

**The Indo-West Pacific Pilumnidae XVIII: On the taxonomy of  
*Pilumnus scabriusculus* Adams and White, 1849, and *P. sluiteri* De  
Man, 1892, with a note on *Cancer incanus* Forskål, 1775  
(Brachyura: Xanthoidea)**

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**ABSTRACT**

The taxonomy of two Indo-West Pacific species of pilumnid crabs, *Pilumnus scabriusculus* Adams & White, 1849, and *P. sluiteri* De Man, 1892, is clarified. *Pilumnus sluiteri* has long been synonymised under *P. scabriusculus* but re-examination of the types and other material shows that there are distinct differences between them, notably in the form of the carapace, mouthparts, chelipeds and male first pleopods. They are here regarded as two distinct species.

**Key words:** *Pilumnus scabriusculus* Adams and White, 1849, *Pilumnus sluiteri* De Man, 1892, redescription, distinct species; *Pilumnus forskalii* H. Milne Edwards, 1834, *Pilumnus incanus* Klunzinger, 1913, *Cancer incanus* Forskål, 1775, Principle of Priority

**INTRODUCTION**

The supposedly widespread Indo-West Pacific pilumnid species, *Pilumnus scabriusculus* Adams & White, 1849, has long been regarded as a senior synonym of *P. sluiteri* De Man, 1892 (see Balss 1933). In August 2003, the larval sequence of a pilumnid crab, provisionally identified as *P. scabriusculus*, was reared in the Systematics and Ecology Laboratory, Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore, and found to comprise only two zoeal stages (Clark & Ng 2005). This was so markedly different from the four zoeal stages reported by Terada (1990) for the same species that the type material of *Pilumnus scabriusculus* and *P. sluiteri* was re-examined. Both were found to be valid species. The purpose of this study is to redescribe *Pilumnus scabriusculus* Adams & White,