



A new species of *Oxypleurodon* Miers, 1886 (Crustacea, Brachyura, Majoidea) from the Bismarck Sea, Papua New Guinea

BERTRAND RICHER DE FORGES¹ & LAURE CORBARI²

¹Kiwa Consulting, 5, rue F. Franchette, 98800, Nouméa, New Caledonia. E-mail b.richerdeforges@gmail.com

²Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle UMR 7138 Systématique, Adaptation et Evolution, Département Systématique et Evolution, CP 26, 57 Rue Cuvier, F-75231 Paris Cedex 05, France. E-mail corbari@mnhn.fr

Abstract

Recently collected specimens from the deep sea off Papua New Guinea revealed the presence of a new species of *Oxypleurodon* Miers, 1886 (Majoidea). The new species is a member of the *O. auritum* group but its flattened rostral spines and the triangular shape of the carapace easily distinguishes it from congeners.

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, Brachyura, Majoidea, *Oxypleurodon*, new species, Papua New Guinea.

Introduction

Recent samplings of the benthos from the bathyal zone in the Indo-West Pacific have shown a very diverse crab fauna. Many new taxa have been described, mainly in the Homoloidea and Majoidea (e.g., Richer de Forges & Poore 2008; Richer de Forges & Ng 2009; Richer de Forges 2010). The genus *Oxypleurodon* Miers, 1886, described from the *Challenger* material, is particularly rich in species. Twenty-three species were listed by Richer de Forges and Ng (2009); with another species, *O. holthuisi* Richer de Forges, 2010, described from the Mozambique Channel. In addition, four species placed by Tavares (1991) under *Nasutocarcinus* were transferred to *Oxypleurodon* by Richer de Forges & Ng (2010). The number of *Oxypleurodon* species so far stands at 28.

The present article describes a new species collected off Papua New Guinea. The continental slope of this island situated close to the Coral Triangle has received little attention thus far. The Tropical Deep-Sea Benthos cruises (Bouchet *et al.* 2008) have focused mainly on the Philippines and Coral Sea. The 2010 BIOPAPUA cruise studying the benthic biodiversity in the Bismarck Sea and off southeastern Papua New-Guinea aimed to fill this gap.

The abbreviations G1 and G2 refer to the male first and second gonopods. The measurements, in millimetres, are of the carapace length and the width, respectively. Material is deposited in the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris (MNHN).

Systematic account

Majoidea Samouelle, 1819

Family Epialtidae MacLeay, 1838

Pisinae Dana, 1851

Oxypleurodon Miers, 1886