

A new species of *Pagurixus* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Anomura: Paguridae) from Southern Japan

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Abstract

A new hermit crab species of the pagurid genus *Pagurixus* Melin, *P. fasciatus*, is described from shallow rocky reefs of Japan. Fifteen congeners are known from the Indo-Pacific region. The new species is most similar to *P. handrecki* Gunn & Morgan, known from Western and southeastern Australia, but can be distinguished from the latter by the less setose antennal acicle, the dorsomesial margin of the right palm which is sharply carinate along the entire length, the fewer ventral spines on the ambulatory dactyli, and the sharp, smooth dorsolateral carina of the female right palm. Coloration in life is also different between the two species.

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, Anomura, Paguridae, *Pagurixus*, new species, Japan

Introduction

The pagurid genus *Pagurixus* was originally established by Melin (1939) as a subgenus of *Pagurus* Fabricius (as *Eupagurus* Brandt). McLaughlin & Haig (1984) elevated *Pagurixus* to full generic rank, and recognized eight species from the Indo-Pacific region and Hawaii in the genus. Subsequently, six new species have been described, four from Australia (Gunn & Morgan 1992, Morgan 1993), one from Japan (Komai & Asakura 1995), and one from New Zealand (de Saint Laurent & McLaughlin 2000) (Table 1). *Pagurixus* is characterized by a distinct tuft of stiff setae on the right coxa of the male fifth pereopod, directed toward the left.

Examination of a collection made by the second author at Kashiwa-jima Islet, located at the southwestern part of Kochi Prefecture, Shikoku, Japan, resulted in the significant finding of an undescribed species of the genus, here named as *Pagurixus fasciatus* n. sp. Three specimens of the same species from Izu Islands have also been made available for