



A new species of *Sunipea* Griffin & Tranter, 1986 (Crustacea: Brachyura: Inachidae) and a redescription of *Sunipea indicus* (Alcock, 1895)

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Abstract

A new species of spider crab, *Sunipea callistus*, **n. sp.**, from Cape Guardafui, Somali Republic, is described and illustrated. *Sunipea indicus* (Alcock, 1895) is also redescribed and figured. *Sunipea callistus* **n. sp.** differs from *S. indicus* in the structures of the carapace, third maxillipeds, thoracic sternum, male abdomen, and chelipeds. Despite a number of characteristics that separate both species, these differences are more pronounced in males and are less evident in females. A diagnosis for the genus is provided.

Key words: *Apocremnus*, *Aepinus*, Majoidea, Majidae, Indian Ocean

Introduction

Alcock (1895) described *Apocremnus indicus* based on material from two localities in the Indian Ocean: Andaman Islands and Sri Lanka (Ceylon). He believed it was a member of *Apocremnus* A. Milne-Edwards, 1878, and close to the American *Apocremnus septemspinosus* A. Milne-Edwards, 1878 (type species). *Apocremnus* A. Milne-Edwards, 1878, however, was pre-occupied by *Apocremnus* Fieber, 1858 (Hemiptera); and Rathbun (1897) proposed *Aepinus* as a replacement name. Griffin & Tranter (1986: 59) established a new genus, *Sunipea*, to accommodate *Aepinus indicus* which they argued was quite different from the American type species. Although Griffin & Tranter (1986) provided a description and discussion for the genus, they did not redescribe *Sunipea indicus*, probably because of the detailed description and figures by Alcock (1895: 188, pl. IV figs. 2, 2a) as well as discussion of this species over the years (see Griffin 1972, 1974; Griffin & Tranter 1974). Alcock's description, however, lacks several important morphological details by modern standards, especially when we compare it with *Sunipea callistus* **n. sp.** A more detailed description is thus necessary to facilitate morphological comparisons and future studies about *Sunipea indicus*.

I herein redescribe *Sunipea indicus* and describe a new species, *Sunipea callistus* **n. sp.** A detailed diagnosis for the genus and both species is also provided. Abbreviations used are as follow: stn, station; det., determiner; cl, carapace length (from the rostral notch to the posterior margin of the carapace); cw, carapace width; m, meters; mm, millimeters. The material herein studied is deposited in the U.S. National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. (USNM).

Taxonomy

Superfamily Majoidea

Family Inachidae