



***Podochela meloi* Sankarankutty, Ferreira & Cunha, 2001, a junior synonym of the spider crab *Inachoides forceps* A. Milne-Edwards, 1879 (Crustacea: Brachyura: Inachoididae)**

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Abstract

Podochela meloi Sankarankutty, Ferreira & Cunha, 2001, originally described in the Inachidae MacLeay, 1838, was recently transferred to the Inachoididae genus *Inachoides* H. Milne Edwards & Lucas, 1842, based upon overall similarities. Placement of *P. meloi* in both Inachoididae and *Inachoides* is found to be supported by a number of synapomorphies as shown herein. *Podochela meloi* is shown to be a junior synonym of *Inachoides forceps* A. Milne-Edwards, 1879.

Key words: *Podochela*, *Inachoides*, Inachidae, Inachoididae, Decapoda, Brachyura

Introduction

An ongoing revision by Santana & Tavares of the family Inachoididae Dana, 1851, necessitated a reappraisal of *Podochela meloi* Sankarankutty, Ferreira & Cunha, 2001, originally described in the Inachidae MacLeay, 1838, but recently transferred by Coelho (2006) to the inachoidid genus *Inachoides* H. Milne Edwards & Lucas, 1842. A comparison of part of the type material of *P. meloi* from northeastern Brazil, with all the three species currently placed in *Inachoides*, revealed that *P. meloi* is a junior synonym of the Western Atlantic taxon *I. forceps* A. Milne-Edwards, 1879.

Abbreviations used include: MCZ (Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge); MNRJ (Museu Nacional, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro); MZUSP (Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo); USNM (National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.); G1, first gonopod.

Family INACHOIDIDAE Dana, 1851

***Inachoides forceps* A. Milne-Edwards, 1879**

(Figs. 1B, D; 2C; 3B)

Inachoides forceps A. Milne-Edwards, 1879: 199, pl. 33, figs. 4-4d. — Garth, 1958: 99, 101. — Powers, 1977: 45. — Melo, 1996: 206; 1998: 146. — Camp *et al.*, 1998: 146. — Boschi, 2000: 88. — Nizinski, 2003: 129. — McLaughlin *et al.*, 2005: 251, 311. — Coelho, 2006: 18. — Ng *et al.*, 2008: 115.

Inachoides obtusus A. Milne-Edwards, 1879: 199, pl. 33, figs. 3, 4d.

Inachoides intermedius Rathbun, 1894: 57. — Rathbun, 1901: 59.

Podochela meloi Sankarankutty, Ferreira & Cunha, 2001: 552, figs. 1, 2. — Coelho, 2006: 678.