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Cyonomid crabs of the MAINBAZA Expedition (Decapoda: Brachyura)

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Abstract

Cyonomid crabs collected from the Mozambique Channel off Madagascar by the 2011 MAINBAZA Expedition are reported. Two species of *Cyonomus* A. Milne Edwards, 1880, are represented, of which one is new to science and the other, *C. valdiviae* Lankester, 1903, is rediscovered, being previously known only from the holotype. Three species of Cyonomidae are now known from the western Indian Ocean, including *C. trifurcus* Stebbing, 1920, from South Africa.

Key words: Crustacea, Cyonomidae, deep-sea crabs, *Cyonomus*, Madagascar, Mozambique

Introduction

Crabs of the family Cyonomidae Bouvier, 1897, were, occur primarily in the Pacific Ocean (Ahyong & Brown 2003; Ahyong 2008; Ahyong & Ng 2009) and until now represented in the western Indian Ocean by two species, *Cyonomus trifurcus* Stebbing, 1920, described from off South Africa and *C. valdiviae* Lankester, 1903, described from off Somalia. Neither species is well known, especially *C. valdiviae*, which was known only from its holotype. The 2009 MAINBAZA Expedition surveyed deepwater benthic habitats in the Mozambique Channel and made important biological collections. Included was a small series of *Cyonomus* A. Milne-Edwards, 1880, containing *C. valdiviae* and a species new to science, both described and illustrated herein.

Material and methods

Measurements and terminology follows Ahyong & Ng (2009). Carapace length (cl) is measured along the dorsal midline and includes the rostrum. Postrostral carapace length (pcl) excludes the rostrum. Carapace width (cw) is the greatest width of the carapace. Specimens are deposited in the Australian Museum, Sydney (AM), Muséum national d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHN), and Zoological Museum, Berlin (ZMB).

Systematics

Cyonomidae Bouvier, 1897

Cyonomus A. Milne Edwards, 1880

Cyonomus mainbaza sp. nov.

(Fig. 1, 2)

Type material. HOLOTYPE: MNHN-IU-2013-11302, ovigerous female (cl 5.9 mm, pcl 5.5 mm, cw 6.3 mm), Mozambique Channel, 23°31.94–32.66'S, 36°02.64–02.00'E, 886–898 m, shrimp trawl, B.O. Vizconde de Eza, stn CP3140, coll. B. Richer de Forges & L. Corbari, 11 April 2009.

abdominal segmentation does not reliably separate *Cyonomus* from *Cyonomoides*, suggesting that the latter is probably a synonym of the former.

Distribution. Presently known only off eastern Africa from southern Somalia to Mozambique; 518–638 m.

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