Globopilumnus multituberosus Garth & Kim, 1983

— A New Record for Australia

(Decapoda: Crustacea: Menippidae)

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ABSTRACT. The menippid crab, Globopilumnus multituberosus Garth & Kim, 1983 is recorded from Australia for the first time, and considerably extends the known range of this deep water species. This is only the second species of the genus recorded from Australia, the first being G. actumnoides (A. Milne Edwards, 1873), recorded by Ward (1932).


Keywords: Decapoda, Menippidae, taxonomy, Australia.

In a recent study on some Indo-Pacific pilumnid crabs (Superfamily Xanthoidea McLeay, 1838 sensu Guinot (1978) (Ng 1983), the authors had the opportunity to examine some material from the Australian Museum, through the kind courtesy of Drs D.J.G. Griffin and James Lowry. Of these, one was a specimen collected from Victoria, Australia and had been identified by Mary Rathbun (1923, pg. 111) as 'Pilumnus spongiosus Nobili, 1905'. Balss (1933), in his review of the Indo-Pacific pilumnids, transferred this species to his new genus Planopilumnus, and remarked that Rathbun’s specimen may have been a juvenile. A careful examination of the specimen, however, showed that Rathbun had misidentified the animal, which should instead be referred to Globopilumnus multituberosus Garth & Kim, 1983, a species recently described from the Philippines. The present specimen thus represents a new record for Australia. Until now, the only species recorded from Australia is Globopilumnus actumnoides (A. Milne Edwards, 1873), which is found in shallow waters in North West Australia (Ward 1932). The genus Globopilumnus Balss, 1933 is characterised by having a hairy carapace, whip-like male pleopod 2 and stout, straight male pleopod 1. It is tropical in distribution and contains eight species, of which five are found in the Indo-Pacific: G. globosus (Dana, 1852), G. actumnoides (A. Milne Edwards, 1873), G. calmani Balss, 1933, G. multituberosus Garth & Kim, 1983 and G. kiensis Takeda & Nagai, 1983.

Genus Globopilumnus Balss, 1933

Globopilumnus multituberosus Garth & Kim, 1983

Fig. 1

Pilumnus spongiosus Rathbun, 1923: 111
Planopilumnus spongiosus Balss, 1933: 40
Globopilumnus multituberosus Garth & Kim, 1983: 689, fig. 6 (not Pilumnus spongiosus Nobili, 1905)

Material examined. 1♂ (Australian Museum: E6212) (7.1 by 5.6mm), coll. by F.I.S. ‘Endeavour’ south of Gabo Island, Victoria, Australia from 200 fathoms, det. as Pilumnus spongiosus Nobili, 1905 by M.J. Rathbun in 1923.

Remarks. This species was described from specimens collected from the Philippine Islands and off Honshu Island, Japan. It is characteristic in having the teeth on the anterolateral margin covered with small granules, especially at or near the tip, and can easily be separated from G. actumnoides by means of this character.

The present record thus greatly extends the known range of this species. The types were collected from depths ranging from 140 to 338 fathoms, the present specimen from 200 fathoms. Globopilumnus multituberosus also appears to be the deepest dwelling of all the known species in the genus; the others being shallow water species.

The present specimen agrees well with the original descriptions by Garth and Kim in 1983, but differs in having the supraorbital margin smoother, with two well developed teeth (not two tubercle covered lobes)