

***Pleistacantha stilipes*, a new species of spider crab from the South China Sea (Decapoda: Brachyura: Majidae)**

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Abstract

A new species of deep-water spider crab, *Pleistacantha stilipes*, is described from the South China Sea. *Pleistacantha stilipes* most closely resembles *P. sanctijohannis* in having the proximal half to two-thirds of the rostral spines medially appressed, in the comparatively long walking legs in which the male P5 merus is longer than the postrostral carapace length, and in the morphology of the gonopod in bearing a long subdistal papilla. The new species differs from *P. sanctijohannis*, however, in having longer walking legs, uninflated male chelae, a relatively more elongate carapace, and longer rostral spines. A key to recognised species of *Pleistacantha* is provided.

Key words: *Pleistacantha stilipes*, Majidae, Brachyura, Decapoda, new species, taxonomy, South China Sea

Introduction

In the most recent synopsis of the Indo-West Pacific Majidae, Griffin & Tranter (1986) recognised eight species in the deep-water spider crab genus *Pleistacantha* Miers, 1879 (type species *Pleistacantha sanctijohannis* Miers, 1879): *P. cervicornis* Ihle & Ihle-Landenberg, 1931 (= *P. terribilis* Rathbun, 1932), *P. exophthalmus* Guinot & Richer de Forges, 1982, *P. japonica* (Yokoya, 1933), *P. moseleyi* (Miers, 1886) (= *P. pungens* (Wood-Mason in Wood Mason & Alcock, 1891)), *P. naresii* (Miers, 1886), *P. oryx* Ortmann, 1893 (= *P. rubida* (Alcock, 1895)), *P. sanctijohannis* Miers, 1879 (= *P. sanctijohannis* var. *erecta* Ihle & Ihle-Landenberg, 1931), and *P. simplex* Rathbun, 1932 (= *P. nipponensis* (Yokoya, 1933)). The status of several synonyms recognised by Griffin & Tranter (1986)