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Decapoda, Lithodidae) from the Minami-Ensei
Knoll in the Mid-Okinawa Trough

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Abstract A new *Paralomis* species of the family Lithodidae (Crustacea, Decapoda) is described on four specimens from the Minami-Ensei Knoll in the Mid-Okinawa Trough collected by the submersible *Shinkai 2000* at a depth of 710 m. The species named *P. jamsteci* is distinguished from the congeners by combination of the features that the carapace is uniformly covered with minute rough granules, the hepatic and anterior branchial margins are armed with spiniform teeth, and that there is a crest at the posterior part of each branchial margin.

The research submersible *Shinkai 2000* of Japan Marine Science and Technology Center greatly contributes not only to the geological and topographical studies but also to the deep-sea fauna and ecosystem around Japan. During a series of recent dives, as provisionally mentioned by HASHIMOTO *et al.* (1989), the prolific biological communities dominated by sponges and deep-sea mussels were discovered at the Minami-Ensei Knoll, which is located at approximately 140 km west of Amami-Oshima Island (Fig. 1). The biological communities are spreading over outcrops and coarse sandy bottom showing grayish white alteration in color. Shimmering water with small gas bubbles was identified from the site. Water temperature of just above the flowing vent was 15°C, showing 8.8°C higher than ambient bottom water.

During any dive into the waters around the Minami-Ensei Knoll, the anomuran stone crabs apparently referable to the genus *Paralomis* were observed not a few in the vicinity of the seepage. The junior author succeeded in collecting four specimens with baited trap at the depression of southwestern slope of the knoll during the Dive 428 on July 26, 1989. The first glance showed at once that they might be distinguished from 45 species currently referred to the genus *Paralomis*.

In this paper, the specimens are described in detail under the name of *Paralomis jamsteci* after the research institute, Japan Marine Science Technology Center