

On a new genus and species of freshwater crab from Vietnam, with comments on the nomenclatural status of *Orientalia* Dang, 1975 (Crustacea: Brachyura: Potamidae: Potamiscinae)

DARREN C.J. YEO & PETER K.L. NG

Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore, 10 Kent Ridge Crescent, Singapore 119260, Republic of Singapore (email: darrenyeo@nus.edu.sg, peterng@nus.edu.sg)

Abstract

A new potamiscine genus, *Laevimon*, is established for two species of semi-terrestrial freshwater crabs from Vietnam, viz., *Laevimon kottelati*, new species (type species) and *L. tankiensis* (Dang & Tran, 1992). The genus is morphologically closest to *Hainanpotamon* Dai, 1995, but is easily distinguished by distinct sternal and gonopodal characters. The status of *Orientalia* Dang, 1975, a synonym of *Hainanpotamon*, as a junior homonym of *Orientalia* Radoman, 1972 (Mollusca), is also discussed.

Key words: Crustacea, Brachyura, Potamidae, Potamiscinae, *Laevimon*, *Orientalia*, *Hainanpotamon*, new genus, new species, freshwater crab, Vietnam, Hainan, taxonomy

Introduction

In a nomenclatural note, Yeo & Ng (1998) commented that the generic name *Orientalia* Dang, 1975, was a junior homonym of *Orientalia* Radoman, 1972 (Mollusca) and thus unavailable, and that it should be replaced by a junior subjective synonym *Hainanpotamon* Dai, 1995. In the process, one species, *Orientalia tankiensis* Dang & Tran, 1992 [known from northern and central Vietnam] was also transferred to *Hainanpotamon*. Dang & Ho (2001), however, opted to retain *Orientalia* Dang, 1975, as a valid genus regardless, an action that will be discussed later in this paper.

The present study shows that *Hainanpotamon tankiense* differs significantly in sternal as well as G1 characters from other *Hainanpotamon* species, and should be referred to a new genus, here named *Laevimon*. In addition, a second species that shares the same diagnostic generic characters is also described from Vietnam.