



Squat lobsters (Crustacea: Anomura) from Mauritanian waters (West Africa), with the description of a new species of *Munidopsis*

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Abstract

This paper is the result of the study of a squat lobsters collection obtained along the Mauritanian coast, between 91 and 1867 m depth, during the ‘MAURIT’ surveys carried out in the period from 2007 to 2010. *Eumunida bella* de Saint Laurent & Macpherson, 1990 (Chirostyloidea) and six species of *Munida* and *Munidopsis* (Galattheoidea) are reported in the present work.

A new species, *Munidopsis anaramosae* n. sp. collected off northwestern Banc d’Arguin at 1000–1012 m depth, is described and illustrated. The presence of an eyespine that arises distally from the middle end of the cornea, walking legs merus spinose on dorsal and ventral margins and cheliped merus ventrally unarmed distinguish it from related species. *Munida chunii* Balss, 1913 is redescribed here and the new records of *Munida guineae* Miyake & Baba, 1970, *M. speciosa* von Martens, 1878 and *Munidopsis chunii* Balss, 1913 extend their geographical distribution northwards, and in the case of the last species, increase its bathymetric range.

Key words: Chirostyloidea, Galattheoidea, *Eumunida*, *Munida*, *Munidopsis*, new species, Mauritanian waters, distribution

Introduction

Squat lobsters are an abundant, speciose and worldwide distributed group of colourful anomuran decapod crustaceans. They comprise two superfamilies, Chirostyloidea and Galattheoidea (Ahyong *et al.* 2010; Schnabel & Ahyong 2010) and both are represented in the present work.

The genus *Eumunida* (family Chirostylidae) comprises 28 species (Puillandre *et al.* 2011) mainly distributed in the Indo-Pacific region with only three occurring in the Atlantic: *Eumunida bella* de Saint Laurent & Macpherson, 1990, *Eumunida picta* Smith, 1883 and *Eumunida squamifera* de Saint Laurent & Macpherson, 1990. Of these, only *Eumunida bella* has been recorded in the Central East Atlantic but not in Mauritanian waters (Saint Laurent & Macpherson 1990; Baba *et al.* 2008).

Within the superfamily Galattheoidea, the taxonomic effort deployed during the last years has increased the 242 species of *Munida* (family Munididae) recognized by Baba *et al.* (2008), with the description of an additional 28 new species (Macpherson 2009; Cabezas *et al.* 2009; Hendrickx & Parente 2010; Cabezas *et al.* 2011; Komai 2011a, b; Komai 2012). Similarly with *Munidopsis* (family Munidopsidae), eight new species were recently described, raising to 232 the total number of valid species (Baba *et al.* 2008; Osawa *et al.* 2008; Taylor *et al.* 2010; Macpherson 2011; Komai 2011c; Lin & Chan 2011; Ahyong 2013). Nevertheless only 12 species of *Munida* and 17 of *Munidopsis* have been reported in the central Eastern Atlantic.

The knowledge of the families Munididae and Munidopsidae in Mauritanian waters is scarce, and only one species of *Munida*: *Munida rullanti* Zariquiey Álvarez, 1952 (Anadón 1981) and four species of *Munidopsis*: *Munidopsis aries* (A. Milne Edwards, 1880), *M. curvirostra* Whiteaves, 1874, *M. hirtella* Macpherson & Segonzac, 2005 and *M. thieli* Türkay, 1975 (Anadón 1981; Macpherson & Segonzac 2005) were previously reported in this area.

This paper is based on the study of a collection of squat lobsters gathered during the four Ecosystem Surveys

Munidopsis ramahtaylorae Pequegnat & Pequegnat, 1971, *M. spinoculata* (A. Milne Edwards, 1880) and *M. subspinoculata* Pequegnat & Pequegnat, 1971 were recorded from the Atlantic Ocean but none of them have spines on the dorsal and ventral margins of the P2–4 carpus.

Munidopsis bispinoculata Baba, 1988, *M. rotundior* Baba, 2005 and *M. similior* Baba, 1988, known from the Indian and Pacific Oceans, have the P2–4 merus spinose but only on the dorsal margin. The absence of spines on the ventral margins of the P2–4 merus in these three species separates them from *M. anaramosae* n. sp. in which the P2–4 meri are provided with spines on the dorsal and ventral margins. None of the last three species have been recorded from Atlantic Ocean. Therefore, *M. anaramosae* n. sp. is the first species of the genus, having the eyespine arising from distal end of the cornea and with the dorsal and ventral margins of the P2–4 merus spinose, recorded in the Atlantic Ocean.

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