



Establishment of a new genus for *Asthenognathus gallardoi* Serène & Soh, 1976 within Gaeticinae Davie & N.K. Ng, 2007 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Varunidae)

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Abstract

Recently collected *Asthenognathus gallardoi* Serène & Soh, 1976 from Thailand and the Philippines are examined. *Asthenognathus gallardoi* possesses long setae of the palp of the third maxilliped and the fused male abdominal segments that are diagnostic characters of Gaeticinae Davie & N.K. Ng, 2007. Although the species lacks the longitudinal sulcus on the anterior segments of the sternum, which is another diagnostic character of Gaeticinae, the anterior part of the sternum is gently concave. The presences of these features indicate that *Asthenognathus gallardoi* belongs to Gaeticinae, not Asthenognathinae Stimpson, 1858. A new genus is established for *Asthenognathus gallardoi* to accommodate it in Gaeticinae.

Key words: *Asthenognathus gallardoi*, Varunidae, Gaeticinae, new genus, Thailand, Philippines

Introduction

The type species of *Asthenognathus* Stimpson, 1858 is *A. inaequipes* by monotypy, (Opinion 85, Direction 37); gender masculine. Stimpson (1858) assigned the genus to the Asthenognathidae. Three additional species have been described and assigned to this genus: *A. hexagonum* Rathbun, 1909, *A. atlanticus* Monod, 1933, and *A. gallardoi* Serène & Soh, 1976. Although the Asthenognathidae has traditionally been assigned to the Pinnotheroidea de Haan, 1833, P.K.L. Ng *et al.* (2008) established this taxon as a subfamily within the Varunidae H. Milne Edwards, 1853 (Grapsoidea MacLeay, 1838). Furthermore, P.K.L. Ng *et al.* (2008) considered *A. gallardoi* to be an unusual species in that it differed from other species assigned to *Asthenognathus* with respect to the form of its carapace and third maxilliped characters. However, *A. gallardoi* shares more significant characters with members of the subfamily Gaeticinae Davie & N.K. Ng, 2007 than with Asthenognathinae taxa. The purpose of this paper is to establish a new genus to accommodate *Asthenognathus gallardoi* within Gaeticinae.

The measurements provided, in millimetres, are carapace width (CW) and length (CL) respectively. Specimens examined are deposited in the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris (MNHN); the Natural History Museum, London (NHM); the National Museum of the Philippines, Manila (NMCR); the Zoological Laboratory, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan (ZLKU) (specimens that have been transferred to the Kitakyushu Museum of Natural History and Human History, Fukuoka, Japan); and the Zoological Reference Collection (ZRC) of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore. Abbreviations used: ovigerous = ovig.; station = stn; coll. = collected by.