



The Camptandriidae of Iraq, with description of a new genus and notes on *Leptochryseus* Al-Khayat & Jones, 1996 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura)

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Abstract

Three species of camptandriid crabs (Crustacea: Brachyura: Ocypodoidea) are reported from Iraq: *Tylodiplax indica* Alcock, 1900, *Manningis arabicum* (Jones & Clayton, 1983) and *Nasima dotilliformis* (Alcock, 1900), all new records for the country. The taxonomy of the three species is treated in detail. *Tylodiplax indica* Alcock, 1900, is here referred to *Opusia* **new genus**, differing from *Tylodiplax* De Man, 1895, by numerous carapace and male gonopod characters. *Manningis arabicum* (Jones & Clayton, 1983) and *Nasima dotilliformis* (Alcock, 1900) are redescribed from the types or topotypic material, and more differences with allied genera recorded and discussed. An allied genus from Kuwait, *Leptochryseus* Al-Khayat & Jones, 1996, is shown to be a valid taxon. *Nasima* is shown to be very close to *Leptochryseus*, sharing important thoracic sternal, male abdominal and male first gonopod characters, differing only in carapace features and adults of *Leptochryseus* being sexually dimorphic in their chelipeds.

Key words: Decapoda, Crustacea, Brachyura, Ocypodoidea, Camptandriidae, taxonomy, new genus, new records, Iraq

Introduction

The intertidal brachyuran fauna of Iraq is not well known, although that of the surrounding areas of the Persian Gulf has generally been better studied (e.g. Jones 1986, Al-Ghais & Cooper 1996, Apel & Türkay 1999, Apel 2001, Naderloo & Schubart 2009, Naderloo & Türkay, 2009). With regards to the Camptandriidae, several papers have been published on the species found in nearby Kuwait (e.g. Jones & Clayton 1983; Jones 1986; Alkhayat & Jones 1996). Among a recent collection of intertidal brachyurans from southern Iraq was an interesting collection of camptandriids, all of which are new records for the country. It also included representatives of *Tylodiplax indica* Alcock, 1900, a species whose taxonomy remain unresolved. Ng *et al.* (2008: 234) commented that “*Cleistostoma edwardsii* MacLeay, 1838, was referred to *Paratylodiplax* [by] Serène, 1974, an action followed by Manning & Holthuis (1981) in their important review of the family. *Tylodiplax indica* Alcock, 1900, has been left in the genus without change since its description. The first author has examined specimens of both species and they are different from all other congeners. They will be placed in their own monotypic genera (Tan & Ng, in prep.). Re-examination of material of *Cleistostoma dilatatum* (De Haan, 1833) and *Cleistostoma kuwaitense* Jones & Clayton, 1983, type species of *Cleistostoma* De Haan, 1833, and *Leptochryseus* Al-Khayat & Jones, 1996, respectively, has shown that the two genera are synonyms (Tan & Ng, in prep.)”. Ng *et al.* (in press) have recently resolved the status of *Cleistostoma edwardsii* Macleay, 1838, and transferred the species to a new genus.

We resolve here the remaining taxonomic questions with regards to *Tylodiplax indica*, and formally record *Manningis arabicum* (Jones & Clayton, 1983) and *Nasima dotilliformis* (Alcock, 1900) from Iraq. In addition,