

A new genus and species of the hermit crab family Paguridae (Crustacea: Decapoda: Anomura: Paguroidea) from Australia

RAFAEL LEMAITRE¹ & PATSY A. MCLAUGHLIN²

¹Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Department of Invertebrate Zoology, P.O. Box 37012, Washington, D. C. 20013-7012, U.S.A.

²Shannon Point Marine Center, Western Washington University, 1900 Shannon Point Road, Anacortes, WA 98221-9081B, U.S.A.

Abstract

A new genus, *Catapaguropsis*, and new species, *Catapaguropsis queenslandica*, are described from off Queensland, northeastern Australia. The new genus is compared and contrasted to two other genera of the family Paguridae, *Catapagurus* and *Pteropagurus*, with which it shares certain common characters. The new species is notable for its exhibited sexual dimorphism.

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, Paguroidea, Paguridae, new genus, new species, Australia

Introduction

The hermit crab fauna of Queensland, Australia, is best known from the Great Barrier Reef and surrounding environs (Tudge 1995). However, the deeper waters off the Queensland coast have been found to contain some distinctive taxa. For example, McLaughlin & Lemaitre (2001) described a new paguroid family from a pair of specimens collected off Brisbane. McLaughlin (2004a) described a new species of *Catapagurus* A. Milne-Edwards, 1880, from off Tully that provided the evidence necessary to invalidate the resurrection of the genus *Hemipagurus* Smith, 1881 by Asakura (2001). Further, off Thursday Island, McLaughlin (2004b) found the first representative of a species previously known only from a single incomplete specimen collected by scientists of the 1873–1876 *Challenger* Expedition.

During the International Crustacean Conference held in Brisbane in 1990, two specimens of an unusual hermit crab were examined briefly by the first author. These specimens were among a number of hermit crabs subsequently sent to the second author as part of her study of Australian paguroids. Although the female specimen exhibits