



## The marsh crab, *Sartoriana rokitanskyi* (Pretzmann, 1971) (Decapoda, Brachyura, Gecarcinucidae) from southern Iran

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### Abstract

The marsh crab, *Sartoriana rokitanskyi* (Pretzmann, 1971) (Brachyura, Gecarcinucidae), is recorded from near a hot spring in Geno, southern Iran. The taxonomy of the species, including differences with the allied *S. blanfordi* (Alcock, 1909), is discussed. Notes on its ecology are also provided.

**Key words:** Freshwater crabs, Iran, Gecarcinucidae, *Sartoriana*, taxonomy, ecology

### Introduction

*Sartoriana* was established by Bott (1969: 361) for two species of freshwater crabs, *S. spinigera* (Wood-Mason, 1871) (type species) and *S. blanfordi* (Alcock, 1909), from Bengal, India, and Pakistan, respectively. Bott (1970: 39) synonymised *Parathelphusa* (*Parathelphusa*) *trilobata* Alcock, 1909, under *S. spinigera*; and *Parathelphusa* (*Parathelphusa*) *blanfordi afghaniensis* Pretzmann, 1963, under *S. blanfordi*. Pretzmann (1971) subsequently described another subspecies, *Liotelphusa* (*Sartoriana*) *blanfordi rokitanskyi* from southern Iran.

Ng *et al.* (2008) recognised five *Sartoriana* species: *S. spinigera*, *S. blanfordi*, *S. afghaniensis*, *S. rokitanskyi* and *S. trilobata*, but gave no further information. In a separate study on the Pakistani crabs by the second author, D. C. J. Yeo and Q. Kazmi, the types of both of Pretzmann's taxa were examined and determined to be valid species. Although Pretzmann (1963) regarded *S. afghaniensis* (type locality Rud, Afghanistan) as close to *S. blanfordi*, it is in fact more closely related to *S. spinigera*, sharing a similar carapace physiognomy and the diagnostic spine on the dorsal subdistal part of the cheliped merus. Similarly, *S. rokitanskyi* (type locality Rudan, southern Iran) differed in carapace and male first gonopod characters. With regards to *S. trilobata* (type locality Sibsagar, Assam), Alcock (1909, 1910) separated it from *S. spinigera* by its relatively flatter carapace, different anterolateral margin structure and the subterminal meral spine on the cheliped been blunt (not sharp). Although Alcock (1909) only had one female specimen available, the differences he observed are characteristic and suggest the species is in fact valid.

Specimens examined are deposited in the Zoological Collections of the University of Hormozgan (ZCUH), Bandar Abbas, Iran; and the Zoological Reference Collection (ZRC) of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore. The terminology used essentially follows that in Ng (1988) and Ng *et al.* (2008). The classification follows Klaus *et al.* (2009) in which the Gecarcinucidae Rathbun, 1904, and Parathelphusidae Alcock, 1910a, are regarded as subjective synonyms. Measurements