

***Astacoides hobbsi*, a new crayfish (Crustacea: Decapoda: Parastacidae) from Madagascar**

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Abstract

A new species of crayfish, *Astacoides hobbsi*, is the seventh recognized in the endemic Madagascan genus *Astacoides* Guérin-Méneville, 1839 and is described from four male specimens collected in the Andranofotsiorana effluent of the river Ranomadio (Fianarantsoa province). The new species can be distinguished from all congeners by a combination of limited carapace spination, pale white color, gill formula of 13 + epr + 5r, lack of bullar lobes on sternite XIII, laterally curved lateral processes on sternite XIII, and spination of third maxilliped merus and ischium. The new species co-occurs with three other *Astacoides* species (*A. granulimanus* Monod & Petit, 1929, *A. caldwelli* (Bate, 1865), and *A. betsileoensis* Petit, 1923) in the same stream system. Special consideration should be given to conservation of this new species, as it is the *Astacoides* species known from the fewest specimens and may have a very restricted distribution.

Key words: *Astacoides*, new species, crayfish, Madagascar

Introduction

All Madagascan crayfishes belong to the endemic genus *Astacoides* Guérin-Méneville, 1839. To date, six species have been described: *A. madagascariensis* (A. Milne Edwards and Audouin, 1839), *A. caldwelli* (Bate, 1865), *A. betsileoensis* Petit, 1923, *A. granulimanus* Monod and Petit, 1929, *A. crosnieri* Hobbs, 1987, and *A. petiti* Hobbs, 1987