



***Kabutos*, a new genus for the western Pacific leucosiid crab, *Merocryptus durandi* Serène, 1955 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura)**

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Abstract

A new genus of the family Leucosiidae, *Kabutos* n. gen., is described for *Merocryptus durandi* Serène, 1955, from the western Pacific. *Kabutos* n. gen. is differentiated from other leucosiid genera by the combination of morphological features in the orbit, third maxilliped, chela and abdomen. *Kabutos durandi* is redescribed and the affinities with allied genera are discussed.

Key words: Brachyura, Leucosiidae, *Kabutos* n. gen., new genus, western Pacific

Introduction

The genus *Merocryptus* A. Milne-Edwards, 1873, currently contains four species: *M. boletifer* A. Milne-Edwards & Bouvier, 1894, *M. durandi* Serène, 1955, *M. lambriformis* A. Milne-Edwards, 1873, and *M. obsoletus* A. Milne-Edwards & Bouvier, 1898 (Ng *et al.* 2008). The genus was established for *M. lambriformis* and was described on the basis of one male specimen collected from the island of Upolu, Samoa, in the south-central Pacific (A. Milne-Edwards, 1873: 261, pl. 2 fig. 1). It is a senior synonym of *Ebalia rugosa* Yokoya, 1933, described from three males and eight females from several locations in Japan. Two of the species are from the eastern Atlantic: *M. boletifer* described from one male from the Azores (A. Milne-Edwards & Bouvier, 1894: 56, pl. 4 figs. 1–9) and *M. obsoletus* described from apparently a single male from the Cape Verde (A. Milne-Edwards & Bouvier, 1898: 34). Serène (1955: 146, fig. 3, pl. 6 figs. 1–3) described *M. durandi* on the basis of a single female specimen from Vietnam. Sakai (1963) recognised a new genus and new species from Japan, *Merocryptoides frontalis* Sakai, 1963, which he argued was close to *Merocryptus*. However, a revision by Komatsu & Takeda (2001), who described two new species from Japan, argued that *Merocryptoides* is actually closer to the small species of *Nursia* Leach, 1817, e.g., *N. elegans* Ihle, 1918, *N. japonica* Sakai, 1935, and *N. alata* Komatsu & Takeda, 1999.

Examination of a series of specimens of *M. durandi* collected in the central Philippines and Vanuatu (see Bouchet *et al.* 2009) showed that its retention in the genus is untenable; the differences in the structures of the orbit and antenna, third maxilliped, as well as the form of the male and female abdomens were too substantial. These characters also argue against the transfer of *M. durandi* to similarly looking genera such as *Merocryptoides* Sakai, 1963, or *Oreotlos* Ihle, 1918. A new genus, *Kabutos*, is here established for the species.

Material examined is deposited in the Philippine National Museum (Crustacean Collection), Manila, Philippines (NMCR); Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France (MNHN); Zoological Reference Collection of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore (ZRC); and the National Museum of Nature and Science, Tokyo, Japan (NSMT). Measurements provided, in millimeters, are of the carapace length and width, respectively. The following abbreviations are used: G1 = male first pleopod; G2 = male second pleopod; R = fused abdominal somites; s = thoracic sternal suture (e.g., s3/4 = suture between sternites 3 and 4); stn = station; T = telson.