

Abele, L. & Gore 1973

CRUSTACEANA, Vol. 25, Part 1, 1973

INVERTEBRATE
ZOOLOGY
Crustacea

LIBRARY
DIVISION OF CRUSTACEA

SELECTION OF A LECTOTYPE FOR *MEGALOBRACHIUM*
GRANULIFERUM STIMPSON, 1858 [= *M. POEYI* (GUÉRIN, 1855)]
(DECAPODA, PORCELLANIDAE)¹⁾

BY

LAWRENCE G. ABELE

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Balboa, Canal Zone

and

ROBERT H. GORE

Smithsonian Institution, Ft. Pierce, Florida 33450, U.S.A.

Stimpson (1858) in his revision of the Porcellanidae described the new genus *Megalobrachium*, denoting as the type species *Megalobrachium granuliferum* from "Ins. Antillarum", the Antilles Islands. The specific name has usually been considered a nomen nudum (e.g. Haig, 1960) as the name was only listed. However, Dr. Lipke B. Holthuis (pers. comm.) pointed out that the generic diagnosis included the type and only species listed and that the name therefore is available. In 1859 Stimpson gave additional information on the species by describing material from "Barbadoes", collected by "Mr. Gill", and from St. Thomas, collected by A. H. Riise. As is well known, a major part of Stimpson's collections were destroyed in the great Chicago fire of 1871 (see Evans, 1967), although scattered lots are still extant in some museums. Recently, a lot of material which is apparently syntypic was found in the Copenhagen Museum. The label accompanying these specimens indicate that they were collected by "Riise" at St. Thomas, and the handwriting appears to be that of William Stimpson. Among this material (in the same vial) is also a single male specimen of *Petrolisthes armatus* (Gibbes, 1850).

¹⁾ Scientific contribution No. 1586 from the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. Support for this work was provided by Research Grant No. 7075X from the National Science Foundation.

As far as we can determine no holotype or lectotype has ever been designated either by Stimpson or any other author for any syntypic material of *M. granuliferum*. *Megalobrachium granuliferum* Stimpson, 1858 is a junior subjective synonym of *Porcellana poeyi* Guérin, 1855. Selection of the single specimen of *P. armatus* as the lectotype would unduly confuse the nomenclature, as *Megalobrachium granuliferum* would fall as a junior subjective synonym of *P. armatus*. The genus *Megalobrachium* Stimpson, 1858, would then be synonymous with *Petrolisthes* Stimpson, 1858, since *M. granuliferum* is the type species of the former genus. Although such a selection would be highly unlikely, it would nonetheless be valid.

To preclude this difficulty we now select as lectotype of *M. granuliferum* Stimpson, 1858, an ovigerous female specimen (cl 7.6, cb 8.3 mm) from the Copenhagen Museum material. We also select as paralectotypes the remaining five males and seven females in the lot. The type locality of *M. granuliferum* is thereby restricted to St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. The single specimen of *P. armatus* has been removed from this lot and placed in the Copenhagen Museum.

We would like to thank Dr. Lipke B. Holthuis, Leiden Museum, the Netherlands and Miss Janet Haig, Allan Hancock Foundation, University of Southern California for advice and assistance on this problem; Dr. Torben Wolff, Copenhagen Museum, for allowing us to study this material and Dr. Raymond Manning, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C., for supplying us with a copy of Stimpson's handwriting.

LITERATURE CITED

- EVANS, A. C., 1967. Syntypes of Decapoda described by William Stimpson and James Dana in the collection of the British Museum (Natural History). *Journ. nat. Hist.*, **1**: 399-411.
- GIBBES, L. R., 1850. On the carcinological collections of the United States, and an enumeration of species contained in them, with notes on the most remarkable, and descriptions of new species. *Proc. Amer. Assoc. Adv. Sci.*, **3**: 167-201.
- GUÉRIN-MÉNEVILLE, F. E., 1855. In: R. DE LA SAGRA, *Historia física, política y natural de la isla de Cuba*, 8 (*Atlas de Zoología. Crustáceos, Arágnides é Insectos*): pls. 1-20. (Paris).
- HAIG, J., 1960. The Porcellanidae (Crustacea Anomura) of the eastern Pacific. *Allan Hancock Foundation Pacif. Exped.*, **24**: i-vii, 1-440, 41 pls. 1-41, text-figs. 1-12.
- STIMPSON, W., 1858. *Prodromus descriptionis animalium evertibratorum, quae in Expeditione ad Oceanum Pacificum Septentrionalem, a Republica Federata missa, Cadwaladaro Ringgold et Johanne Rodgers ducibus, observavit et descripsit. Pars VII. Crustacea Anomura. I. Teleosomi*. *Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philadelphia*, **10**: 225-252.
- . 1859. Notes on North American Crustacea, 1. *Ann. Lyceum nat. Hist. New York*, **7**: 49-93, pl. 1.