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**Species of the genus *Munidopsis* Whiteaves, 1784 from the
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Galacantha A. Milne-Edwards, 1880
(Crustacea, Decapoda, Galatheidae)**

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Abstract

Sixty-six species of the genus *Munidopsis* have been studied using specimens collected during numerous French expeditions carried out in the last decades in the deep-waters of the southwest Indian and southwest Pacific Oceans, between 140 and 4400 m. Twenty-five new species are described, and the diagnoses and illustrations of some relatively rare species (*M. africana*, *M. debilis*, *M. lenzii*, *M. moresbyi*, *M. orcina*, *M. sinclairi*, *M. stylirostris* and *M. wardeni*) are provided. The reestablishment of the genus *Galacantha* is proposed, including the descriptions/diagnoses and a key to all species. The genus contains nine species, including three new species (*G. bellis*, *G. diomedea*, *G. quiquei* n. sp., *G. rostrata*, *G. spinosa*, *G. subrostrata* n. sp., *G. subspinosa* n. sp., *G. trachynotus* and *G. valdiviae*). The number of species collected by station is very small (usually one species), probably related to their low densities. However, in some samples, as many as five species have been found. The highest number of species have been observed in the Banda Sea (Indonesia) and Solomon Islands. The new records of some species greatly extend the previously known distribution range of the species.

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, Anomura, Galatheidae, *Munidopsis*, *Galacantha*, new species, taxonomy

Introduction

The galatheid crabs of the genus *Munidopsis* Whiteaves, 1874, are commonly found living on the continental slope, usually deeper than 500 m, and on the abyssal plain > 2000 m (Baba 2005). The taxonomic status of the species belonging to this genus has received a remarkable improvement after the studies published in the last decades, demonstrating the existence of more than 200 species (Baba 1988, 2005, Ahyong & Poore 2004, Macpherson & Segonzac 2005, Osawa *et al.* 2006a, b, Schnabel & Bruce 2006 and references cited therein).

The first known species of the genus *Munidopsis* was described in 1853 by Loven using specimens collected on the Scandinavian coasts and under the genus *Galathea* (*G. serricornis*). Four years latter (1857), this species was described by Esmark, under the name of *Galathea tridentata*. Both species were cited, as different species, by Stimpson in his *Prodromus* of 1858.

The genus *Munidopsis* was established in 1874 by Whiteaves to include a new species (*M. curvirostra*) collected in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (NW Atlantic Ocean). This species was also reported by Smith (1879) in his account of decapods of the northeastern American coasts.

The high diversity of this genus was mentioned by A. Milne-Edwards (1880) in his preliminary report on the crustaceans collected by the “Blake” during the trawling expedition into the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico. This author described briefly four new genera to include 22 new species: *Galacantha* (2 species), *Galathodes* (10), *Elasmonotus* (4), and *Orophorhynchus* (6). The formal report of the “Blake” was published some years latter (A. Milne-Edwards & Bouvier 1897).

The expeditions carried out during 1878–1885 in the NW Atlantic Ocean by the “Albatross” provided numerous specimens to extend the ranges of *G. rostrata* and *M. curvirostra* to the coast of New England and to the coast of North Carolina, respectively (Smith 1882, 1884). Furthermore, Smith (1883) described a new genus *Anoplomotus* to include a new species (*A. politus*). In his report of 1884 Smith described a new species, named as *Galacantha bairdii*. In a subsequent paper Smith (1885) described two new species: *Munidopsis similis* and *Munidopsis crassa*. These species were further described and illustrated by Smith (1886).

The study of the Anomura collected by the “Challenger” Expedition from around the world was published in a preliminary report (Henderson 1885). This author synonymized the genus *Galathodes* with *Munidopsis* and created a new subgenus *Galathopsis* for species intermediate between *Munidopsis* and *Elasmonotus*. In the final report of the expedition (Henderson 1888), the genus *Orophorhynchus* was synonymized with *Munidopsis* and *Galathopsis* and *Anoplomotus* were suppressed as synonyms of *Elasmonotus*. The genus *Galacantha* was maintained, although he doubted that *G. bairdii* Smith should be included in *Galacantha*. The material collected by the “Challenger” included 9 species of *Munidopsis* (5 new species), 7 species of *Elasmonotus* (6