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## A new species of *Naxia* Latreille, 1825 (Brachyura: Majidae) from deep water off Brazil

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### Abstract

A new species of spider crab, *Naxia atlantica* n. sp., is described and illustrated from deep waters off São Paulo (south-eastern Brazil). The new species can be separated from its congeners by a suite of characters including shapes of the propodi of the walking legs, rostrum and basal antennal article. This is the first record of the genus outside southern Australia and New Zealand.

**Key words:** Crustacea, new species, spider crab, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand

### Introduction

The REVIZEE (Recursos Vivos na Zona Econômica Exclusiva) Program, among the major efforts to broaden the knowledge of Brazilian deep-water benthic fauna, was conducted from 1996 through 2003 at depths of about 2100 m (Anonymous, 2006; Tavares, 1999). The REVIZEE collections yielded a wealth of decapod crustacean material, some of which remains under study. Here we report a new species of spider crab, *Naxia atlantica* n. sp.

The following abbreviations are used: MZUSP (Museu Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo); USNM (National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.); cl, carapace length (rostrum not included); cw, carapace maximum width; pereopods 2–5, walking legs.

### Superfamily Majoidea Samouelle, 1819

#### Family Majidae Samouelle, 1819

#### *Naxia* Latreille, 1825

**Remarks.** Species of *Naxia* Latreille, 1825, are immediately distinguished from most other majids by having the propodi of walking legs ventrally expanded near the distal margin. The carapace is bare or with a few small hairs between groups of strong curled hairs. A prehepatic spine is present. Griffin & Tranter (1986) and Poore (2004) diagnosed the genus and provided keys to the four species known previously.

The possession of laterally flattened and ventrally broadened propodi of pereopods 2–5 (walking legs) in *Naxia* is paralleled in *Trichoplatus huttoni* A. Milne-Edwards, 1876, type species of the monotypic genus *Trichoplatus* and a member of Inachidae (Griffin 1966: fig. 8). Richardson (1949: 63), based in part on the subchelate condition of the walking legs, transferred *Trichoplatus huttoni* to *Naxia*, a position that was followed by Dell (1960). Griffin (1966) argued against the synonymy of *Trichoplatus* with *Naxia*. Griffin & Tranter (1986: 61), however, followed Bennett (1964: 33) and resurrected *Trichoplatus* after concluding that *T. huttoni* is not related to *Naxia* from which it differs in the morphologies of the male first gonopod, orbits, third maxillipeds and male abdomen.



**FIGURE 3.** A–B, habitus, dorsal view. A, *Naxia tumida* (Dana, 1851): male cl 30 mm, (USNM 64728). B, *Naxia spinosa* (Hess, 1865): male cl 36 mm (MZUSP 32367).

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