

***Somanniathelphusa lacuvita*, a new ricefield crab from Tonle Sap, Cambodia (Crustacea: Brachyura: Parathelphusidae)**

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Abstract

A new species of ricefield crab, Somanniathelphusa lacuvita, is described from Tonle Sap in Cambodia. This is the first parathelphusid described from Cambodia and is the seventh species in the recently revised genus. The species is closest to S. falx from China, but differs in having the first epibranchial tooth subequal in size to the second (not smaller), and a proportionately broader basal part of the male first pleopod, with the tip less strongly recurved.

Introduction

Recently, Tyson Roberts kindly passed me a number of crab specimens he had collected from Tonle Sap in Cambodia. The specimens clearly belong to *Somanniathelphusa* Bott, 1968, a genus of ricefield crabs common in Indo-China. Naiyanetr (1994) recently revised the genus, and restricted the genus for species with a distinctly convex dorsal carapace surface; prominent postorbital crests which end at the beginning of the cervical grooves, and with the basal part of the male first gonopod expanded. Naiyanetr (1994) recognised six species in *Somanniathelphusa* s. str., viz. *S. sinensis* (Milne Edwards, 1853) (China), *S. chongi* (Wu, 1935) (China), *S. brevipedum* Dai *et al.*, 1975 (China), *S. taiwanensis* Bott, 1968 (Taiwan), *S. falx* Ng and Dudgeon, 1992 (China), and *S. zanklon* Ng and Dudgeon, 1992 (Hong Kong) (see also Ng and Naiyanetr, 1993; Ng and Kosuge, 1995).

The Cambodian specimens are here referred to a new species, here named *Somanniathelphusa lacuvita*. The

description of this species and comparisons with allied taxa form the text of the paper. The abbreviations G1 and G2 are used for the male first and second pleopods respectively. Measurements are of the carapace width and length respectively. Specimens examined are deposited in the Zoological Reference Collection (ZRC), Department of Zoology, National University of Singapore.

Taxonomic Account

Family Parathelphusidae Alcock, 1910
Genus *Somanniathelphusa* Bott, 1968
Somanniathelphusa lacuvita sp. nov.

Material

Holotype - male (23.1 by 17.9 mm) (ZRC), swampy margin of Great Lake of Tonle Sap, near Siem Riep, Cambodia, coll. T. R. Roberts, January 1994.

Paratypes - 3 males, 2 females (larger 20.6 by 15.8 mm) (ZRC), same data as holotype.

Description of holotype male. - Carapace broader than long, surfaces smooth, transversely convex. Epigastric cristae low but sharp, separated by shallow longitudinal

groove which extends to imaginary line joining last epibranchial teeth; postorbital cristae weak, distinct, just reaching beginning of very shallow cervical grooves, inner edge of crista extends to just below outer edge of epigastric crista. Frontal margin gently sinuous, almost straight. External orbital angle acutely triangular, inner margin subequal in length to outer, outer margin convex. Anterolateral margin with 3 distinct epibranchial teeth, first subtruncate, last smallest, first and second teeth directed anteriorly, last tooth directed obliquely outwards. Ischium of third maxilliped rectangular, longer than wide, with deep submedian, longitudinal sulcus; merus squarish, medially depressed; exopod reaching to middle of margin of merus, with subdistal tooth on inner margin, flagellum long.

Chelipeds asymmetrical, left larger; outer surfaces smooth. Merus with small, sharp subterminal spine on dorsal margin. Merus with sharp subterminal spine on dorsal margin. Carpus with well developed sharp spine on inner distal margin, base of spine with 1-2 small granules. Fingers of both chelae longer than palm, with numerous denticles along cutting edges; fingers of larger chela weakly gaping when closed.

Second pair of ambulatory legs longest. Merus with strong, distinct, sharp dorsal subterminal spine.

Male abdominal cavity reaches imaginary line joining anterior edges of bases of chelipeds. Suture between sternites 2 and 3 present only medially, lateral parts indistinct; suture between sternites 3 and 4 indistinct. Male abdomen T-shaped, telson broadly triangular, lateral margins very gently concave, tip rounded; segment 6 longer than telson, constricted at subproximal part; segments 3-5 progressively more trapezoidal, segment 3 widest, segments 1 and 2 narrow.

G1 with terminal and subterminal segments not demarcated; distal part slender, distal half gradually curving outwards, hook-shaped, tip curled obliquely ventrally and outwards; basal part very

broad, outer margin almost straight when viewed ventrally. G2 with short distal segment, 0.09 times length of elongate basal segment.

Paratype female. - The largest paratype female (20.6 by 15.8 mm) is already mature. The paratype specimens agree with the holotype male in all non-sexual aspects, except that in females, the chelae are equal.

Etymology. - The name is derived from the Latin "lacus" for lake and "vita" for life, alluding to the habitat of the species.

Discussion

Within *Somanniathelphusa* s. str., *S. lacuvita* sp. nov. is closest to *S. falx* Ng & Dudgeon, 1992, especially with regards to the shape and structure of the anterolateral teeth and hooked distal part of the G1. *Somanniathelphusa lacuvita* however, differs from *S. falx* in having the first epibranchial tooth subequal to larger than the second (against smaller), the male telson is more rounded (against distinctly triangular), the tip of the G1 pointed downwards (against recurved obliquely inwards), and the proportionately broader basal part of the G1, with the outer margin almost straight (against crenulate).

Acknowledgements

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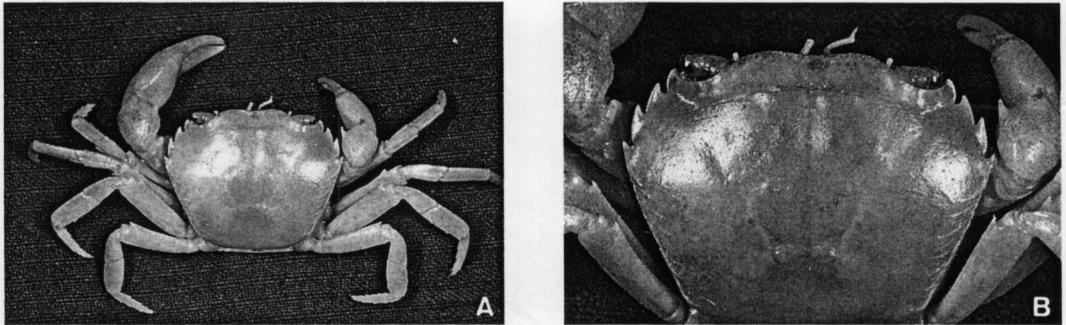


Fig 1

Somanniathelphusa lacuvita sp. nov. Holotype male (23.1 by 17.9 mm) (ZRC). A, dorsal view; B, carapace.

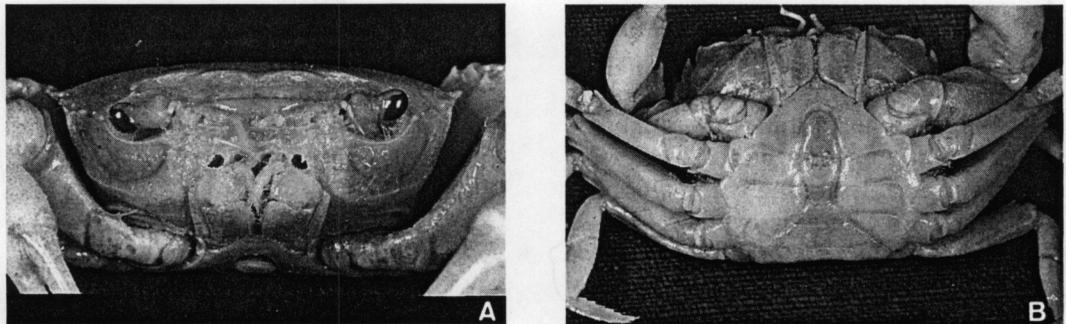


Fig 2

Somanniathelphusa lacuvita sp. nov. Holotype male (23.1 by 17.9 mm) (ZRC). A, frontal view; B, ventral view.

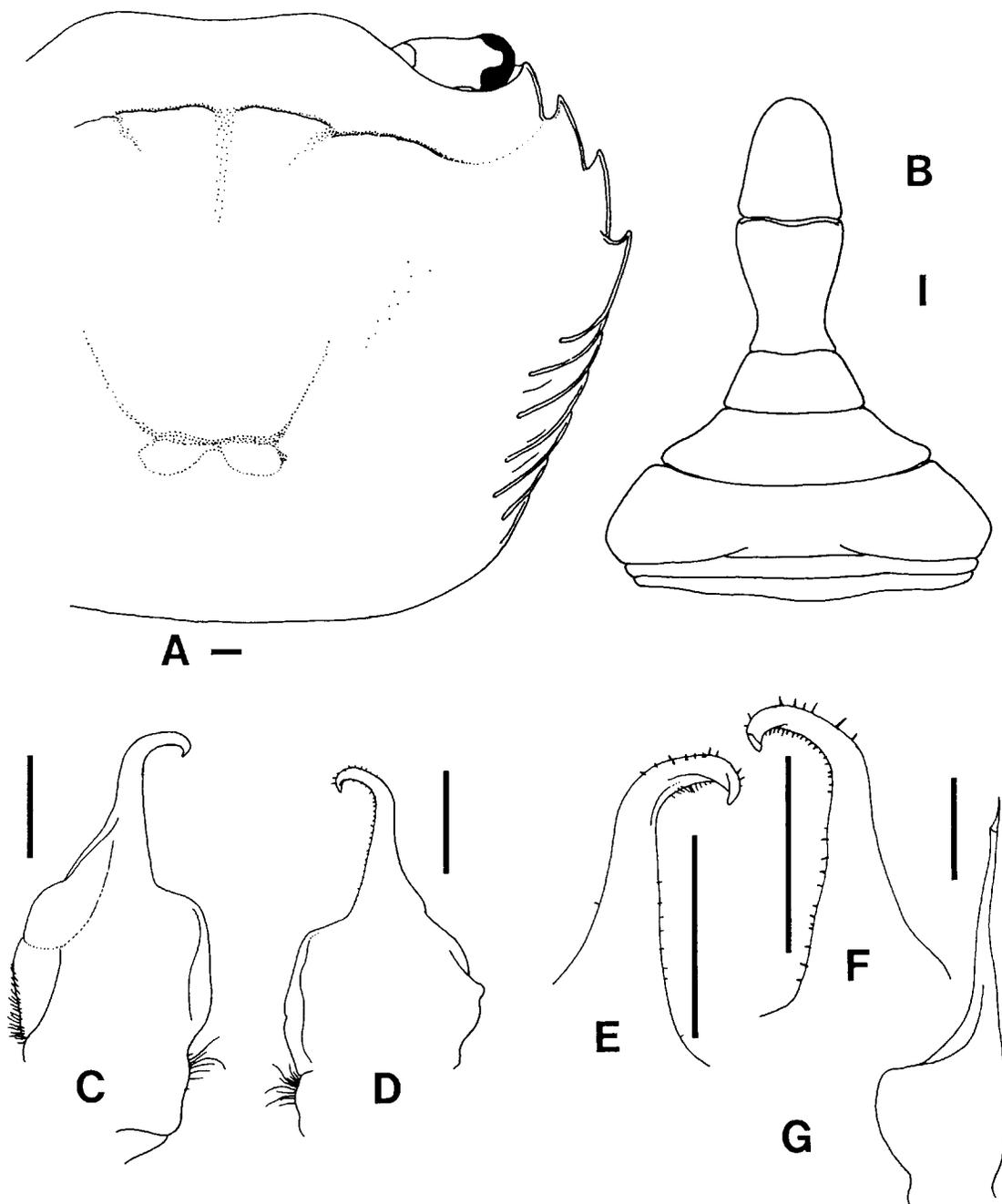


Fig 3

Somanniathelphusa lacuvita sp. nov. Holotype male (23.1 by 17.9 mm) (ZRC). A, right side of carapace; B, abdomen; C, D, left G1; E, F, distal part of left G1; G, left G2. C, E, ventral view; D, F, dorsal view. Scales = 1.0 mm.

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