



Procambarus (Ortmannicus) luxus (Decapoda: Cambaridae), a new crayfish from southern Texas

DANIEL P. JOHNSON

1500 Louisiana Street, Houston, Texas 77002, USA. E-mail: danjohns@dan-johnson.net

Abstract

Procambarus (Ortmannicus) luxus is described from Bee, Brooks, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Nueces, Refugio and San Patricio counties, Texas. It may be distinguished from its nearest relative, *P. (O.) texanus*, by its strongly asymmetrical first pleopods with proximal extremities separated by a distinct gap; strongly corneous, narrow, scarcely laterally deflected mesial process; slightly more recurved cephalic process and central projection; and an annulus ventralis which is more weakly overhung by the adjacent sternum and bears a prominent caudomedian tongue-like projection.

Key words: crawfish, crawdad, species descriptions

Introduction

Extensive collecting of crayfishes throughout Texas has resulted in the discovery of several seemingly new species. Previously the author described six of these new species, including four in the genus *Orconectes* (Johnson, 2010) and two in the genus *Fallicambarus* (Johnson, 2008). The first new *Procambarus* is described below.

Crayfish of the subgenus *Ortmannicus* are widely distributed in the eastern half of Texas. As currently recognized five members occur in the state. *Procambarus (O.) acutus* (Girard, 1852), the most widely distributed member, occupies much of eastern Texas north of 96 degrees latitude. *P. (O.) nechesae* (Hobbs, 1990) is very locally but densely distributed in a seven-county area surrounding the city of Lufkin in southeastern Texas. *P. (O.) zonangulus* (Hobbs and Hobbs, 1990) and *P. (O.) texanus* (Hobbs, 1971) are formally known from isolated geographical areas, with the former known from the extreme southeastern corner of the state and the latter from a single locality in Bastrop county. These two taxa, however, are local representatives of an abundant, very wide ranging and variable "complex" covering a 50,000 square kilometer range within the state which extends along the coast from the Louisiana border south to Victoria and inland up to 210 kilometers. This group has yet to be thoroughly investigated, but ultimately may prove to be comprised of more than two species or a single highly variable one. *P. (O.) nueces* (Hobbs and Hobbs, 1995) is currently known only from two sites in Atascosa county.

Procambarus (Ortmannicus) luxus described herein occupies a 8000 square kilometer, seven-county range surrounding the city of Corpus Christi in southern Texas. Its escape from description until this late date is surprising considering that it is the most common crayfish in its range, is easily collected and is clearly a distinct species. This crayfish is almost certainly what Johnson and Johnson (2008) recognized as an undescribed species, based on their counties of occurrence and lateral view sketch of the first pleopod distal extremity. They, however, did not provide any descriptive detail and do not plan to publish a formal species description (Kurt Johnson, pers. comm.).

Procambarus (Ortmannicus) luxus, new species

Corpus Christi Crayfish

Figs 1–6, Tables 1–2

Diagnosis. Body pigmented, eyes well developed. Rostrum with or without minute marginal tubercle but usually lacking median carina. Carapace with cervical tubercle slightly larger than neighboring tubercles. Areola 12.5 to