On the identity of Cancer urania Herbst, 1801
(Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Leucosiidae)

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Abstract

Cancer urania Herbst, 1801, is the type species of the leucosiid genus Coleusia Galil, 2006. Its identity has been a subject of confusion due to various taxonomical and nomenclatural issues. We redescribe the species, discuss its complex history and taxonomy, and a female syntype is designated as the lectotype of the species to clarify any lingering ambiguities concerning the type material of Cancer urania Herbst, 1801.

Key words: Coleusia urania, Leucosia grandis, Leucosia anatum, taxonomy, nomenclature, Leucosiidae

Introduction

The subfamily Leucosiinae Samouelle, 1819, in the Leucosiidae Samouelle, 1819, comprises six genera and 72 nominal species (cf. Ng et al. 2008). All members of this subfamily of Indo-West Pacific crabs possess a distinctive thoracic sinus. One of the largest sized species is Cancer urania Herbst, 1801, the type species of Coleusia Galil, 2006. Coleusia was established by Galil (2006) in one of a series of papers revising Leucosia Weber, 1795, and is characterised by having a deep thoracic sinus that is anteriorly defined by an overhanging margin of the pterygostomian region, the third to fifth male abdominal somites fused, and the shaft of the male first gonopod coiled three times on its axis, bearing distally a setose lobe with an elongated process. Four other species are currently recognized: C. biamulata (Tyndale-Biscoe & George, 1962) (= Leucosia longifrons neocaledonia Alcock, 1896, pre-occupied name), C. magna (Tyndale-Biscoe & George, 1962), C. rangita Galil, 2006, and C. signata (Paul'son, 1875) (= Leucosia fuscomaculata Miers, 1877).


The identity of Cancer urania, however, was not as clear as K. Sakai (1999) implied at least on the basis of the type, and while L. grandis was recognized as an available name by Chen & Sun (2002), Galil (2006) and Ng et al. (2008), the name is unavailable under the current zoological code (ICZN 1999).

We herein discuss the complex history and taxonomy of Cancer urania Herbst, 1801, and show that it differs from Cancer anatum Herbst, 1783. This is important as Cancer urania Herbst, 1801, is the type species of Coleusia Galil, 2006.
ON THE IDENTITY OF *CANCER URANIA*

FIGURE 6. *Coleusia urania* (Herbst, 1801), male (40.3 × 36.5 mm) (ZRC 2001.0045), gonopods. A, left G1; B, C, distal half of left G1; D, left G2; E, distal part of left G2. Setae of all structures denuded. Scales: A, D = 3.0 mm; B, C, E = 1.0 mm.

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