



***Babamunida debrae*, a new species of squat lobster (Crustacea: Anomura: Galatheoidea: Munididae) from the Hawaiian Islands**

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Abstract

A new species of squat lobster, *Babamunida debrae*, was found in shallow waters of the west coast of Hawai‘i. It is readily distinguished from all the other species of the genus by the presence of a pair of spines on the second abdominal tergite. *Babamunida debrae* is the second species of the genus from Hawaii and seventh species of the genus from the Indo-Pacific.

Key words: Crustacea, Anomura, Munididae, Galatheoidea, squat lobster, *Babamunida*, taxonomy, Hawaii, shallow-water

Introduction

Recently an enthusiastic team of divers has been sharing their interest in the beauty of the marine organisms of the Hawaiian Islands. An unusual squat lobster in Hawaii came to my attention through John P. Hoover, the author of the book “Hawai‘i’s Sea Creatures, a Guide to Hawai‘i’s Marine Invertebrates,” who forwarded photos of a specimen shot by his colleagues to me for identification. It was a relatively small specimen sheltering in a hole on a volcanic lava wall. Relatively short, spinose pereopods 1 with iridescent setae discernible in the photos bore resemblance to *Munida olivarae* Macpherson, 1994 as observed by Kawamoto & Okuno (2003) in holes on coral rocks/walls in shallow waters of the Ryukyu Islands. The colouration of the carapace and pereopods 2–5 of this specimen appeared to fit the colour illustration of *M. olivarae* by Macpherson (1994) but the P1 showed a different colour pattern. This squat lobster was first observed by Debra Newbery on 17 February 2010 but material was not available. At my request Dennis McCrea and Debra Newbery caught two specimens, and on examination, these turned out to be an undescribed species of *Babamunida* belonging to the family Munididae of the Galatheoidea, which is hereby described and illustrated.

Material and methods

Measurements of specimens indicate the postorbital carapace length. Terminology used mainly follows Baba *et al.* (2009). Abbreviations used in the text include: Mxp3 (maxilliped 3), P1 (pereopod 1, cheliped), P2–P4 (pereopods 2–4, first to third walking legs), P5 (pereopod 5). The type material is deposited in the collection of the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Maryland (USNM).

Systematics

Family Munididae Ah Yong, Baba, Macpherson and Poore, 2010