



Article

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***Oziotelphusa ganjamensis*, a new species of freshwater crab (Brachyura: Gecarcinucidae) from south Odisha (Orissa) state, eastern India**

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Abstract

A new species of freshwater crab of the genus *Oziotelphusa* Müller, 1887 is described based on specimens collected from a rice field near Balakrushnapur, Ganjam district in Odisha (Orissa) state, eastern India. *Oziotelphusa ganjamensis* n. sp. is easily differentiated from its congeners by a distinct first gonopod (G1) having terminal segment bent outwards, whose tip is upturned and pointed, and subterminal segment relatively broad in the basal half to two-third portion and then sharply narrows to appear slender in distal half to two-third portion. A key to the Indian species of *Oziotelphusa* is also provided.

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, Gecarcinucidae, *Oziotelphusa*, freshwater crab, taxonomy, new species, India.

Introduction

Oziotelphusa Müller, 1887, belongs to family Gecarcinucidae (Klaus et al., 2009). The genus is represented by 15 species (Ng *et al.* 2008) of which, five species are known from India (Pati *et al.* 2012). Taxonomical studies related to this genus are mainly those of Alcock (1910), Bott (1970), Ng & Tay (2001) and Bahir & Yeo (2005). Most of the Indian species are restricted in their distribution to the southern part (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry). Few reports (Henderson 1893; Alcock 1910; Ramakrishna 1951; Deb 1998; Ghosh & Ghatak 1999, 2000) are available on the biodiversity of the freshwater crabs of Odisha. Only one species of the genus, *Oziotelphusa aurantia* (Herbst, 1799) (= *Telphusa leschenaudii* Milne Edwards, 1837), is known from Odisha (Henderson 1893) though rice fields, the main habitat for these crabs, spread all over the state.

Individuals of a hitherto unknown species were collected from a small rice field near Balakrushnapur, Berhampur-Digapahandi road in the Ganjam district of south Odisha (Fig. 1). The specimens were assigned to an undescribed species of *Oziotelphusa*.

The material examined is deposited in the National Zoological Collections of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Western Regional Centre (WRC), Pune. The methods of measurement and terminology were adopted from Ng & Tay (2001) and Bahir & Yeo (2005). The following abbreviations are used: cw, carapace width; cl, carapace length; ch, carapace height; fw, frontal width; G1, male first pleopods; G2, male second pleopods.

Taxonomy

Family Gecarcinucidae

***Oziotelphusa* Müller, 1887**

Thelphusa (*Oziotelphusa*) Müller, 1887: 482.

Potamon De Man, 1898: 436 (part); Rathbun, 1904: 289 (part) (not *Potamon* Savigny, 1816).

Paratelphusa Alcock, 1910: 97 (part); Roux, 1915: 377 (part); Fernando, 1960: 213 (part) (not *Paratelphusa* H. Milne Edwards, 1853).