A new hermit crab species of the *Pagurixus anceps* group (Crustacea: Decapoda: Anomura: Paguridae) from southern Japan, and supplemental notes on *P. patiae* Komai, 2006

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Abstract

The pagurid hermit crab genus *Pagurixus* Melin, 1939, currently includes 24 species in the Indo-West Pacific, and recent studies have revealed the richness of this genus in southern Japan, particularly in coral reefs. In this paper, we deal with two species of the genus, *P. dissimilis* sp. nov. described from southern Japan, and the recently described *P. patiae* Komai, 2006. The new species appears closest to *P. nanus* Komai & Takada, 2006 in both morphology and coloration in life, but is distinguished from the latter by having a clearly delimited dorsomesial margin of the dactylus of the right cheliped in males and females, a blunt but distinct median crest and a mesial row of small spines on the dorsal surface of the carpus of the male right cheliped, and paired gonopores in females. The newly obtained specimens of *P. patiae* from Okinawa Island enable us to describe the coloration in life of the species for the first time and to examine morphological variation. Brief notes on the distribution of the Japanese *Pagurixus* species are also provided.

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

Introduction


During faunal studies of shallow-water hermit crabs in southern Japan by the authors, an undescribed species of *Pagurixus* was discovered from Okinawa Island in the Ryukyus and Kashiwa-jima Islet in Shikoku,