



A new squat lobster (Crustacea: Decapoda: Anomura: Chirostylidae) from off NW Spain

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Abstract

Uroptychus cartesi, a new species of squat lobster belonging to the family Chirostylidae, is described based upon material recently collected from the Bank of Galicia, a deep seamount located off north-west Spain. This is now the fifth species of the genus known from the eastern Atlantic. The four species previously recorded in the region (*U. bouvieri*, *U. concolor*, *U. maroccanus* and *U. rubrovittatus*) are morphologically rather remote from the new species. The spinose carapace lateral margin links *U. cartesi* to *U. bouvieri* but the other characters displayed by the new species are largely different from those of that species. *Uroptychus cartesi* is distinguished from *U. bouvieri* by the epigastric region having denticles arranged in small arcs transversely rather than a pair of spines behind the eyes; the anterolateral spine of the carapace is much larger than, instead of subequal to, the lateral orbital spine; the P2–4 propodi are slightly more than half, instead of twice, the length of dactyli; and the penultimate flexor marginal spine of P2–4 dactyli are twice as broad as, rather than as broad as the antepenultimate spine. A key to the species of *Uroptychus* from the eastern Atlantic is provided.

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, Anomura, Chirostyloidea, Chirostylidae, *Uroptychus*, eastern Atlantic, Spain

Introduction

Very recently, the Bank of Galicia off the northwestern Spain was explored by the Spanish cruise INDEMARES which conducted faunal and oceanographic investigations, with the aim of supporting the conservation of the marine species of the area. Among the crustaceans collected we found several specimens of an unusual species of squat lobster belonging to the genus *Uroptychus*, from a depth of 1410 m, which represent an undescribed species. The Atlantic harbours only very few species of the genus *Uroptychus* compared to the Indo-Pacific; only four species are known from the eastern Atlantic and 14 from the western Atlantic, whereas more than 118 species are reported from the Indo-Pacific (Baba *et al.* 2008, 2009; Poore & Andreakis 2011). Three of the four eastern Atlantic species were described in the late 19th century and the fourth was described 35 years ago (*U. rubrovittatus* (A. Milne-Edwards, 1881); *U. bouvieri* Caullery, 1896; *U. concolor* (A. Milne-Edwards & Bouvier, 1894); and *U. maroccanus* Türkay, 1976). Thus, this new species is described after what seems to be a long time. The new species is unique among the eastern Atlantic species in most of its morphological characters and rather resembles *U. armatus* (A. Milne-Edwards, 1880) from the western Atlantic.

The terminology used follows Baba *et al.* (2009). The size of the specimens is indicated by the postorbital carapace length. Measurements of appendages are taken in dorsal (pereopod 1), lateral (antennule, pereopods 2–4) and ventral (antenna) midlines. Ranges of morphological and meristic variations are included in the description, with the holotype characters in square brackets. Abbreviations used are: cl., postorbital carapace length; Mxp = maxilliped; P1, pereopod 1; P2–4, pereopods 2–4 (walking legs 1–3). The type material is deposited in the Institut de Ciències del Mar, Barcelona (ICM), and Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle, Paris (MNHN).