On the Planopilumnidae Serène, 1984 (Crustacea: Brachyura: Pseudozioidea), with diagnoses of two new pilumnoid genera for species previously assigned to Planopilumnus Balss, 1933

PETER K. L. NG
Tropical Marine Science Institute and Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore, Kent Ridge, Singapore 119260, Republic of Singapore. E-mail: peterng@nus.edu.sg

Abstract

The taxonomy of the planopilumnid Planopilumnus Balss, 1933 (type species Pilumnus spongiosus Nobili, 1905) (Pseudozioidea), is revised. A junior synonym, Rathbunaria Ward, 1933 (type species Rathbunaria sculptissima Ward, 1933), is resurrected. Five species, Pilumnus labyrinthicus Miers, 1884, Pilumnus vermiculatus A. Milne-Edwards, 1873, Pilumnus penicillatus Gordon, 1930, Planopilumnus minabensis Sakai, 1969, and Planopilumnus pygmaeus Takeda, 1977, which have been described in or transferred to Planopilumnus, are here shown to be pilumnids (Pilumnoidea). Two new genera, Vellumnus and Colerolumnus, are established to accommodate these species.

Key words: Decapoda, Crustacea, Brachyura, Planopilumnidae, Pilumnidae, new genera, taxonomy

Introduction

The systematic position of Planopilumnus Balss, 1933 (type species Pilumnus spongiosus Nobili, 1905) has been unclear for several decades. Although long regarded as a member of the Pilumnidae Samouelle, 1819, Crosnier (footnote in Serène 1984: 11) commented that Raoul Serène had realised that the type species of the genus Planopilumnus Balss, 1933, was unusual within the Pilumnidae, with different gonopodal structures, but nevertheless retained the genus (and his newly established subfamily Planopilumninae Serène, 1984) in the family.

The examination of the types and material of Pilumnus spongiosus in the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle in Paris in the late 1980s confirmed that this species is in fact not a pilumnid but instead had many goneplacoid features. However, comparative studies showed that Planopilumnus was heterogeneous, with some of the species which had been placed in it by various workers (e.g. Balss 1933, 1938, 1957; Sakai 1969, 1976; Takeda 1977; Miyake 1983; Serène 1968, 1984) being true pilumnids and that two new genera needed to be established for them (see Ng 2003; Ng & Clark 2000a, b; Ng & Liao 2002; Ng & Ng 2003; Ng et al. 2001, 2008; Ng & Manuel-Santos 2007; Davie 2002). Although all these species superficially resemble each other with regards to their prominently pubescent carapaces, they had a very different arrangement of the male penis as well as diagnostic male first and second gonopods. The intention had always been to treat all these species in a larger revision of the Pilumnidae, but this exercise has taken far longer than hoped. As such, the pilumnids which has been originally classified in Planopilumnus have not yet been placed in new genera, with Ng et al. (2008) opting only to retain them in Pilumnus Leach, 1816, sensu lato for convenience. Planopilumnus and its allies have since been referred to the Planopilumnidae Serène, 1984, in the Pseudozioidea Alcock, 1898 (Ng et al. 2008).

The genus Planopilumnus is rediagnosed and figured herein. Rathbunaria Ward, 1933, long synonymised under Planopilumnus, is reinstated as a valid genus, its type species, Rathbunaria sculptissima Ward, 1933, differing markedly from Planopilumnus spongiosus in several key characters. Detailed diagnoses are...