



Article

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A new species of *Nanhaipotamon* Bott, 1968 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Potamidae) from Zhuhai, Guangdong Province, China

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Abstract

A new species of freshwater crab of the genus *Nanhaipotamon* Bott, 1968, *N. zhuhaiense* n. sp. is described from Zhuhai, Guangdong Province, southern China. The new species inhabits mud burrows on the banks of densely vegetated creeks and is sympatric with *N. guangdongense* Dai, 1997. Its distinctive bluish-white coloration in life as well as the characteristic morphology of the male first pleopod easily distinguishes the species from congeners.

Key words: Potamidae, *Nanhaipotamon zhuhaiense* n. sp., freshwater crab, Zhuhai

Introduction

The genus *Nanhaipotamon* Bott, 1968 (type species *Potamon (Potamon) formosanum* Parisi, 1916) currently contains 15 species, all from southern China, Hong Kong and Taiwan (Dai 1999; Shih *et al.* 2005; Ng *et al.* 2008; Cheng *et al.* 2011). Shih *et al.* (2011) studied the genetic relationships of many of these species, and identified two species from Hong Kong and Guangdong Province as belonging to a “Delta group”: *N. hongkongense* (Shen, 1940) and *N. guangdongense* Dai, 1997. Another species from Hong Kong, *N. aculatum* Dai, 1997, whose genetics could not be studied, also probably belongs to this group.

As part of a freshwater crab survey in 2011 around Zhuhai in Guangdong Province, southeastern China, specimens of two *Nanhaipotamon* species were collected. The more widespread and common form was usually brightly colored orange and agreed in morphology to *N. guangdongense* Dai, 1997, described from a single specimen in Guangdong. A second form that tended to be bluish-white in life, had a more restricted distribution and had a consistently different male first pleopod which did not match those of any known congeners. It is here described as new.

Specimens were collected from mud burrows near mountain streams and brought to the laboratory alive and preserved in 75% ethanol. Specimens are deposited in the Sun Yat-Sen Museum of Biology, Sun Yat-Sen University, China (SYSU); Chinese Academy of Science, Beijing (AS); and the Zoological Reference Collection of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore (ZRC). Measurements, in millimetres, are of the carapace width and length, respectively. The following abbreviations are used: G1—male first pleopod; G2—male second pleopod.