



A new xanthid crab of the genus *Medaeops* Guinot, 1967, from Peninsular Malaysia, with a note on *Leptodius granulatus* Haswell, 1882 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Xanthidae)

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Abstract

A new species of *Medaeops* Guinot, 1967, is described from the western coast of Selangor, Peninsular Malaysia. *Medaeops potens* **new species**, is only the second species of the genus known to occur in this region, and is most similar to another relatively common western Pacific species, *M. granulatus* (Haswell, 1882), particularly by having a cristate anterior margin on the merus of the ambulatory legs. It can easily be distinguished from *M. granulatus* and other congeners on the characters of the carapace, chelipeds, ambulatory legs and male gonopods. The taxonomy of *Leptodius granulatus* Haswell, 1882, is also stabilized by the assignment of a lectotype from the existing type material.

Key words: Brachyura, Xanthidae, Euxanthinae, *Medaeops*, new species, Malaysia

Introduction

The xanthid genus *Medaeops* Guinot, 1967, together with the genera *Miersiella* Guinot, 1967, *Monodaeus* Guinot, 1967, *Paramedaeus* Guinot, 1967, and *Pseudomedaeus* Guinot, 1968, was established by Guinot (1967, 1968) in her revision of *Medaeus* Dana, 1851, and allied genera. Two species were included in *Medaeops*: *Leptodius granulatus* Haswell, 1882, from the western Pacific Ocean, (designated type species), and *Xantho neglectus* Balss, 1922, from the western Indian Ocean, Persian Gulf and Red Sea. Guinot (1967) also described a new species, *M. edwardsi* Guinot, 1967, from the Malabar Coast, southwestern India, and from material questionably collected in Madagascar. *Medaeops* was at this time distinguished from related genera, particularly *Monodaeus*, by a combination of characters, namely the relatively shorter ambulatory legs, the absence of an anterolateral expansion on the merus of the third maxilliped, the relatively smaller and less expanded lacinia of the first maxilliped, the relatively shorter and stouter chelae and fingers and the relatively stockier male first gonopods (Guinot, 1967). Subsequent additions of new species to both *Medaeops* and *Monodaeus*, however, have somewhat confused the distinctions between these two similar genera. Guinot & Macpherson (1988) then described two new species of *Monodaeus* from the Indian Ocean and the southwestern coast of Africa, *M. arnaudi* and *M. cristulatus*, respectively, and Davie (1997) described two new species of *Medaeops* from New Caledonia and French Polynesia, *M. gemini* and *M. merodontos*. Davie remarked that the generic distinctions between *Medaeops* and *Monodaeus* had become blurred with the discovery of his two new species, which have proportionately longer ambulatory legs than typical *Medaeops*