

***Plagusia speciosa* Dana, 1851, A New Record for Taiwan (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Plagusiinae) With a Key to the Genus for Taiwan**

N. K. Ng¹, Hung-Chang Liu², and Ping-Ho Ho³

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ABSTRACT

Plagusia speciosa Dana, 1851 is recorded for the first time for Taiwan. This species was previously known from the tropical Eastern and Western Pacific, with Guam being the furthest tropical Western Pacific locality thus far. A key to the five species of *Plagusia* viz. *P. chabrus* (Linnaeus, 1758); *P. immaculata* Lamarck, 1818; *P. squamosa* (Herbst, 1790); *P. speciosa* Dana, 1851 and *P. dentipes* De Haan, 1835, present in Taiwan is also provided.

Key words: Grapsidae, *Plagusia*, new record, Taiwan.

INTRODUCTION

Among the specimens recently collected along the coast of southern Taiwan is a crab readily identifiable as *Plagusia speciosa* Dana, 1851, a species not previously known from the island. Dana first described the species from the United States Exploring Expedition's report (1851). His description, however, was based only on a beach-worn carapace collected in Tuamotu Island (Dana, 1951). This specimens is now lost. *Plagusia speciosa* is nevertheless, a widely distributed species in the tropical East and West Pacific, being found French Polynesia to eastern Australia (Forest and Guinot, 1961; Poupin, 1994). The closest to Taiwan this species has been reported before is Guam (13°30'N, 144°45'E).

Currently, there are five species of *Plagusia* viz. *P. chabrus* (Linnaeus, 1758); *P. immaculata* Lamarck, 1818; *P. squamosa* (Herbst, 1790); and *P. dentipes* de Haan, 1835, present in Taiwan (Maki and Tsuchiya, 1923; Dawson, 1987; Dai and Yang, 1991; Schubart and Ng, 2000) including *P. speciosa* Dana, 1851. The identities of *P. squamosa* (Herbst, 1790) and *P. immaculata* Lamarck, 1818, has been clarified by Schubart and Ng (2000). *Plagusia tuberculata* Lamarck, 1818 was recently shown to be a junior synonym of *P. squamosa* (Herbst, 1790) (Schubart and Ng, 2000).

The current report serves to extend the distribution of this species to Taiwan (the Far Western Pacific region), as well as to give a detailed description of this species for future comparison. A key to the five species of *Plagusia* present in Taiwan is also provided. Specimens examined are deposited in

¹Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore, Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119260. Republic of Singapore

²Institute of Life Science, National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu, Taiwan 300, R.O.C.

³National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium, 2 Houwan Road, Checheng, Pingtung County, Taiwan 944, R.O.C.

the Zoological Reference Collections, Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore, Singapore (ZRC), National Taiwan Museum, Taipei (TMCD), Taiwan and National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium, Pingtung, Taiwan (NMMBACD). All measurements provided are of the carapace width and length respectively. The abbreviations G1 and G2 are used for the male first and second pleopods respectively.

Taxonomy

Family Grapsidae

Subfamily Plagusiinae Dana, 1851

***Plagusia* Latreille, 1804**

***Plagusia speciosa* Dana, 1851**

(Figs.1-2)

Plagusia speciosa Dana, 1851: 252; Dana, 1852: 369; Dana, 1865: pl. 23, fig. 9; Kingsley, 1880: 223; de Man, 1890: 89; Ortmann, 1894: 731; Nobili, 1907: 406; Rathbun, 1907: 36; Tesch, 1918: 129; Sendler, 1923: 35; Boone, 1934: 185, pl. 95-96; Holthuis, 1953: 34; Morrison, 1954: 17; Forest and Guinot, 1961: 162, fig. 177a-c, 178; Forest and Guinot, 1962: 74; Guinot, 1966: 48; Monteforte, 1984: 17; Guinot, 1985: 454; Delesalle, 1985: 289; Salvant and Richard, 1985: 362; Poupin, 1994: 65, fig. 61, pl. 7g; Poupin, 1996: 72.

MATERIAL EXAMINED

1 M (34.4 x 32.2 mm), 1 F (ovi) (22.6 x 20.9mm) (ZRC.2000.2234), Chuanfanshi (船帆石), Hengchun, Pingtung County, Taiwan, coll. H. C. Liu, 16 Oct 1997; 1 M (TMCD-CHCD1612), Lungkang (龍坑), Kenting, Pingtung County, Taiwan, coll. H. C. Liu, 13 May 1998; 3 MM (14.6 x 13.2, 23.5 x 21.3, 25.3 x 23.3 mm) (TMCD-CHCD), Jiupeng (九棚), Pingtung County, Taiwan, coll. H. C. Liu, 30 Mar 1997; 2 MM (23.3 x 21.2, 26.3 x 23.6 mm), 2 FF (1 ovi) (20.7 x 18.4, 25.5 x 23.0 mm) (TMCD-CHCD1764); 1 M (30.8 x 27.8 mm) (TMCD-CHCD1779), Fengchuisha (風吹沙), Hengchun, Pingtung County, Taiwan, coll. H. C. Liu, 11 Aug 1997; 1 M (36.0 x 32.6mm), 1 F (ovi) (36.6 x 32.8) (TMCD-CHCD1765), Jialuoshui (佳樂水), Hengchun, Pingtung County, Taiwan, coll. H. C. Liu, 12 Aug 1997; 1 M (29.9 x 27.8mm) (TMCD-CHCD1799), Hengchun, Pingtung County, Taiwan, coll. H. C. Liu, 17 Nov 1997; 1 M (31.8 x 29mm) (TMCD-CHCD), Chuanfanshi, Hengchun, Pingtung County, Taiwan, coll. H. C. Liu, 11 Dec 1997; 1 M (31.4 x 29.6mm), 1F(ovig) (33.2 x 29.9 mm) (NMMBACD2000.01), Chuanfanshi, Hengchun, Pingtung County, Taiwan, coll. H. C. Liu and P. H. Ho, 24 Aug. 1999; 12 MM (20.6 x 18.7-38 x 34.4mm), 12 FF (11 ovi) (23.2 x 20.7-35.2 x 31.1mm) (TMCD-CHCD), Lutao (綠島), Taitung County, Taiwan, coll. H. C. Liu, 10-12 Sep 1999; 1 M (31.0 x 29.5) (TMCD-CHCD), Shitiping (石梯坪), Hualian County, Taiwan, coll. H. C. Liu and C. H. Wang, 7 May 2000.

DESCRIPTION

Carapace thick, subcircular, as long as wide, depressed, dorsal surface with flattened tubercles of various sizes, with short setae on anterior edges, giving an overall squamiform appearance. Distinct groups of numerous subequal tubercles interspersed with smaller ones of various sizes; fringed with rigid setae evenly distributed on carapace: 4 tubercles on each epigastric region, protogastric region with about 12-13 tubercles, mesogastric region with about 15-17 tubercles, anterolateral region with about 12 tubercles, urogastric, cardiac region with about 9 tubercles each, intestinal region with about 13 tubercles, branchial regions with about 25 tubercles, posterolateral region with about 8 tubercles. Carapace armed with 3 pointed teeth on anterolateral margin, including external orbital angle, fronto-orbital distances one-third maximum carapace width, front divided into 3 lobes by 2 clefts, subequal in depth with orbit; lateral lobes with 2 blunt teeth; antennules exposed, interantennular septum broad, minutely tuberculated on margins.

Supraorbital margins smooth with distinct spine at external orbital angle separating smooth suborbital ridge which meets buccal frame at a ventrally depressed angle. A single rounded spine on inner side of suborbital ridge at midpoint of length. Inner lobe of basal antennal article with a single short spine. Anterior border of the epistome with central lobe and 3-4 unequal lobes on each side.

Third maxilliped highly setose, with palp articulating at middle of anterior edge of merus, only a small narrowly-triangular gap over mandibles, merus as broad as ischium, ischium with a setose median longitudinal groove. Exopod narrow with no flagellum.

Chelipeds subequal, carpus with triangular tooth on anterior edge, outer surface with groves filled with equally spaced, short setae; chela with rows of uniformly sized tubercles on dorsal surface, outer surface with transverse impressed lines and scroll-like patterns fringed with setae, inner surface with evenly-spaced tubercles in rows, fingers blunt, flattened, hoof-like at the tips, with setae. Female cheliped similar, smaller in size, inner surface of chela glabrous.

Ambulatory legs flattened, robust, coxa of legs 2 to 4 with prominent lobe, entire gently rounded anteriorly, merus with longitudinal row of setae on both anterior and posterior edges, prominent single spine subdistally on dorsal margin, outer surface with numerous short, transverse impressed lined with setae, all inner surface with transverse impressed lines in scroll-like patterns fringed with setae; outer surface of carpus with 2 rows of long soft setae; merus with a median subdistal and 2 distal spines arranged triangularly, with 2 fringes of setae on upper surface and lower lateral margins; dactylus with a single row of setae and numerous movable spines, tip of dactylus corneous, curved, sharp.

Male abdomen with segments 3 to 6 fused, segments 4 and 5 slightly concave laterally, telson narrowly triangular with slightly concave sides and rounded tip. Entire abdomen covered with transverse impressed lines in scroll-like patterns fringed with setae. Female abdomen similar but all somites free, relatively broader, telson of female pointed. Thoracic sternites covered with transverse impressed lines in scroll-like patterns fringed with setae except in the sternite medial groove. Thoracic sternite of

female similar but broader, fringe of short soft setae along edge of female abdomen.

G1 subcylindrical, flattened on inner surface, apical lobe with long twisted apical process, surrounding corneous tip, fringed with terminal setae. G2 small, one-fifth length of G1, slightly flattened laterally with expanded subrectangular base extended, produced distally to narrow apex.

Vulva concave, slightly prominent, oval in shape, with narrow ovoid opening facing medial groove.

Habitat. - *P. speciosa* is found mainly near the lower tide zone, clinging onto reef flats or rocky cliffs.

Remarks. - *Plagusia speciosa* can be distinguished from all congeners, by the following characters viz.

a) the presence of transverse impressed lines and scroll-like patterns fringed with setae on the ventral surfaces of body and walking legs (fig. 1b); b) merus of ambulatory legs with a median subdistal and two distal spines arranged in a triangular pattern (fig. 1a); c) presence of two fringes of hair on the upper surface and lower lateral margins (fig. 1a); and d) G1 with a long twisted apical process (Forest and Guinot, 1961: figs 177-178).

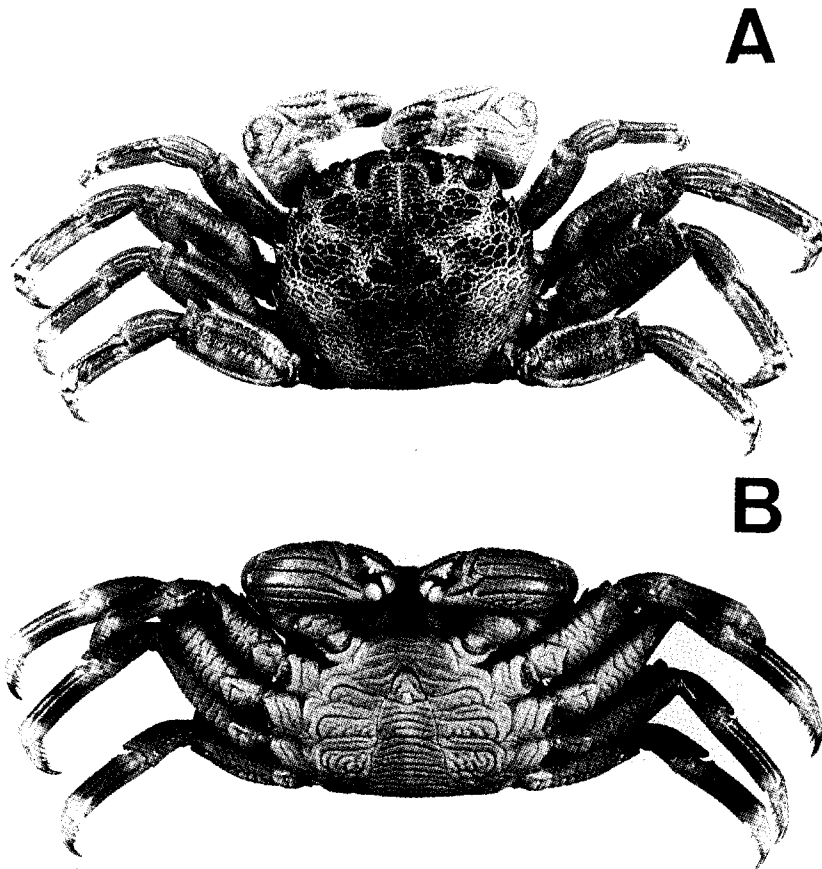


Fig. 1. *Plagusia speciosa* Dana, 1851 (male, 34.4 x 32.2 mm, ZRC.2000.2234). A) Dorsal view; B) ventral view.



Fig. 2. *Plagusia speciosa* Dana, 1851 (ovigerous female, 33.2 x 29.9 mm, NMMBACD2000.01).

A) Dorsal view; B) ventral view.

Plagusia speciosa is different from *P. squamosa* (ZRC.1999.0988), and *P. immaculata* (ZRC.1999.1413), in having a) transverse impressed lines and scroll-like patterns fringed with setae on the ventral surfaces of body and walking legs (vs. glabrous ventral surfaces of the body and legs in the latter two species); b) presence of numerous transverse impressed lines and scroll-like patterns fringed with setae on the outer surface of the chelae (vs. presence of a row of tubercles fringed with a row of setae); c) long apical process at the distal end of the first male gonopod (vs. a triangular apical process); d) absence of a spiral seminal groove on the G1 (vs. presence of a spiraling seminal groove); and e) the oval shape of the vulva with narrow gonopore opening facing to the medial sternite groove (vs. subcircular

vulva with the gonopore opening facing towards the anterior end of the sternum).

Plagusia speciosa differs from *P. dentipes* in having a) transverse impressed lines and scroll-like patterns fringed with setae on the ventral surfaces of body and legs (vs. glabrous ventral surfaces of the body); b) presence of numerous transverse impressed lines and scroll-like patterns fringed with setae on the outer surface of the chelae (vs. presence of a row of tubercles fringed with a row of setae); c) presence of a single subdistal spine on the dorsal margin of the merus of the ambulatory legs (vs. presence of numerous spines on the dorsal margin of the ambulatory legs); and d) a long apical process at the distal end of the G1 (vs. a truncated, subconical apical process).

Plagusia speciosa is perhaps superficially closest to *P. chabrus*, especially with regards to the structure and pattern of the sternum but can be easily distinguished by the following characters viz. a) the squamose tubercles on the carapace surface (vs. presence of fine short curly setae); b) the thoracic sternum of male is covered by transverse impressed lines and scroll-like patterns fringed with setae (vs. covered by short curled setae except near the sternite suture lines and lateral margins); c) the male abdomen is covered by the same type of transverse impressed lines and scroll-like patterns fringed with setae (vs. male abdomen covered with fine short curly setae except near the margins of each abdominal sternites); d) walking legs with median subdistal spine and two distal spines in triangulate arrangements (vs. walking legs with numerous short compressed, distally-curved sharp spines on the dorsal edge of the merus); e) G1 with long, twisted apical process (vs. G1 with compressed lateral plates and truncated subconical tip); and f) the oval shape of the vulva with narrow gonopore opening facing to the medial sternite groove (vs. circular vulva with the gonopore opening facing towards the anterior end of the sternum).

However, it must be noted that the presence of *P. chabrus* in Taiwan is not ascertained. The only record of *P. chabrus* was recorded by Maki and Tsuchiya (1923). There are no other record of this species since. The location of the specimen is not known. It is also important to note that *P. chabrus* has only been reported in the Indo-Australian warm temperature region thus far, from southern Africa to south to western Australia and New Zealand; as well as the south Pacific warm temperature region like Juan Fernandez and Chile (Dawson, 1987). It is possible that this old record of *P. chabrus* may in fact be *P. speciosa*, but in the absence of clear data and considering both species are easily recognised, we prefer to be conservative and retain *P. chabrus* for the Taiwanese fauna.

Keys to the Five Species of *Plagusia* Present in Taiwan

1. a) Carapace subcircular, anterolateral margin with three teeth including the outer orbital tooth, sternum and abdomen with setose groove. ----- *P. speciosa*
- b) Carapace subcircular, anterolateral margin with four teeth including the outer orbital tooth, sternum and abdomen glabrous. ----- **2**
2. a) Surface of carapace without tubercles, covered with fine, short, curly setae, anterior margin of epistome with 8 sharp teeth in three distinct lobes. ----- *P. chabrus*

- b) Surface of carapace covered with conical or squamiform tubercles which may be lined with short straight setae, anterior margin of epistome with numerous blunt teeth in three indistinct lobes. ----- 3
- 3.a) Tubercles on carapace fringed with short sparse setae or glabrous, telson of male abdomen rounded, little or absence of setae on longitudinal grooves of the walking legs and chela. -----
----- *P. immaculata*
- b) Tubercles on carapace always fringed with dense, short setae, telson of male abdomen triangular in shape, densely setose on longitudinal grooves of the walking legs and chela. ----- 4
- 4.a) Dorsal margin of merus of all walking legs with 5-7 prominent spines. ----- *P. dentipes*
- b) Dorsal margin of merus of all walking legs with a single spine. ----- *P. squamosa*

COMPARATIVE MATERIALS

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Plagusia squamosa (Herbst, 1790): 2 M, 1 F (ovi) (ZRC. 1999.0988), night market in Keelung, Taiwan, coll. N. K. Ng & Y. Cai, 27 Nov 1997; 1 F (TMCD); Chuanfanshi, Hengchun, Taiwan, coll. H. C. Liu, 30 Jun 1999; 1 F (TMCD), Hengchun, Taiwan, coll. H. C. Liu, 28 Jul 1999.

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台灣新記錄美麗斜紋蟹〈甲殼綱：十足目：短尾類：斜紋蟹亞科〉及
台灣的斜紋蟹屬檢索表

黃彥姬¹、劉烘昌²、何平合³

¹ 國立新加坡大學生物學系

² 國立清華大學生命科學研究所

³ 國立海洋生物博物館

摘 要

美麗斜紋蟹 *Plagusia speciosa* Dana, 1851 為台灣首次記錄。本種蟹以往所知的分布範圍在熱帶的東太平洋至西太平洋之間，其中關島是最西邊的地點。斜紋蟹屬在台灣已發現五種，分別是：密毛斜紋蟹 *P. chabrus* (Linnaeus, 1758)、無斑斜紋蟹 *P. immaculata* Lamarck, 1818、鱗斜紋蟹 *P. squamosa* (Herbst, 1790)、美麗斜紋蟹 *P. speciosa* Dana, 1851 及齒足斜紋蟹 *P. dentipes* De Haan, 1835，本文一併附上這五種蟹的檢索表。

關鍵詞：方蟹科、斜紋蟹屬、新記錄、台灣。