



The mud-shrimp genus *Axianassa* Schmitt, 1924 (Crustacea, Decapoda, Axianassidae) in the Indo-West Pacific, with description of a new species from French Polynesia

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Abstract

A new species of the mud-shrimp genus *Axianassa* Schmitt, 1924 is described based on four specimens collected in a muddy near-shore area inside the Moorea lagoon, Society Islands, French Polynesia. *Axianassa ngochoae* n. sp. constitutes the first Indo-West Pacific record of this genus, previously known only from the western and eastern coasts of the Americas. A key to all species of *Axianassa* is provided.

Key words: Decapoda, Laomediidae, *Axianassa*, new species, mud-shrimp, Indo-West Pacific

Introduction

The mud-shrimp genus *Axianassa* Schmitt, 1924 (Axianassidae) was previously known only from the American coasts, with four species occurring in the western Atlantic: *A. intermedia* Schmitt, 1924 (type species) from the Caribbean Sea, *A. arenaria* Kensley & Heard, 1990 from the Gulf of Mexico, *A. jamaicensis* Kensley & Heard, 1990 from the Caribbean Sea, and *A. australis* Rodrigues & Shimizu, 1992 from Brazil to the southeastern USA; and two species in the eastern Pacific: *A. mineri* Boone, 1931 and *A. canalis* Kensley & Heard, 1990, both from the Pacific coast of Panama (see Schmitt 1924; Boone 1931; Kensley & Heard 1990; Rodrigues & Shimizu 1992). Felder *et al.* (2003) reported an additional eastern Pacific species (as either *Axianassa* sp. or *Axianassa canalis*?) from Nicaragua, though its status remains unclear.

During an extensive survey of decapod crustaceans of Moorea, French Polynesia under the international project Biocode Moorea, the author collected four specimens plainly referable to the genus *Axianassa* by numerous features of the frontal region and pereopods, as well as by the absence of transverse suture on the uropods (see Kensley & Heard 1990). These specimens were examined and found to represent a hitherto undescribed species of *Axianassa* — the first species of this genus in the Indo-West Pacific. In the present study, a new species is described and illustrated based on Moorea material, and an updated key to all known species of *Axianassa* is provided.

Type material is deposited in the collections of the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA (FLMNH), and Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France (MNHN). All drawings were made under Leica MZ16 dissecting microscope equipped with a camera lucida. Carapace length (CL, from the tip of the rostrum to the posterior margin of the carapace) is used as a standard measurement of size. Other abbreviations used in the text: fcn – field collection number.