

***Pagurus ikedai* (Crustacea: Anomura: Paguridae), a new hermit crab species of the *bernhardus* group from Japanese waters**

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Abstract

A new species of Paguridae, *Pagurus ikedai*, from the Tokyo Submarine Canyon and vicinity, Japan, is described and fully illustrated, including information on live coloration. This new species is distinguished primarily by size and shape of the chelipeds, in particular the massiveness of the left, and the presence in some males of a papilla or very short sexual tube on the right coxa of the fifth pereopod and a papilla on the coxa of the left. It is assigned to the *bernhardus* group which now includes eight species.

Key words: Hermit crab, Paguridae, *Pagurus*, new species, *bernhardus* group, Tokyo Submarine Canyon, Japan

Introduction

As part of long-term benthic faunal and ecological studies begun in the early 1960's (*e.g.*, Ikeda 1998, Watabe 1999), numerous specimens of a distinct hermit crab species of the family Paguridae were collected in the Tokyo Submarine Canyon and vicinity. During the earlier years of these studies, some specimens were sent to the late Sadayoshi Miyake (1908–1998, see Baba 1998) who communicated to Hitoshi Ikeda (Hayama Shiosai Museum) that they represented an undescribed genus and species. However, S. Miyake never published a description. Although the specimens sent to S. Miyake have not been located, a good number of additional specimens conspecific with those sent to him, and obtained during more recent samplings, were kept. These are used herein to document this new taxon.