



***Monomia calla*, a new species of swimming crab (Decapoda, Portunidae) from Madagascar and the Philippines**

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Abstract

A new species of portunid crab (Brachyura: Portunidae) from southern Madagascar and central Philippines is described. *Monomia calla* sp. nov. is most similar in morphology to *M. lecromi* (Moosa, 1996) from the Chesterfield Islands in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, and *M. rubromarginata* (Lanchester, 1900) from the South China Sea, Singapore, Malay Archipelago and the northern half of Australia. The new species can be easily distinguished from all congeners by the distinctive morphology of the male first gonopod. The number of species of the Indo-West Pacific genus *Monomia* now stands at 12.

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, new species, *Portunus*, western Indian Ocean

Introduction

A single specimen of a new species of crab of the portunid genus *Monomia* Gistel, 1848, from the south of Madagascar, Indian Ocean was examined during a visit of one of the authors (MK) to the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris. The crab was collected during the Atimo Vatae Expedition to Madagascar in 2010, which focussed on sampling and describing the neglected components of biodiversity of the deep-water marine biota of the region. Coincidentally, a second specimen of this same species was collected by a fisherman in the Philippines in 2001 and was deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection of the National University of Singapore, now Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum. This was studied by the second author (TSN) as part of his graduate work, who independently realised it was new and described it in his unpublished thesis (Nguyen, 2013). The present paper combines the results of these two studies to formally describe the new species.

The two specimens possess the main morphological characters typical of *Monomia*, but are clearly distinguishable from all other congeners by a series of characters, notably the unique shape of the male first gonopod. It is herein described as a new species.

The following abbreviations are used in this report: CL, carapace length (in mm) measured from the frontal border between submedian teeth to the posterior border of the dorsal carapace in the midline; CW, the carapace width (i.e., the largest width, including the lateral teeth); MNHM, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris; ZRC, Zoological Reference Collection, Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, National University of Singapore.

Systematics

Family Portunidae Rafinesque, 1815

Subfamily Portuninae Rafinesque, 1815