

Some Majid Spider Crabs from the Deep Indo-West Pacific

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ABSTRACT. Fifteen species of seven genera are discussed. The material comes from depths exceeding 200 m in the Indian Ocean (off east Africa, Indonesia and north-west Australia) and the west Pacific (Tasman Sea and Kermadec Deep). Four new species are described, one of the genus *Platymaia* and three of *Rochinia*. The known geographic range of six species is extended: *Cyrtomaia suhmi*, *Pleistacantha moseleyi*, *Rochinia pulchra* are recorded from off north-west Australia for the first time. *Platymaia fimbriata* is recorded from the Indian Ocean for the first time and the known range of *Teratomaia richardsoni* is extended to the Kermadec region. *Echinoplax pungens* is confirmed as a synonym of *Pleistacantha moseleyi* and *Rochinia riversandersoni* is shown to be a complex of several species.

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The spider crab fauna of the Indo-West Pacific has been studied intensively by a number of people in the last 15 years (Griffin, 1976; Griffin & Tranter, 1974, 1986; Guinot & Richer de Forges, 1982a, 1982b; Kensley, 1977a, 1977b; Sakai, 1976; Serène & Lohavanijaya, 1973; Takeda, 1977, 1978, 1980; Yaldwyn & Dawson, 1976).

Deep water species are, as one would expect, less well known. We are pleased to have the opportunity therefore to study a number of collections.

The now famous *Galathea* Deep Sea Expedition left Copenhagen on October 15, 1950, and returned June 29, 1952. Its numerous and significant collections have been the subject of many reports. The deep-water spider crabs of the family Majidae have not been reported on previously. Dr Torben Wolff of the University Zoological Museum, Copenhagen kindly agreed to make the small but important collection from depths of 200 m or more available to us.

Australia's north-west shelf has assumed increasing importance in the last 10 years as a site of mineral exploration as well as a potentially important area for expansion of Australia's fishing industry. The *Soela*, chartered by CSIRO's Division of Fisheries, conducted investigations there from 1979 to 1983.

The Tasman Sea and areas around New Zealand have been explored over a number of years by the New Zealand Oceanographic Institute. The research vessel *Kapala* has engaged in exploratory fishing off NSW since 1971.

Material dealt with in this report is lodged in the Australian Museum, Sydney (AM), the Museum of Victoria, Melbourne (NMV), the Zoological Museum, Amsterdam (ZMA) and the University Zoological Museum, Copenhagen (ZMC). The dimension given for each specimen is carapace length (cl.) measured from the anterior tip of the rostrum, unless otherwise stated.

Subfamily INACHINAE

Achaeopsis Stimpson

Type species. *Achaeopsis spinulosus* Stimpson, 1857, by monotypy.

Remarks. Species of this genus are distinguished by the slender, simple postorbital spine. Only one species can be confirmed as occurring in the Australian and New Zealand area at present: previous records of