura: Gecarcinucidae) from southern Iran

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Abstract

A new species of freshwater crab, *Sodhiana iranica* n. sp. (Decapoda: Brachyura: Gecarcinucidae), is described from Bastak, Iran. This is fourth species of *Sodhiana* Yeo & Ng, 2012, described, and is the second one known from Iran. It can be distinguished from congeners by the form of its carapace and the structure of the male first gonopod.

Key words: Freshwater crab, Gecarcinucidae, *Sodhiana*, new species, taxonomy, Iran

Introduction

Most of the 6,800 species of brachyurans are marine, but a surprising one-fifth of all crabs on earth are strictly freshwater in habit, with the majority being primary freshwater crabs (Yeo *et al.* 2008, 2014). This makes freshwater crabs the largest assemblage within the Brachyura, which in turn is the most species-rich of all decapod crustacean groups (Ng *et al.* 2008; Cumberlidge *et al.* 2009). Recent studies have added several species to the fauna of Iran: *Potamon bilobatum* Brandis, Storch & Türkay, 2000 (Potamidae, cf. Nasrollahzadeh *et al.* 2011), *Potamon ilam* Keikhosravi & Schubart, 2014 (Potamidae, see Keikhosravi & Schubart 2014), and *Sodhiana rokitanskyi* (Pretzmann, 1971) (Gecarcinucidae, cf. Kamrani *et al.* 2009).

Only one species of gecarcinucid freshwater crab had previously been reported from eastern Iran, the gecarcinucid *Sartoriana rokitanskyi* (Pretzmann, 1971), and its taxonomy has been discussed at length by Kamrani *et al.* (2009). Yeo & Ng (2012) subsequently revised *Sartoriana* Bott, 1969, and transferred three species to a new genus, *Sodhiana*: *S. blanfordi* (Alcock, 1909), *S. afghaniensis* (Pretzmann, 1963), and *S. rokitanskyi* (Pretzmann, 1971). Here we report a fourth species, *Sodhiana iranica* n. sp., from Bastak, Iran.

The measurements (in millimetres) given are of the carapace width against carapace length. Terminology is based on Ng (1988). The abbreviations G1 and G2 are used for the male first and second gonopods, respectively.

Material examined and cited are deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection (ZRC) of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum (formerly known as the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research), National University of Singapore; The Natural History Museum (NHM), London; Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Calcutta; and the Zoological Collections of University of Hormozgan (ZCUH), Bandar Abbas, Iran.

Taxonomic account

Family Gecarcinucidae Rathbun, 1904

Sodhiana Yeo & Ng, 2012

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