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Freshwater crabs from eastern Panamá: a new species of *Potamocarcinus* H. Milne Edwards, 1853, and new records of two little-known species (Crustacea: Decapoda: Pseudothelphusidae, Trichodactylidae)

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Abstract

A small collection of freshwater crabs from eastern Panamá revealed a new species of pseudothelphusid crab, *Potamocarcinus darienensis* n. sp., which is described and illustrated. The new species is characterized by an unusual arrangement of distal processes in the male first gonopod, in which the mesial lobe is folded in a latero-cephalic direction over the apex and the apex is broadened by a rounded protuberance in its caudo-lateral surface, the cephalic surface having a small, conical median cephalic process, and a large, prominent, subtriangular proximal cephalic process. New records of two little-known species described from eastern Panamá, *Spirocarcinus garthi* (Pretzmann, 1971) (Pseudothelphusidae) and *Melocarcinus meekei* (Pretzmann, 1968) (Trichodactylidae), are listed and the first gonopod of *S. garthi* is redescribed.

Key words: Taxonomy, Potamocarcinini, Neotropical region, Central America, Panamá, Darién.

Introduction

Panamá is highly diverse with respect to freshwater crabs. Six genera and 17 species occur in a relatively small territory (C. Magalhães, unpublished data). Most of the species are known from the more populated central and western parts of the country and only six species are known from south-eastern Panamá near the border with Colombia: *Hypolobocera canaensis* Pretzmann, 1968, *H. smalleyi* Pretzmann, 1968, *Ptychophallus goldmanni* Pretzmann, 1965, *P. micracanthus* Rodríguez, 1994, *Spirocarcinus garthi* (Pretzmann, 1971), (Pseudothelphusidae), and *Melocarcinus meekei* (Pretzmann, 1968) (Trichodactylidae). Information on the freshwater crabs from this region is scarce and fragmentary, and all these species are known from one or a few specimens (Pretzmann 1971; Rodríguez 1994; Magalhães & Türkay 1996b). Carcinological surveys have never been systematically conducted in this region and most of the specimens are a product of incidental collections mainly undertaken during herpetological, ichthyological and mammalogical surveys in the twentieth century, particularly the 1911-1912 Smithsonian Biological Survey of Panama (Meek & Hildebrand 1916; Goldman 1920), the 1924-1925 Marsh-Darién Expedition (Breder 1927; 1946), and the 1975 Gentry-Myers Expedition to Cerro Tacarcuna (Gentry 1983; Myers & Lynch, 1997). R.W. Bouchard in 1985 and C. D. Schubart in 1996 collected a few additional specimens (see below).

Potamocarcinus H. Milne Edwards, 1853, belongs to the tribe Potamocarcinini Ortmann, 1897, that includes a group of eleven species distributed from Mexico to northwestern Colombia: *Potamocarcinus armatus* H. Milne Edwards, 1853 (Nicaragua and Guatemala), *P. chajulensis* Álvarez & Villalobos, 1998 (Chiapas, Mexico), *P. colombiensis* Prah & Ramos, 1987 (Chocó, Colombia), *P. hartmanni* Pretzmann, 1975 (Tabasco, Mexico), *P. lobulatus* Campos & Lemaitre, 2002 (Panamá); *P. magnus* (Rathbun, 1896) (Chiapas, Mexico; Guatemala; El Salvador; Costa Rica), *P. nicaraguensis* Rathbun, 1893 (Nicaragua), *P. pinzoni* Campos, 2003 (northwestern