



A new mud shrimp species of *Calastacus* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Thalassinidea) from the South China Sea

TOMOYUKI KOMAI¹, FENG-JIAU LIN² & TIN-YAM CHAN^{3,4}

¹Natural History Museum and Institute, Chiba, 955-2 Aoba-cho, Chuo-ku, 260-8682 Japan. E-mail: komai@chiba-muse.or.jp

²Department of Life Sciences, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan, R.O.C. E-mail: fjlin@mail.ncku.edu.tw

³Institute of Marine Biology, National Taiwan Ocean University, Keelung, Taiwan, R.O.C. E-mail: tychan@mail.ntou.edu.tw

⁴Corresponding author

Abstract

A new mud shrimp species of the deepwater calocaridid genus *Calastacus* Faxon, 1893, *C. inflatus*, is described on the basis of a single specimen from the South China Sea off the Pratas Islands. It is unique in the genus in having a faint cervical groove on the carapace, lacking spiniform projection at the dorsolateral distal angle of the second segment of the antennal peduncle, the possession of only one spine on the ventral margin of the merus of the cheliped, and the unarmed suture on the uropodal exopod. With the addition of the present new species, two species of the genus are now known from the West Pacific.

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, Thalassinidea, Calocarididae, *Calastacus*, new species, Pratas Islands, South China Sea

Introduction

The calocaridid genus *Calastacus* Faxon, 1893 is currently represented by five species (Kensley 1996; Kensley & Chan 1998): *C. stilirostris* Faxon, 1893 (type species) from the eastern Pacific off Mexico to Panama; *C. laevis* de Saint Laurent, 1972 from the eastern Atlantic and western Mediterranean; *C. colpos* Kensley, 1996 from the northwest Gulf of Mexico; *C. mexicanus* Kensley, 1996 from the Gulf of Mexico; and *C. crosnieri* Kensley & Chan, 1998 from off Taiwan, western Pacific. All species inhabit upper bathyal zone, included in the range of 300–1200 m depths. The genus is distinguished from other calocaridid genera by the following features: simple spiniform rostrum; carapace without submedian carinae on gastric region or middorsal carina posterior to cervical groove; well-developed antennal acicle; and appendix interna of second pleopod fused to base of appendix masculina (Kensley 1989, 1996; Poore 1994).

During a recent research cruise to Pratas (Dongsha), South China Sea, a specimen referable to *Calastacus* was collected from 1400 m depth. Close examination showed that this specimen represents a species new to science and it is described here as *C. inflatus* **n. sp.** The present new species is the first thalassinidean from Pratas and the first known from the lower bathyal zone in the South China Sea. The holotype is deposited in the National Taiwan Ocean University (NTOU). Because of the fragile condition of the holotype, the mouthparts were not dissected to avoid further damage. Carapace length (cl) is measured dorsally from the orbital margin to the posterior margin of the carapace.