STILBOMASTAX, A NEW GENUS OF SPIDER CRAB (MAJIDAE: TYCHINAE) FROM THE WEST INDIES REGION, WITH NOTES ON AMERICAN RELATIVES

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Austin B. Williams, J. Kevin Shaw, and Thomas S. Hopkins

Abstract.—Williams, A. B., National Marine Fisheries Service Systematics Laboratory, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C., 20560, J. K. Shaw, and T. S. Hopkins, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, P.O. Box 386, Dauphin Island, Ala. 36528.—A new genus, Stilbomastax, is recognized from the West Indies and Gulf of Mexico for reception of the spider crab *Tyche margaritifera* Monod, 1939 (= *Stilbognathus burryi* Garth 1952). The new genus in some respects lies between *Tyche* from the western hemisphere and *Stilbognathus* from the western Indian Ocean, and comparisons are made among species belonging to these genera.

Monod (1939) described a unique male spider crab from Guadeloupe as *Tyche margaritifera*. Garth (1952a), unaware of Monod’s paper, described a similar “*Tyche*-like” female from southeast Florida as *Stilbognathus burryi*, believing this to be one of the interesting rare extensions of essentially Indo-Pacific genera into the Western Atlantic; but he also stated (p. 251) that “the erection of a new genus might be justified,” basing his reasoning on Balss’s (1929) distinction of *Tyche* from *Stilbognathus* on the basis of free vs. fused female abdominal segments. Guinot (1964), reviewing the related genera *Tyche* Bell 1835 (Western Atlantic–Eastern Pacific), *Stilbognathus* von Martens 1866 (Red Sea and east Africa), and *Ophthalmias* Rathbun 1897 (western Indian Ocean), left the generic placement of *T. margaritifera* and *S. burryi* uncertain, although she thought that they were possibly synonymous within the genus *Tyche*. She had only Monod’s specimen and Garth’s (1952a) figures for study. Mature male and female specimens recently collected in the eastern Gulf of Mexico provide ample evidence that Monod’s and Garth’s species are synonymous, as well as evidence to support Garth’s idea of generic independence.

**Stilbomastax**, new genus

Postorbital lobe forming commencing orbit. Mouth frame (Fig. 1) divergent anteriorly, flared and thickened into strong rim at anterolateral corners; anterior margin thin and raised. External maxillipeds with merus deeply inserted into outer border of ischium, its central part porcellaneous, hemispheric, but with thin alate mesial and anterolateral lobes; ischium deeply and broadly grooved longitudinally, its thin distal edge closely covering proximal part of meral swelling; a less prominent longitudinal groove between outer border of endognath and excavate inner border of
exognath; curved or straight prolongation at base of exognath overlapping ischium of endognath ventrally. Female abdomen (Fig. 8) almost circular in outline, segments 4-6 fused but evident. Male abdomen with 7 segments free, ribbed and uneven; first pleopods (Fig. 10a) of simple, somewhat flattened form distally, with short tip bent abruptly laterad and slightly reflexed to lateral opening.

_Type-species._—_Tyche margaritifera_ Monod 1939.

_Etymology._—From the Greek “stilbo” glitter or gleam, and “mastax” jaws. The gender is feminine.

_Remarks._—_Tyche_ has an essentially rectangular mouth frame whose rim is variably raised at its anterolateral corner, depending on the species. Both _Ophthalmias_ and _Stilbognathus_ have a mouth frame with sides obviously diverging anteriorly; in _Ophthalmias_ the ischium of the external maxillipeds is notched along its posteromesial margin, adjacent to the intervening triangular sternal plate, while the corresponding surface in _Stilbognathus_ lacks this notch (Guinot 1964). In these characters _Stilbomastax_ stands between _Tyche_ and _Stilbognathus_, having a mouth frame less divergent anteriorly than the latter. Species of these genera may have one or all of the following features on the external maxillipeds: porcellanous surfaces on ischium or merus, swollen in some species; longitudinally grooved ischium; lamellar distal expansion on ischium covering merus proximally except along lateral side at articulation. Only _Tyche_ and _Stilbomastax_ have a basal prolongation on the exognath of the external maxillipeds (although there is a rudimentary projection in _Stilbognathus erythraeus_ von Martens), hence in the last couplet of Garth’s (1958a:162) Key to New World genera of the subfamily _Ophthalmiinae_ _Stilbomastax_ should be substituted for _Stilbognathus_.

Abdominal segments of female _Tyche_ are free. Segments 4–6 are fused in _Stilbognathus_ and _Stilbomastax_ but in the former the segments are so united that they are nearly obliterated whereas in _Stilbomastax margaritifera_ the segments are individually raised and easily recognizable. Male first pleopods of _Tyche_ and _Stilbomastax_ are similar (Fig. 10a, b; also Garth 1958b:pl. J, figs. 4–6), being least bent and reflexed distally in _T. emarginata_ White. In _Stilbognathus_ species the tip is flattened, differently bent and membranously ornamented (Fig. 10c).

The characters found in _Stilbomastax margaritifera_ that are shared with _Tyche_ and _Stilbognathus_ but differently combined, along with independent ones, are best accommodated by placing this species in a distinct genus.

_Notes on Some American Representatives of the Subfamily Tychinae_

Tychinae Dana 1851:43; (including _Tyche_ Bell).
Stenocionopinae Miers 1879:652 (part: including _Stilbognathus_ von Martens and _Tyche_ Bell).
Stenociopoida Alcock 1895:161, 166 (part: including Stilbognathus von Martens and Tyche Bell).
Ophthalmiinae Balss 1931:6 (name substituted for Stenocionopinae Miers).

Both Rathbun (1925) and Balss (1957) included genera discussed here in the subfamily Majinae Alcock 1895 (broad sense).

The following list contains citations of original descriptions, principal references, type-localties, distribution records, and emended descriptions of the mouthparts for all species of Tyche as well as Stilbomastax margaritifera, with selected measurements for the latter.

Stilbomastax margaritifera (Monod)
Figs. 1, 8, 10a

Tyche margaritifera Monod 1939:561, figs. 6, 7, 8, 9.—Guinot 1964:45, fig. 32; pl. 4, fig. 1.
Stilbognathus burryi Garth 1952a:252, pl. 1.—Guinot 1964:45, 51–53 (here and there).

Type-locality.—Basse-Terre, Guadeloupe, 15–20 m.
Known range.—SE of Cape San Bias to SE Florida; Guadeloupe.
Habitat.—Garth (1952) noted the habitat as hard rock, broken shell, 38 m. Specimens from west Florida were found on hard rock and coral shell rubble among sponges, corals, and algae.

Mouthparts.—Mouth frame with thin anterior margin moderately raised, anterolateral margin thickened into strong rim. External maxillipeds with ischium broadly and longitudinally grooved centrally, tooth on mesial margin and with oblique, thin, flared anterior lobe covering edge of swollen merus; merus with deep proximal insertion along lateral margin of ischium, central part a glistening white hemisphere, anterolateral blade thin, triangular, projecting, and thin anteromesial margin trilobate; exognath with inner border excavate, basal prolongation variable, projecting either straight posteromesially or curving mesiad, sometimes laterad, spur on protopodite lateral to base of prolongation rather broad.

New material.—USNM 168479, 45 mi W Sanibel Island, Fla., 26°25'N, 82°57'32"W, 36.6 m, 28 June 1976; mature ♂, carapace length 27.8 mm,

width 19.5; rostrum l 4.38, w 3.9, exorbital w 13.2, hepatic constriction w 12.5, posterior notch to gastric summit l 14.5, right cheliped palm height 4.0, l 9.5, dactyl l 4.6, ischio-merus l 9.38; R/V *Bellows*, trawl, T. S. Hopkins. USNM 168480, Florida Middle Ground, 80 mi W Tarpon Springs, Fla., 28°38'N, 84°19'W, 33 m, 11 June 1974; ♀ ov, carapace l 28.8, w 21.5; R/V *Bellows*, SCUBA, T. W. Hopkins.
Dauphin Island Sea Lab: MAFLA-II-N, Florida Middle Ground, 80 mi W Tarpon Springs, Fla., 28°24′N, 84°21′W, 36 m, 11 June 1974; δ carapace l 25.4, w 17.4; R/V Bellows, dredge, T. S. Hopkins. 33-194-IV-A-a, about 35 mi W Cape San Blas, Fla., 29°04′N, 85°14′W, 36.6 m, 26 February 1976; θ carapace l 25.2, w 18.3; R/V Bellows, dredge, T. S. Hopkins.

Florida Department of Natural Resources: 36 mi W Egmont Key, Fla., 27°39′N, 83°28′W, 37 m, R/V H. Cortez, B. Presley. FSBC I 1548, trawl, 3 January 1966; 2 δ, carapace l 23.5–26.3, w 15.0–16.7. FSBC I 17511, dredge, 11 August 1967; δ carapace l 27.8, w 19.0. FBSC I 17512, dredge, 6 January 1967; δ carapace l 35.0, w 24.8. FSBC I 17513, dredge, 20 May, 1967; 2 δ, carapace l of one 13.9, w 9.4.

*Tyche potiguara* Garth

**Fig. 2**


**Type-locality.**—Off Cabo de São Roque, Brazil, 06°59′30″S, 34°47′W, 36.6 m, Albatross 2758.

**Known range.**—Paraiba to Alagoas, Brazil.

**Mouthparts.**—Mouth frame with anterior margin slightly raised, anterolateral margin slightly thickened. External maxillipeds with ischium shallowly grooved longitudinally, toothed on mesial margin and with anterior lobe covering merus proximally; merus with porcellanous, convexly meniscoid anteromesial lobe separated from narrow, elongate anterolateral lobe by longitudinal depression, body of merus inserted deeply into ischium laterally; exognath with strong somewhat flattened prolongation recurved to lie in proximal part of ischial groove, spur on protopodite lateral to base of prolongation.

*Tyche lamellifrons* Bell

**Fig. 3**

*Tyche lamellifrons* Bell 1835:173.—Garth 1958a:173.—1958b:pl. J, fig. 4; pl. 18, fig. 2 (not Garth 1946:406, the Galapagos specimens).

**Type-locality.**—Panama.

**Known range.**—Agua Verde Bay, Gulf of California, Mexico, to La Libertad, Ecuador (not Galapagos Islands, as reported by Garth (1946)).

**Mouthparts.**—Mouth frame with anterior margin moderately raised, anterolateral margin moderately raised and thickened. External maxillipeds with ischium broadly and longitudinally grooved, toothed on mesial margin, and with an anteromesial expansion covering merus proximally; merus with anteroexternal angle squared or rounded off, not extended as thin blade, mesial aspect trilobate; exognath with basal prolongation recurved
to lie in proximolateral entrance to central groove of ischium, spur on protopodite lateral to base of prolongation.

_Tyche emarginata_ White  
_Figs. 4, 10b_  

_Tyche emarginata_ White 1847:206.—Rathbun 1925:508, pl. 272; pl. 273, figs. 7-12.—Garth 1946:406-408 (here and there), text-fig. 1.—Williams 1965:247, figs. 225, 226, 233B.

_Type-locality._—West Indies.  
_Known range._—Off Beaufort Inlet, N.C., through Bahamas to west coast of Florida.  

_Mouthparts._—Mouth frame with anterior margin slightly and anterolateral corner moderately raised and thickened. External maxillipeds smooth, shining and slightly inflated; ischium strongly toothed mesially, its broad laterally expanded anterior lobe overlying merus proximally; prominent merus deeply inserted into distolateral corner of ischium, with rounded thin lobe at anterolateral corner and internal corner divided into 3 narrowly separated lobes; exognath with large basal prolongation recurved to fit flush into shallow groove on base of ischium, spur on protopodite lateral to base of prolongation.

_Tyche clarionensis_ Garth  
_Fig. 5_  

_Tyche clarionensis_ Garth 1958a:176, fig. 5.—1958b:pl. J, fig. 5.  

_Type-locality._—Sulphur Bay, Clarion Island, Mexico, 55 m.  
_Known range._—Clarion Island.  

_Mouthparts._—Endognath of outer maxilliped smooth and inflated; ischium toothed along mesial margin, lateral expanded anterior lobe covering merus proximally; merus inserting deeply into ischium laterally, anterolateral angle produced into thin blade, anteromesial margin cut into 3 distinct lobes; hooked prolongation of exognath lodged in basal groove of ischium, completely filling it, spur on protopodite lateral to base of prolongation.

_Tyche galapagensis_ Garth  
_Fig. 6_  


_Type-locality._—Albemarle Point, Albemarle Island, Galapagos Islands, shore.  
_Known range._—Galapagos Islands: also Sullivan Bay, James Island;
Post Office Bay, Charles Island; Marchena Island; west of Gardner Island, Hood Island; Darwin Bay, Tower Island (see also Garth 1946:406).

*Mouthparts.*—Mouth frame with low anterior margin and slightly thickened anterolateral corner. External maxillipeds rather broad, margins hairy; endognath with ischium and merus inflated, smoothly convex but densely and finely punctate, superficially seeming almost coalesced; ischium with roughly rectangular anteromesial lobe overlapping part of merus, mesial margin with irregular teeth hidden in hairs; merus inserted deeply into outer margin of ischium, anteriorly narrowing thin and blade-like with distal margin serrate, mesial margin trilobate; exognath with basal prolongation curved but directed posteromesially rather than recurving onto ischium, spur on protopodite lateral to base of prolongation remote.

Key to Species Based on Endognath of External Maxillipeds

1. Ischium broadly and deeply grooved longitudinally
   - Ischium not broadly and deeply grooved longitudinally
2. Merus swollen to glistening white hemisphere centrally
   - Merus not swollen centrally
3. Ischium-merus smoothly convex, appearing fused
   - Ischium-merus neither smoothly convex nor appearing fused
4. Ischium-merus smooth and shining; mesial teeth easily visible
   - Ischium-merus not shiny but uniformly punctate; mesial teeth hidden in hairs
5. Unswollen merus with margin trilobate near palp
   - Somewhat swollen % of merus with margin entire near palp

*Stilbomastax margaritifera.*

*Tyche lamellifrons.*

*T. emarginata.*

*T. galapagensis.*

*T. clarionensis.*

*T. potiguara.*

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Footnote

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