Zootaxa 3635 (1): 015–026
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

Article

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3635.1.2
http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:D35BD9A0-5251-4517-8C94-CB3BC7FB3C23

Parapleisticantha Yokoya, 1933, a valid genus of deep-sea inachid spider crab from Japan and the Philippines (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Majoidea), with the description of a new species

BERTRAND RICHER DE FORGES[1], PETER K. L. NG[2] & SHANE T. AHYONG[3]

[1]*5, rue Félix Franchette, 98800 Nouméa, New Caledonia. E-mail:b.richerdeforges@gmail.com*

[2]*Tropical Marine Science Institute & Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore, Kent Ridge, Singapore 119260, Republic of Singapore. E-mail: peterng@nus.edu.sg*

[3]*Australian Museum, 6 College St., Sydney, NSW 2010, Australia. E-mail: shane.ahyong@austmus.gov.au*

Abstract

The inachid spider crab genus, *Parapleisticantha* Yokoya, 1933 [type species: *Parapleisticantha japonica* Yokoya, 1933] is removed from the synonymy of *Pleistacantha* Miers, 1879 [type species: *Pleistacantha sanctijohannis* Miers, 1879], and recognised as a valid genus. *Parapleisticantha* differs from *Pleistacantha* sensu stricto primarily by having a less spiny carapace, stouter and more inflated male chelipeds, and by lacking a slender subdistal process on the male first gonopod. We redescribe *Parapleisticantha japonica* based on the Japanese type material and describe as new a second species, *Parapleisticantha ludivinae* **n. sp.**, recently discovered in the Philippines.

Key words: Inachidae, *Pleistacantha*, *Parapleisticantha*, Indo-West Pacific, taxonomy

Introduction

The inachid spider crab genus *Pleistacantha* Miers, 1879, is currently regarded as the senior subjective synonym of *Echinoplax* Miers, 1885 (type species *Echinoplax moseleyi* Miers, 1885), *Parapleisticantha* Yokoya, 1933 (type species *Parapleisticantha japonica* Yokoya, 1933) (see Griffin & Tranter 1986; Ng *et al.* 2008) and, until recently, *Pleisticanthoides* Yokoya, 1933 (type species *Pleisticanthoides nipponensis* Yokoya, 1933). Ng & Richer de Forges (2012) reviewed the status of *Pleisticanthoides* and argued that it should be treated as a valid genus, distinguished from the other taxa now in *Pleistacantha* by a suite of carapace, pereiopod, eye, male abdominal and gonopodal characters. Two new species of *Pleisticanthoides* were also described by Ng & Richer de Forges (2012) from the Philippines and Vanuatu.

Sakai (1938: 232–233) treated *Parapleisticantha*, with some reluctance, as a subgenus of *Pleistacantha* consisting of two species, *P. japonica* and *P. naresii* (Miers, 1885). Takeda & Miyake (1969: 497) reported on two syntypes (one male, one female) in the Kyushu University collections. Takeda & Miyake (1969: 497) noted of Yokoya's diagnostic characters for *Parapleisticantha* that the anterolateral angle of the third maxilliped merus is "more or less produced" as in other species of *Pleistacantha*, and that the "short divergent rostral spines also occur in some other species". Thus, in the absence of reliable distinguishing characters, Takeda & Miyake (1969) argued that *Parapleisticantha* should be fully synonymised with *Pleistacantha*, not being valid even as a subgenus. Sakai (1976: 171) agreed, synonymised *Parapleisticantha* under *Pleistacantha*, and commented that "YOKOYA's type specimen is not extant now", the types having been lost in the intervening years. He seemed nevertheless to have changed his mind later on the validity of the genus when he briefly commented on *Parapleisticantha* (Sakai 1986: 2), and treated it as though it might be a good genus without explicitly stating so or saying anything significant about its taxonomy.

Ng & Richer de Forges (2012) commented on the possible validity of *Parapleisticantha* in anticipation of the present study. The type specimens of the type species, *Parapleisticantha japonica* Yokoya, 1933, were recently

Accepted by P. Castro: 4 Feb. 2013; published: 25 Mar. 2013