



***Munidopsis kareenae*, a new species of seamount squat lobster from New Zealand with a key to the New Zealand species of *Munidopsis* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Munidopsidae)**

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Abstract

A new species of the squat lobster genus *Munidopsis* is described from Nukuhou Seamount, North Island, New Zealand. The new species is allied to members of the “*Galathodes* group” within *Munidopsis* that share a flattened, distally trifid rostrum, an unarmed carapace surface (apart from paired epigastric spines in some species), unarmed abdominal tergites and absence of pereopodal epipods. The new species is readily separated from these species by the combination of unarmed lateral carapace margins posterior to the anterolateral spine, absence of epigastric spines, and prominently spinose extensor margins of the pereopod 2–4 meri. Fourteen species of *Munidopsis* are now recorded from New Zealand; a key to the New Zealand species is provided.

Key words: Anomura, seamount, taxonomy, squat lobster, *Munidopsis*

Introduction

More than 220 species of the squat lobster genus, *Munidopsis* Whiteaves, 1784, are known, with the majority from the Indo-West Pacific region (Baba *et al.* 2008). *Munidopsis* was considered part of the Galatheidae Samouelle, 1819, but recent studies have shown that the former subfamily Munidopsinae Ortmann, 1898, should be recognised as a separate family for *Munidopsis*, *Galacantha* A. Milne-Edwards, 1880, and *Leiogalatea* Baba, 1969 (Ahyong *et al.* 2010, 2011; Schnabel *et al.* 2011).

The munidopsid fauna of New Zealand has been subject of few studies (Baba 1974; Schnabel & Bruce 2006; Ahyong 2007; Schnabel 2009; Ahyong *et al.* 2010), with only 13 species recorded to date (Webber *et al.* 2010; Yaldwyn & Webber 2011). As part of ongoing deep-water benthic surveys by the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), an unusual species of *Munidopsis*, not hitherto recorded from New Zealand, was collected from the Nukuhou Seamount, North Island, New Zealand. The species is herein described as new and a key to the 14 known New Zealand species of *Munidopsis* provided.

Material and methods

Morphological terminology generally follows Baba (2005) and Ahyong *et al.* (2010). Carapace length (cl) is measured along the dorsal midline from the rostral apex to the posterior margin of the carapace. Postrostral carapace length (pcl) is measured dorsally from the base of the rostrum to the posterior margin of the carapace. The holotype is deposited in the invertebrate collection of the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, Wellington (NIWA).