



A new species of *Alainodaeus* Davie, 1993 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Xanthidae) from Balicasag Island, Philippines, with a key to the genus

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Abstract

A new species of *Alainodaeus* Davie, 1993, is described from Balicasag Island in the central Philippines. *Alainodaeus filipinus* n. sp., can be differentiated from congeners by the characters of its carapace, chelipeds, ambulatory legs and male first gonopods. A key to the species of *Alainodaeus* is provided. The occurrence of *A. filipinus* in the Philippines represents a remarkable extension in the range of this genus, which was previously known only from islands in the southern and southwestern Pacific.

Key words: Crustacea, Brachyura, Xanthidae, *Alainodaeus*, new species, Philippines, Balicasag Island

Introduction

Alainodaeus was established by Davie (1993) for two new species of xanthid crabs, *A. akiaki*, the type species, and *A. rimatara*, from moderately deep waters surrounding the islands of the Tuamotu Archipelago and the Austral Ridge in the southern Pacific Ocean. He cited features shared by this genus with other euxanthine genera such as *Medaeops* Guinot, 1967, and *Monodaeus* Guinot, 1967, particularly the general form of the carapace and the male first gonopod, placing it in the subfamily Euxanthinae. Subsequently, two more new species, *A. alis* Davie, 1997, and *A. nuku*, Davie, 1997, were described and additional specimens of *A. rimatara* were collected from new localities (Chesterfield Islands, Loyalty Islands, Marquesas Islands, New Caledonia, southwest Vanuatu, and Wallis Islands). These records extend the range of the genus further northwards and westwards (Davie 1997). With the additional species, Davie (1997) remarked that *Alainodaeus* may have some affinities outside Euxanthinae and cited similarities between it and other xanthid and panopeid crabs, although he noted that additional comparative studies are required to elucidate its precise taxonomic position. However, in his discussion of *Paraxanthodes* Guinot, 1967, Davie (1997) included *Medaeops*, *Medaeus* Dana, 1851, *Monodaeus*, *Paramedaeus* Guinot, 1967, *Paraxanthodes* and *Alainodaeus* in a monophyletic subgrouping in the Euxanthinae, distinguished on the basis of carapace, thoracic sternal and male abdominal characters. Additional morphological features of *Alainodaeus* are discussed in this paper, which reaffirm its affinities with Euxanthinae.

In the Philippines, research on decapod Crustacea has gone through a revival in recent years, with new records and new taxa being reported from various localities, but particularly from Balicasag Island, in the Bohol Sea, one of the internal seas in the central region of this archipelagic country (e.g. Takeda & Manuel 2000; Ng & Liao 2002; Ng 2003; Ng & Ho 2003; Ahyong 2004; Galil & Takeda 2004; Komatsu et al. 2004;