



A new species of *Coleusia* Galil, 2006 (Decapoda: Brachyura: Leucosiidae) from southern Asia

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Abstract

A new species of leucosiid crab of the genus *Coleusia* Galil, 2006, is described from South and Southeast Asia. *Coleusia huiliana* n. sp. is distinguished from the superficially similar *C. urania* (Herbst, 1801) in the shape of the apical process of the first male gonopod which is digitate and curved laterally in the former (beak-like and curved interiorly in the latter); possessing smaller and sparser granulation on the posterior and lower margin of the cheliped and ambulatory meri; and the granulation is entirely missing from the lower external surface of the palm.

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, Brachyura, Leucosiidae, new species, India, Thailand, Singapore, taxonomy

Introduction

The leucosiid genus *Coleusia* Galil, 2006, was established for species formerly included in *Leucosia* Weber, 1795, having the male abdomen with somites 3–5 fused, the shaft of the first male pleopod coiled three times on its axis, bearing distally a setose lobe and an elongated apical process. Of the five *Coleusia* species described, *C. biannulata* (Tyndale-Biscoe & George, 1962), *C. magna* (Tyndale-Biscoe & George, 1962), *C. rangita* Galil, 2006, *C. signata* (Paulson, 1875), and the type species, *C. urania* (Herbst, 1801), only the latter has been erroneously recorded from Thailand (Rathbun 1910; Naiyanetr 1998, 2007). The taxonomy of *C. urania* s. str. was recently resolved by Ng *et al.* (2014).

Examination of a series of specimens from South and Southeast Asia disclosed the presence of a species closely resembling *C. urania*, described herein as new to science. Specimens examined are deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore (ZRC); Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mandapam, India (CMFRI); the reference collections of the Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Natural History Museum, Faculty of Science, Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai, Thailand (PSUNHM); and Kasetsart University Museum of Fisheries (Natural History), Thailand (KUMF). Measurements given, in millimeters, are for carapace length.

Systematics

Family Leucosiidae Samouelle, 1819

Genus *Coleusia* Galil, 2006

Coleusia huiliana n. sp., like the closely allied *C. urania* (Herbst, 1801), differs from their congeners in having prominently granular pereopodal meri and expanded, leaf-like pereopodal propodi. *Coleusia huiliana* n. sp. and *C. urania* have a superficially similar colour pattern consisting of a broad pale stripe medially on the carapace, two large rust-colored blotches posteriorly, and two smaller blotches on the posterolateral margins. The new species differs from *C. urania*, however, in the shape of the apical process of the first male pleopod which is digitate and curved laterally in the former, beak-like and curved interiorly in the latter; granulation on the posterior and lower margins of cheliped and ambulatory meri smaller and sparser, and entirely missing from lower external surface of the palm.

Distribution. India (Tamil Nadu and Andaman Is.), Gulf of Thailand, Singapore.

Colour (Fig. 1). Dorsal surface of carapace olive green, paler laterally and posteriorly; a whitish stripe proceeding from the front to the gastric region. Two large rust coloured spots on the posterior part of the carapace, two smaller spots near lateral margin above first ambulatory leg. The anterior margins of the thoracic sinus, the basal portion of the fingers, and a ring on each segment of the ambulatory legs, are all bright orange colored. Ventral surface paler grey.

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