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On a Collection of *Mursia* (Crustacea, Decapoda, Brachyura, Calappidae) from Balicasag Island, Philippines

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Abstract Collections of the deep water calappid crab genus *Mursia* at the National Science Museum, Tokyo, and the National Museum of the Philippines assembled between 1994 and 2003 off Balicasag Island, Philippines, have been studied. Six species have been identified, of which four are new: *M. baconaua*, *M. buwaya*, *M. diwata*, and *M. mameleu*. The new species are described, photographed and illustrated.

Key words : Crustacea, Decapoda, Brachyura, Calappidae, *Mursia*, new species, Philippines

Introduction

In February 2003, the junior author had a chance to visit Balicasag Island, Bohol, Philippines. With the help of Mrs. M. R. Manuel of the National Museum of the Philippines, he conducted a research of the National Science Museum, Tokyo, entitled "Natural History Researches of the Island Arcs in the Western Pacific." Among the crab specimens collected by local shell fishermen using tangle nets to depths of 400 m, there are extensive series of specimens of the deep water calappid genus *Mursia* Desmarest, 1823.

All but one of the species of *Mursia* have been described from the Indo-Pacific Ocean, and are known to inhabit the sublittoral to depths of 700 m (Galil, 1993). The relative rarity and superficial resemblance of the *Mursia* species have caused some taxonomic confusion (Sakai, 1965). A recent revision identified 15 species (Galil, 1993), and subsequently three more species were described (Crosnier, 1997a, b; Galil, 2001). The genus was known in the Philippines from two species: *M. danigoi* Galil, 1993, and *M. trispinosa* Parisi, 1914 (Galil, 1993). The studied collection includes representatives of these, and additional four new species named *M. baconaua*, *M. buwaya*, *M. diwata*, and *M. mameleu*. In the following pages the new species are described, photographed and illustrated. The specimens are deposited in the National Science Museum, Tokyo (NSMT), the National Museum of the Philippines (NMCR), and the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHN).

In the descriptions of the new species, the carapace length, measured along the vertical median line of the carapace, is abbreviated to CL.

Taxonomy

Genus ***Mursia*** Desmarest, 1823

Mursia danigoi Galil, 1993

Mursia danigoi Galil, 1993: 360, figs. 1e, 3g–i, 5a–b.—Takeda, 1997: 238.—Tan *et al*., 2000: 142, fig. 1a.—Takeda, 2001: 231.—Chen & Sun, 2002: 499, fig. 228, pls. 4–5.

Material examined. 4 ♂♂ (CL 44.7, 42.1, 31.4, 25.8 mm), 1 ovig. ♀ (CL 30.8 mm), NSMT-Cr 13031, Sept. 1998, T. Kase leg. ; 1 ♂ (CL 40.5 mm), 4 ♀♀ (CL 37.0, 36.7, 23.8 mm), NSMT-Cr 15352, 1 ♂♂ (CL 41.9 mm), 1 ovig. ♀ (CL 35.8 mm), 1 ♀ (CL 36.0 mm), NSMT-Cr

15738, 9 ♂♂ (CL 27.6–43.5 mm), 12 ♀♀ (CL 26.0–38.0 mm), 2 ovig. ♀♀ (CL 37.8, 38.0 mm), NMCR, Feb. 2003, M. Takeda, M. R. Manuel & H. Komatsu leg.

Color. In freshly preserved specimens the dorsal surface of the carapace is pale orange, paler posteriorly; raised tubercles darker orange; ventral surface off-white; lateral spine white-tipped. External surface of palm orange, paler towards lower margin; lower palmar margin orange-red. Internal surface of palm off-white, with bright orange pear-shaped patch near base of dactylus. Endopod of external maxilliped bearing vertical orange stripe near interior margin. Epistome sprinkled with small red spots.

Distribution. West Pacific from the Philippines northwards to Sagami Bay, central Japan, with bathymetric range from 80 to 204 m.

Mursia trispinosa Parisi, 1914

Mursia armata trispinosa Parisi, 1914: 290, pl. 12.

Mursia curtispina trispinosa—Sakai, 1965: 53, fig. 8, pl. 21 fig. 2.—Kim & Park, 1972: 57, fig. 1, pl. 1 fig. 1.

Mursia trispinosa—Takeda & Koyama, 1974: 105.—Sakai, 1976: 137, fig. 74b, b', pl. 43 fig. 4.—Galil, 1993: 370, figs. 7c, 9e–f, 10h–i.

Material examined. 1 ♀ (CL 34.5 mm), NSMT-Cr 13030, Sept. 1998, T. Kase leg.; 1 ♂ (CL 23.4 mm), NSMT-Cr 15739, Aug. 1999, M. Takeda leg.; 1 ♂ (CL 43.5 mm), NSMT-Cr 15353, 2 ♂♂ (CL 43.5, 40.9 mm), 1 ovig.♀ (CL 34.0 mm), 1 ♀ (CL 35.7 mm), NSMT-Cr 15740, 3 ♂♂ (CL 35.1, 41.5, 41.8 mm), 3 ♀♀ (CL 25.8, 26.2, 33.5 mm), 1 ovig. ♀ (CL 35.2 mm), NMCR, Feb. 2003, M. Takeda, M. R. Manuel & H. Komatsu leg.;

Distribution. West Pacific from Japan southwards to New Caledonia, with bathymetric range from 70 to 355 m.

Mursia baconaua sp. nov.

(Figs. 1, 2A–B, 5A–C)

Material examined. Holotype—♂ (CL 22.8 mm), NSMT-Cr 11665, 27 Nov. 1994, T. Kase leg. Paratypes—1 ♀ (CL 29.2 mm), NSMT-Cr 15741, same data as holotype; 4 ♂♂ (CL 38.0, 29.9, 19.7, 18.8 mm), 2 ♀♀ (CL 22.8, 22.5 mm), NSMT-Cr 15742–15747, 1♂ (CL 38.0 mm), 1 ♀ (CL 31.4 mm), MNHN, Aug. 1999, M. Takeda leg. ; 1♂ (CL 36.2 mm), NSMT-Cr 15748, 2 ♂♂ (CL 30.4, 21.0 mm), 3 ♀♀ (CL 32.1, 30.1, 21.6 mm), NSMT-Cr 15749–15753, 3 ♂♂ (CL 35.1, 36.5, 39.5 mm), 6 ♂♂ (CL 30.6–32.5 mm), 2 ovig. ♀♀ (19.3, 32.3 mm), NMCR, Feb. 2003, M. Takeda, M. R. Manuel & H. Komatsu leg.

Description. Carapace transversely subovate in shape, convex, 1.2 wide as long. Dorsal surface minutely pitted, covered with flattened granules diminishing in size anteriorly and posteriorly. Irregular protuberances, covered with coalescent granules, are disposed in 7 radial rows on dorsal surface of carapace. Mesogastric region highest part of carapace. Gastric, cardiac and intestinal regions separated from branchial regions by deep, sinuous longitudinal grooves. Anterolateral margin arcuate, bearing beaded line superimposed on 9 tubercles, successively smaller posteriorly. Lateral spine slender, slightly upcurved, 0.3 carapace width, proximally granulate dorsally. Posterolateral margins oblique, sharply convergent, beaded, angled medially. Posterior margin beaded, lateral teeth rounded, small, median lobe effaced.

Frontal margin projecting beyond orbits, trilobate, median lobe rounded, bulbous, at one plane with lateral lobe; lateral lobe rounded, separated from supraorbital margin by shallow concavity. Antennule obliquely folded. Supraorbital margin unifissured, minutely granulate, bearing long plumose setae. Inner orbital tooth separated from outer orbital margin by deep V-shaped cleft, and from front by orbital hiatus. Antenna small, slender, basal segment subrectangular, lodged in orbital hiatus. Eye retractable, eyestalk short, granulate, setose. Buccal frame rhomboidal, narrowing anteriorly. Thick fringe of plumose setae running the length of third maxilliped exopod, merus

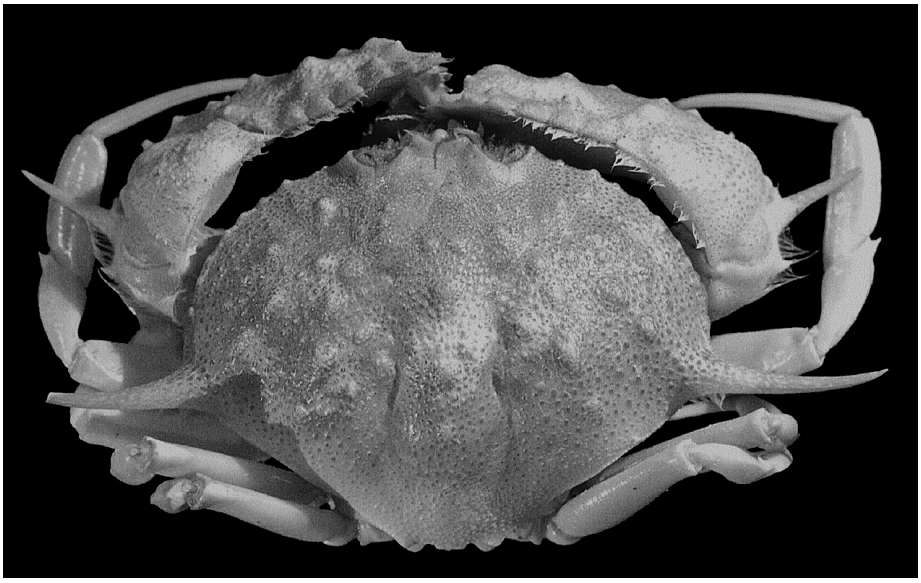

Fig. 1. *Mursia baconaua* sp. nov., holotype male (NSMT-Cr 11665; CL 22.8 mm).

and ischium granulate, bearing short setae. Subhepatic region densely setose. Thoracic sternum narrow, granulose. Male abdomen with segments 3-5 fused; prominent trilobate carina on second segment, lateral lobes more prominent than trapezoid median lobe; penultimate segment subquadrate, its lateral margins slightly concave; telson triangular, slightly shorter than penultimate segment.

Chelipeds massive, granulate. Merus distally bispinose, distal spine 7 times as long as subdistal spine. Anterior margin of carpus ending in a triangular denticle. External surface of chela convex, irregularly granulate, upper margin crested, setose. Larger (right) chela bearing dorsal crest with 8 denticles; first tooth low, teeth 2–4 triangular, successive teeth progressively lower and wider. External surface with 9 granulate tubercles in 3 oblique rows, and 2 tubercles near base of crest; proximal tubercle in lowest row spinose; median tubercle dorsoventrally flattened, triangular; distal tubercle smallest, rounded. Internal surface with setose band near lower margin. Lower margin sparsely serrate. Upper margin of dactylus crested, setose, granulated except for tip; with large curved tooth proximally, fitting into depression formed between 2 molariform teeth in pollex; inner surface bearing stridulating ridge consisting of 33 striae. Smaller chela lacking the large proximal teeth on dactylus and pollex. Pereiopods 2–5 slender, laterally compressed, upper and lower margins minutely granulate, upper margin of merus proximally setose, upper margin of carpus distally spinose. Dactylus slender, longer than propodus, styliform.

First male pleopod slightly curved, tapering evenly, distally spinulose. Second male pleopod long, slender; cornute distal portion curved, hook-shaped, tip twisted.

Color. In freshly preserved specimens the carapace is cream-colored; the raised tubercles on the dorsal surface of the carapace and outer surface of cheliped orange-red; lateral spine white-tipped. Internal surface of palm off-white, with bright orange patch distally on crest, above the articulation with the dactylus. The epistome bears two bright-red marks on the margin near the antennular fossets, and inverted comma-like spots on each side of the efferent channel.

Etymology. In the myths of the early Philippine islanders, Baconaua is a dragon, confined to the depths of the ocean, that causes eclipses by

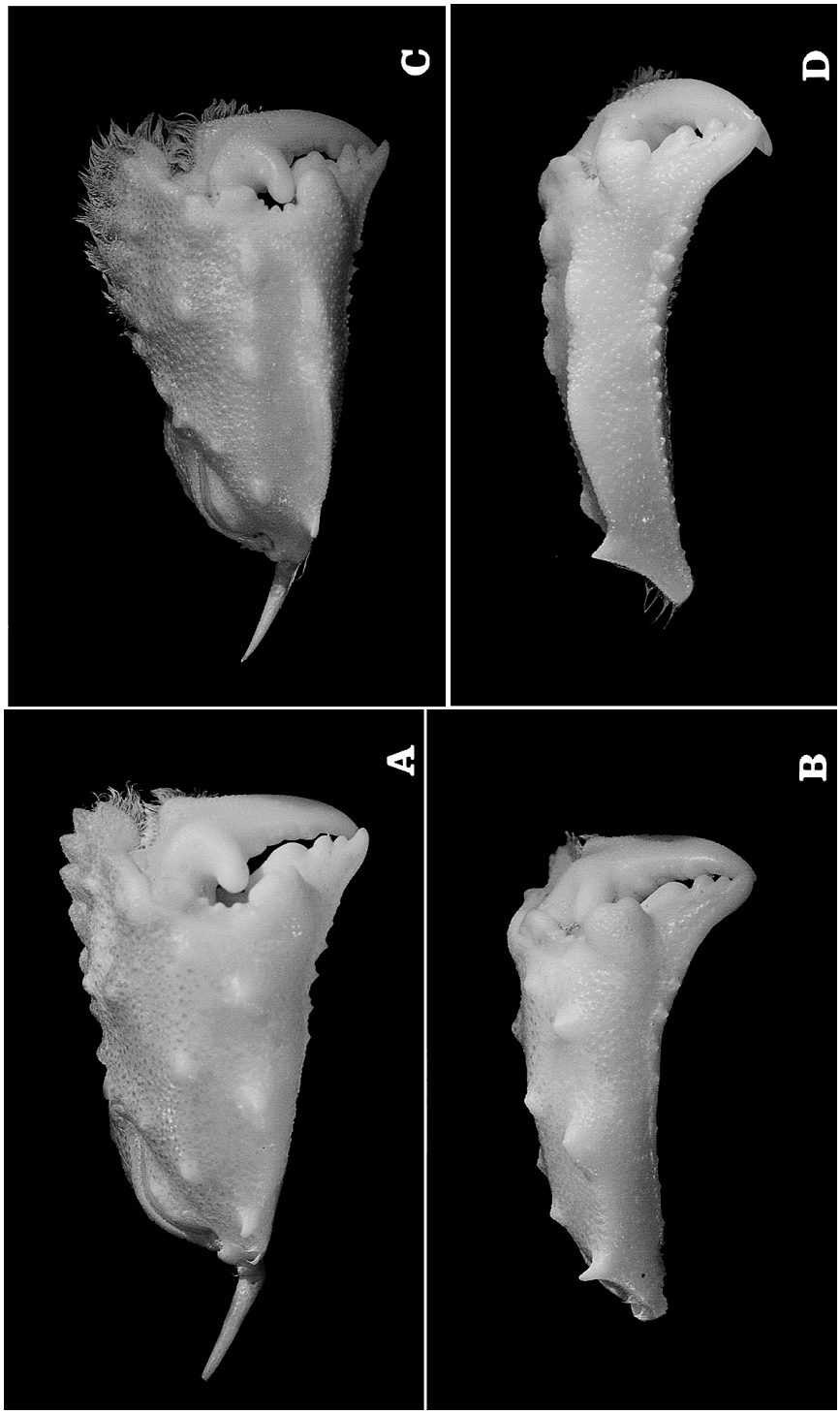

Fig. 2. Chelae of *Mursia baconaua* sp. nov. (A, B) and *M. buwaya* (C, D) in outer and lower views. A, B, holotype male (NSMT-Cr 11665; CL 22.8 mm); C, D, paratype female (NSMT-Cr 15755; CL 33.2 mm).

swallowing the sun.

Remarks. *Mursia baconaua* sp. nov. resembles both *M. australiensis* Campbell, 1971 and *M. coseli* Crosnier, 1997 in carapace shape, but the latters are smaller-bodied species with distally trispinose cheliped merus. Additionaly *M. australiensis* differs from *M. baconaua* in its rounded median and distal tubercles on lower external surface of chela, and distally sinuous second male pleopod. *Mursia coseli* differs from *M. baconaua* in bearing four tubercles in lowest row on external surface of chela, and its distally sinuous, *beta*-shaped second male pleopod.

Mursia buwaya sp. nov.

(Figs. 2C–D, 3, 4, 5F–H)

Material examined. Holotype—♂ (CL 31.9 mm), NSMT-Cr 15754, Feb. 2003, M. Takeda, M. R. Manuel & H. Komatsu leg. Paratypes—1♀(CL 33.2 mm), NSMT-Cr 15755, 1 ♂ (CL 31.2 mm), 1 ovig.♀ (CL 35.5 mm), 2 ♀♀ (CL 33.6, 33.8 mm), NSMT-Cr 15756-15759, 1 ♀ (CL 32.2 mm), MNHN, 8 ♂♂ (CL 30.9–37.8 mm), 10 ♀♀ (24.3–34.4 mm), 1 ovig. ♀ (CL 33.7 mm), NMCR, same data as holotype.

Description. Carapace transversely subovate in shape, convex, 1.25 wide as long. Dorsal surface covered with rounded granules diminishing in size anteriorly and posteriorly. Irregular protuberances, covered with coalescent granules, are disposed in 7 radial rows on dorsal surface of carapace. Mesogastric region highest part of carapace. Gastric, cardiac and intestinal regions separated from branchial regions by shallow, sinuous longitudinal grooves. Anterolateral margin arcuate, bearing beaded line superimposed on 9 or 10 tubercles, successively smaller posteriorly. Lateral spine acuminate, slightly upcurved, 1/5 of carapace width, minutely granulate dorsally. Posterolateral margins oblique, sharply convergent, beaded line nearly straight. Posterior margin beaded, lateral teeth widely triangular, laminar, median lobe effaced.

Frontal margin projecting beyond orbits, trilobate, median lobe rounded, slightly more prominent than rounded lateral lobes, separated from supraorbital margin by shallow notch. Antennule obliquely folded. Supraorbital margin unifissured, minutely granulate, bearing long plumose setae. Inner orbital tooth separated from outer orbital margin by deep V-shaped cleft, and from front by orbital hiatus. Antenna small, slender, basal segment subrectangular, lodged in orbital

Fig. 3. *Mursia buwaya* sp nov., paratype female (NSMT-Cr 15755; CL 33.2 mm).

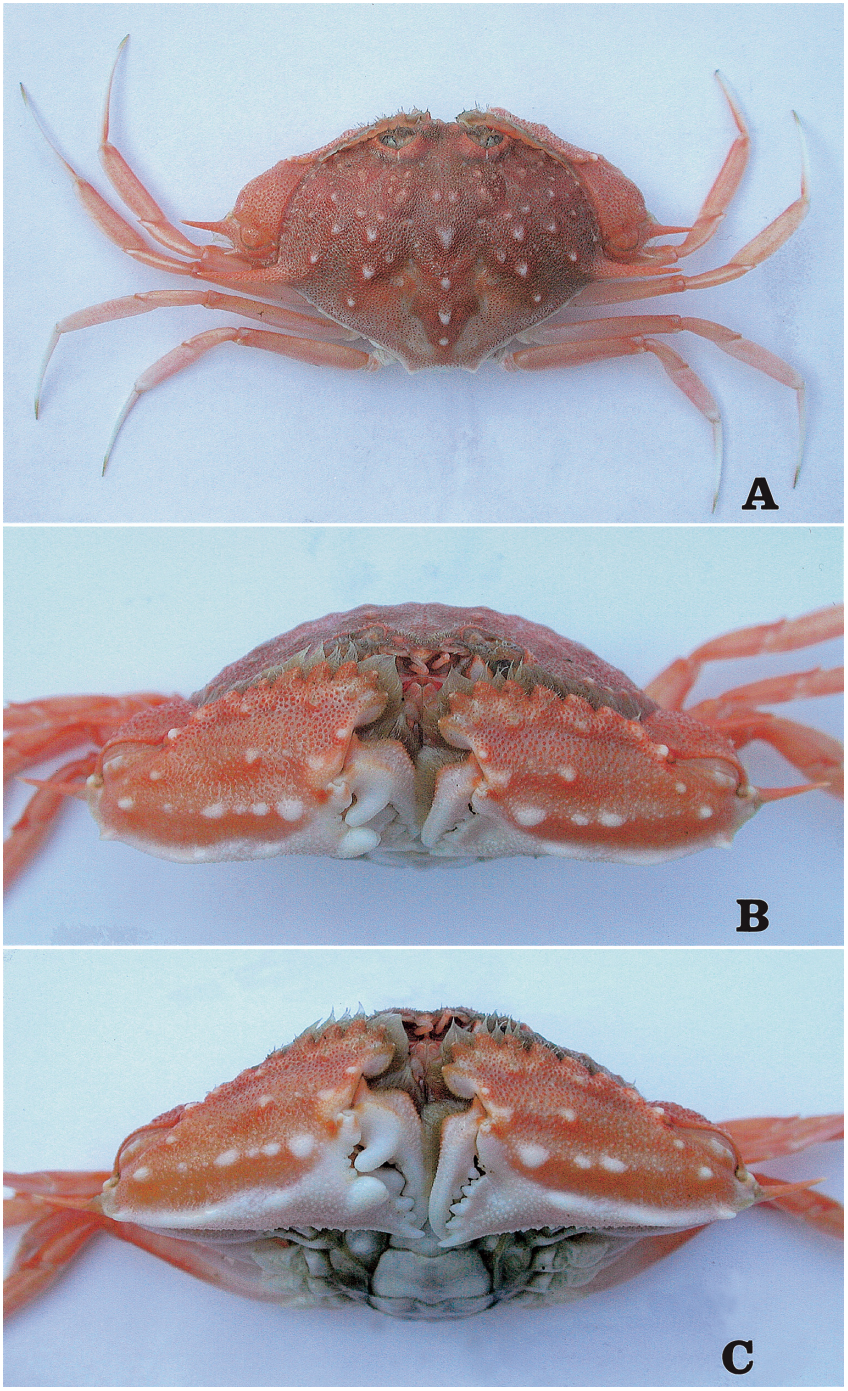

Fig. 4. *Mursia buwaya* sp nov., paratype female (MNHN; CL 32.2 mm).

hiatus. Eye retractable, eyestalk short, granulate, setose. Buccal frame rhomboidal, narrowing anteriorly. Thick fringe of plumose setae running the length of third maxilliped exopod, merus and ischium granulate, bearing short setae. Subhepatic region densely setose. Male abdomen with segments 3–5 fused; prominent trilobate carina on second segment; rounded lateral lobes separated from subrectangular median lobe; penultimate segment subquadrate, its lateral margins slightly concave; telson triangular, slightly shorter than penultimate segment.

Chelipeds massive, granulate. Merus distally bispinose, distal spine much longer than subdis-

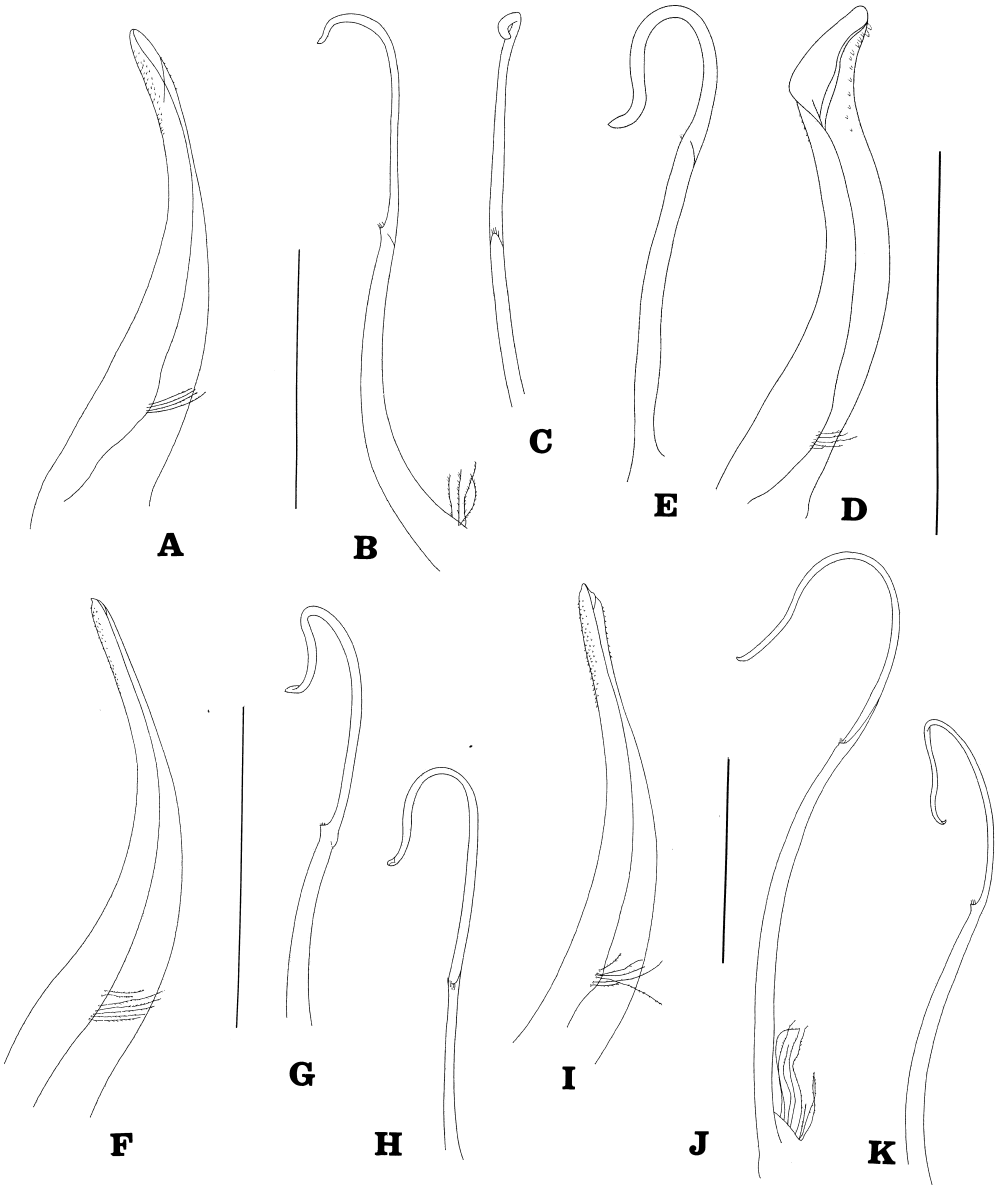

Fig. 5. Male first (A, D, F, I) and second (B C, E G, H, J, K) pleopods of *Mursia* spp. in different views (Scales=5 mm). A–C, *M. baconaua* sp. nov. holotype (NSMT-Cr 11665; CL 22.8 mm); D, E, *M. diwata* sp. nov. holotype (NSMT-Cr 15754; CL 31.9 mm); F–H, *M buwaya* sp. nov. holotype (NSMT-Cr 15427; CL 48.2 mm); I–K, *M. mameleu* sp. nov., holotype (NSMT-Cr 13036; CL 20.2 mm).

tal spine. Anterior margin of carpus ending in a triangular denticle. External surface of chela convex, irregularly granulate, upper margin crested, setose. Larger (right) chela bearing dorsal crest with 7 denticles; first tooth low, teeth 2–3 triangular, successive teeth progressively lower and wider. External surface with 2 tubercles near base of crest, 2 widely-spaced tubercles mid chela, 3 closely-spaced tubercles just below dactylar articulation; near lower margin, proximal tubercle ram-shaped, followed by sinuous, granulate ridge parallel with lower margin. Internal surface with setose band near lower margin. Lower margin sparsely serrate. Upper margin of dactylus crested, setose, proximally granulate; with curved rounded tooth proximally fitting into depression formed between 2 molariform teeth in pollex; inner surface bearing stridulating ridge consisting of 34 striae. Smaller chela lacks the large dactylar tooth. Pereiopods 2–5 slender, laterally compressed, upper and lower margins minutely granulate, upper margin of merus proximally setose, upper margin of carpus distally spinose. Dactylus slender, longer than propodus, styliform.

First male pleopod curved, tapering evenly, distally spinulose. Second male pleopod long, slender; cornute distal portion curved, crook-shaped, tip slightly outcurved.

Etymology. In the myths of the early Philippine islanders, Buwaya is a dragon venerated by fisherfolk, living in an underwater cave.

Remarks. *Mursia buwaya* sp. nov. resembles *M. poupini* Galil, 2001, in carapace shape and granulosity. However, *M. poupini* differs from *M. buwaya* sp. nov. in the shorter lateral and meral spines, and the shape of the tubercles on lower external surface of chela.

Mursia mameleu sp. nov.

(Figs. 5I–K, 6, 7, 8A–B)

Material examined. Holotype—♂ (CL 48.2 mm), NSMT-Cr 15427, Feb. 2003, M. Takeda & H. Komatsu leg. Paratype—1 ♂ (CL 42.6 mm), 3 ♀♀ (CL 40.6, 43.7, 50.0 mm), NMCR, same data as holotype.

Description. Carapace transversely subovate in shape, convex, 1.2 wide as long. Dorsal surface coarsely pitted, covered with flattened granules diminishing in size posteriorly; epibranchial, mesobrnachial and cardiac protuberances covered with coalescent granules. Mesogastric region highest part of carapace. Gastric, cardiac

Fig. 6. *Mursia mameleu* sp. nov., holotype male (NSMT-Cr 15427; CL 48.2 mm).

and intestinal regions separated from branchial regions by sinuous longitudinal grooves. Anterolateral margin arcuate, bearing 7 tubercles, successively smaller posteriorly. Lateral spine acuminate, straight, 1/5 carapace width, dorsally granulate. Posterolateral margin oblique, sharply convergent, beaded. Posterior margin bearing 3 slightly upturned acuminate denticles of nearly equal length, lateral denticles dorsoventrally flattened, median denticle conic.

Frontal margin projecting beyond orbits, trilobate, median lobe triangular, prominent, at lower plane than lateral lobes; lateral lobes rounded, separated from supraorbital margin by shallow concavity. Antennule obliquely folded. Supraorbital margin unifissured, minutely granulate, bearing long plumose setae. Inner orbital tooth separated from outer orbital margin by deep V-shaped cleft, and from front by orbital hiatus. Antenna small, slender, basal segment subrectangular, lodged in orbital hiatus. Eye retractable, eyestalk short, granulate, setose. Buccal frame rhomboidal, narrowing anteriorly. Third maxilliped exopod bearing thick fringe of plumose setae, merus and ischium granulate, bearing short setae. Subhepatic region densely setose. Male abdomen with segments 3–5 fused; prominent trilobate carina on second segment; rounded lateral lobes widely separated from distally concave median lobe; penultimate segment subquadrate, its lateral margins slightly concave; telson triangular, slightly shorter than penultimate segment.

Chelipeds massive, granulate. Merus distally trispinose, distal spine much longer than subdistal spine. Anterior margin of carpus ending in a triangular denticle. External surface of chela convex, irregularly granulate, upper margin crested, setose. Larger (right) chela bearing dorsal crest with 8 triangular denticles; first tooth low, smaller than second, teeth 2–4 triangular, successive teeth progressively lower and wider. External surface with 8 granulate tubercles and 3 large, acuminate denticles parallel to lower margin, proximalmost spinose. Internal surface with setose band near lower margin. Lower margin prominently serrate, serration larger distally. Upper margin of dactylus crested, setose, granulated except for tip; with curved rounded tooth proximally fitting into depression formed between 2 molariform teeth in pollex; inner surface bearing stridulating ridge consisting of 26 striae. Smaller chela lacks the molariform dactylar tooth. Pereiopods 2–5 slender, laterally compressed, glabrous, upper and lower margins minutely granulate, upper margin of carpus distally spinose. Dactylus slender, styliform, glabrous.

First male pleopod slightly curved, tapering evenly, distally spinulose. Second male pleopod long, slender; cornuted, curved, distal portion shaped somewhat like the letter *beta*, tip slightly outcurved.

Color. In freshly preserved specimens the dorsal surfaces of the carapace and cheliped are orange, carapace paler posteriorly; the ventral surface cream-colored; the raised tubercles on the dorsal surface of the carapace and outer surface of cheliped are orange-red. Spines on the lateral margin of the carapace, and distally on the cheliped merus are banded orange and white. Internal surface of palm cream-colored, with bright orange patch distally, near the articulation with the dactylus. The epistome bears two reddish marks near the antennular fossets, and bright-red dots on each side of the efferent channel.

Etymology. In the myths of the early Philippine islanders, Mameleu is a dragon living in the depths of the ocean.

Remarks. *Mursia mameleu* sp. nov. resembles *M. danigoi* Galil, 1993, *M. flamma* Galil, 1993, and *M. trispinosa* Parisi,1914, in carapace shape. *Mursia danigoi* differs from *M. mameleu* in the more prominent radial and marginal tubercles on its carapace; distally quadrispinose cheliped merus; and four tubercles in inferior row externally on chela. *Mursia flamma* differs from *M. mameleu* in the shorter spines on the lateral margin of the carapace, and cheliped merus; and trispinose cheliped merus. *Mursia trispinosa* is easily distinguished in its longer, stouter lateral spine; trispinose cheliped merus; distalmost denticle in inferior row externally on chela largest;

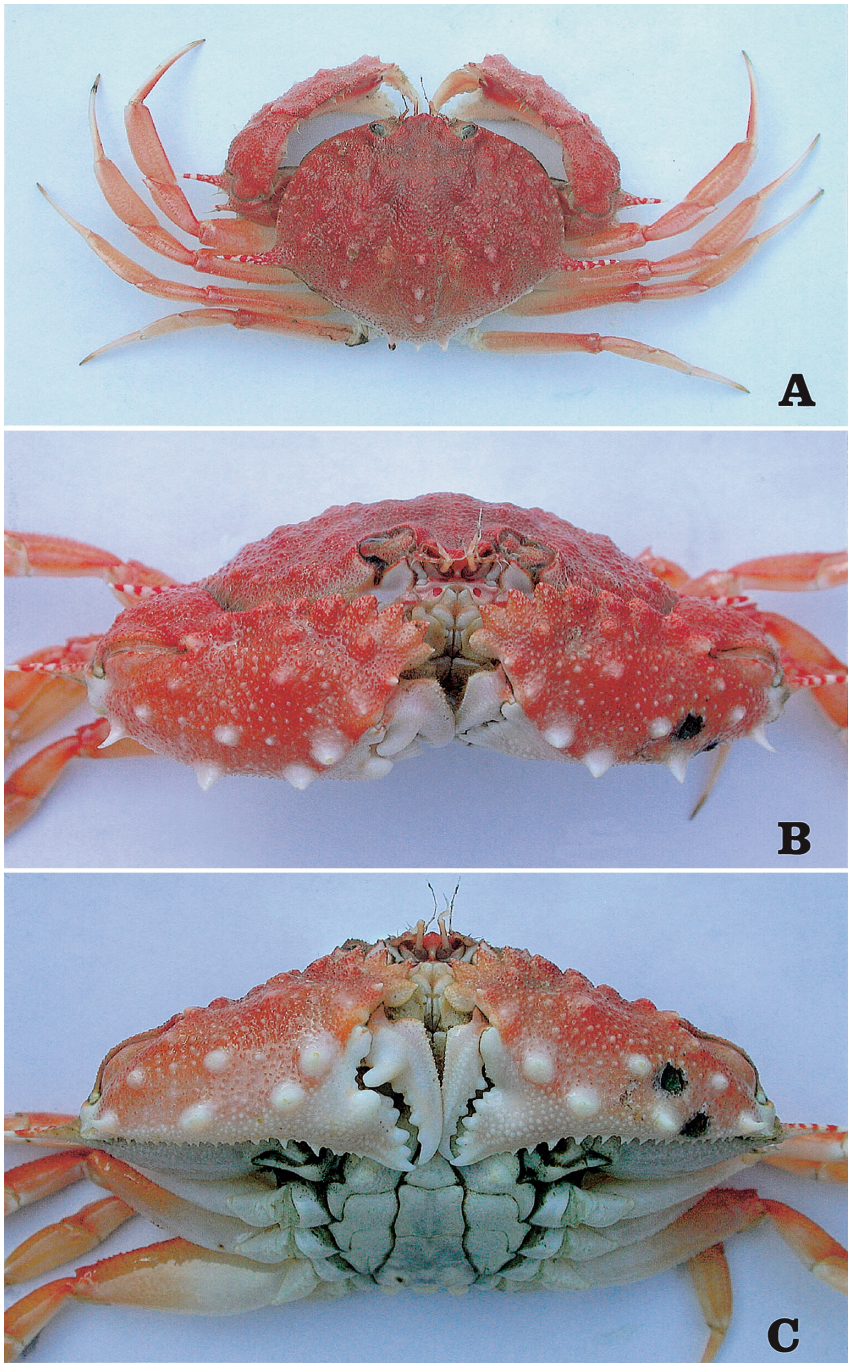

Fig. 7. *Mursia mameleu* sp. nov., holotype male (NSMT-Cr 15427; CL 48.2 mm).

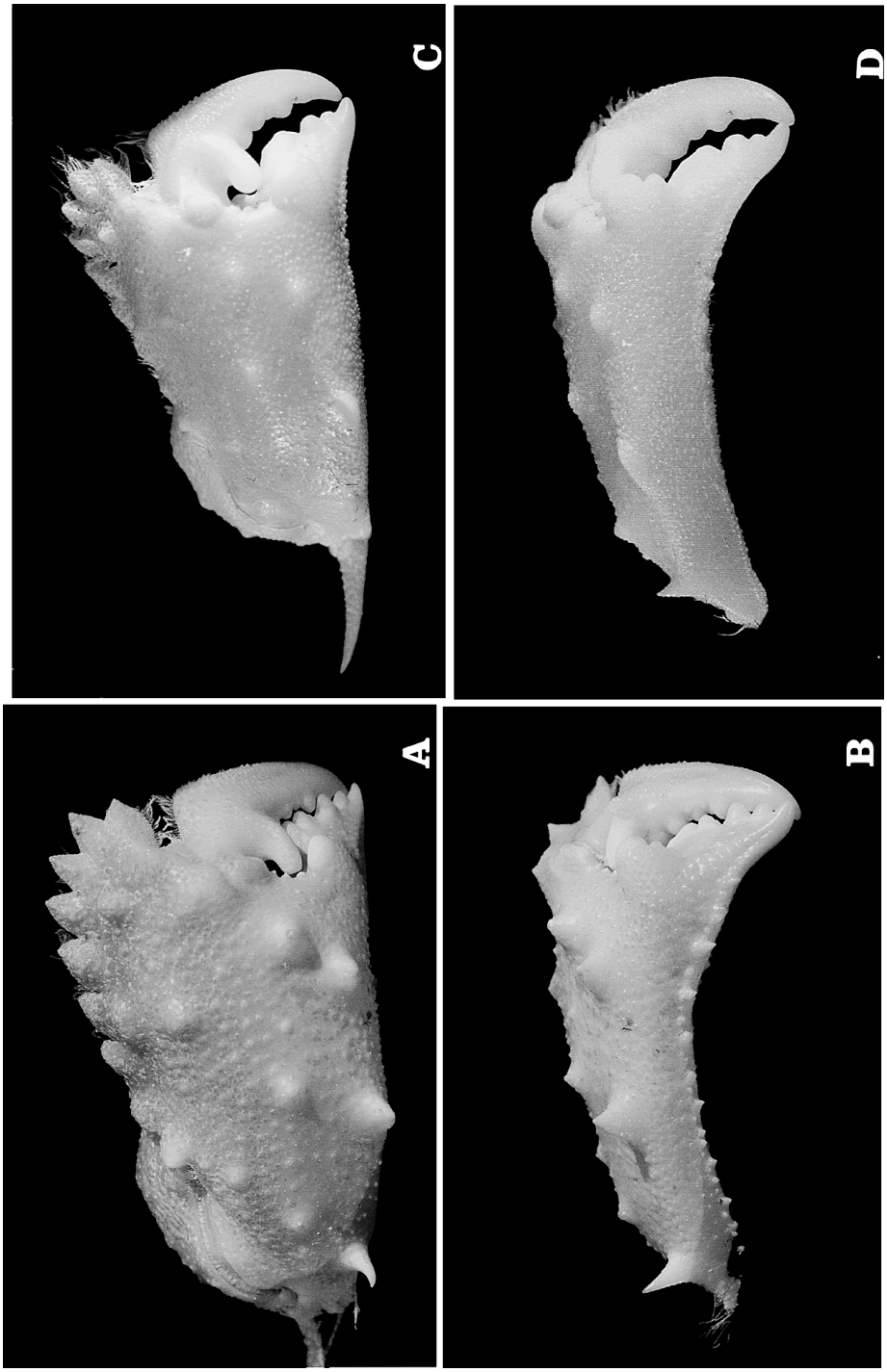

Fig. 8. Chelae of *Mursia mamelau* sp. nov. (A, B) and *M. diwata* sp. nov. (C, D) in outer lower views. A, B, holotype male (NSMT-Cr 15427; CL 48.2 mm); C, D, holotype male (NSMT-Cr 13036; CL 20.2 mm).

and distally hook-shaped second male pleopod.

Mursia diwata sp. nov.

(Figs. 5D–E, 8C–D, 9)

Material examined. Holotype—♂ (CL 20.2 mm), NSMT-Cr 13036, Aug. 1999, M. Takeda leg. Paratypes—1♂ (CL 17.1 mm), NSMT-Cr 15760, 5 ♂♂ (CL 19.9–21.5 mm), 2 ♀♀ (CL 23.8, 15.0 mm), NSMT-Cr 15780-15786, 7 ♂♂ (CL 19.4–21.8 mm), 2 ♀♀(CL 19.3, 16.5 mm), NSMT-Cr 15761-15769, 2 ♂♂ (CL 21.9, 20.9 mm), MNHN, 17 ♂♂ (19.2–20.5 mm), 8 ♀♀ (8.4–20.5 mm), NMCR, Feb. 2003, M. Takeda, M. R. Manuel & H. Komatsu leg.

Description. Carapace transversely subovate in shape, convex, 1.1 wide as long. Dorsal surface covered with flattened granules of similar size. Irregular protuberances, covered with coalescent granules, disposed in 7 radial rows on dorsal surface of carapace. Mesogastric region highest part of carapace. Gastric, cardiac and intestinal regions separated from branchial regions by shallow, sinuous longitudinal grooves. Anterolateral margin arcuate, bearing beaded line superimposed on 8 or 9 tubercles, successively smaller posteriorly. Lateral spine acuminate, slightly upcurved, less than 0.2 carapace width, proximally granulate. Posterolateral margin oblique, sharply convergent, beaded, angled medially. Posterior margin beaded, lateral teeth triangular, dorsoventrally flattened, median lobe nearly effaced.

Frontal margin projecting beyond orbits, trilobate, median lobe broadly triangular, at lower plane than lateral lobes; lateral lobe rounded, separated from supraorbital margin by shallow concavity. Antennule obliquely folded. Supraorbital margin unifissured, minutely granulate, bearing long plumose setae. Inner orbital tooth separated from outer orbital margin by deep V-shaped cleft, and from front by orbital hiatus. Antenna small, slender, basal segment subrectangular, lodged in orbital hiatus. Eye retractable, eyestalk short, granulate, setose. Buccal frame rhomboidal, narrowing anteriorly. Thick fringe of plumose setae running the length of third maxilliped exopod, merus and ischium granulate, bearing short setae. Subhepatic region densely setose. Thoracic sternum narrow, granulose. Male abdomen with segments 3–5 fused; prominent trilobate carina on second segment, lateral lobes slightly more prominent than trapezoid median lobe; penultimate segment subquadrate, its lateral margins slightly sinuous; telson triangular, subequal with penultimate segment.

Fig. 9. *Mursia diwata* sp. nov., holotype male (NSMT-Cr 13036; CL 20.2 mm).

Chelipeds massive, granulate. Merus distally bispinose, distal spine longer, stouter than subdistal spine. Anterior margin of carpus ending in a triangular denticle. External surface of chela convex, upper margin crested, setose. Larger (right) chela bearing dorsal crest with 8 denticles; first tooth low, teeth 2–4 triangular, successive teeth progressively lower and wider. External surface with 9 granulate tubercles in 3 oblique rows, and 2 tubercles near base of crest; proximal tubercle in lowest row ram-shaped, slightly upcurved; median tubercle dorsoventrally flattened, rounded; distal tubercle smallest, rounded. Internal surface with setose band near lower margin. Lower margin minutely serrate. Upper margin of dactylus crested, setose, granulated proximally; with curved rounded tooth proximally fitting into depression formed between 2 molariform teeth in pollex; inner surface bearing stridulating ridge consisting of 28 striae. Smaller chela lacks the large dactylar tooth. Pereiopods 2–5 slender, laterally compressed, upper and lower margins minutely granulate; upper margin of carpus distally spinose; dactylus slender, longer than propodus, styliform.

First male pleopod thickset, slightly curved, distally auriculate, single line of spinules on interior margin. Second male pleopod with cornute distal portion crook-shaped, tip upcurved.

Color. The epistome bears two reddish marks near the antennular fossets, and bright-red dots on each side of the efferent channel. Internal surface of palm cream-colored, with large, bright orange patch distally, near the articulation with the dactylus.

Etymology. In the myths of the early Philippine islanders, Diwata is one of the first beings in the beginning of the world.

Remarks. *Mursia diwata* sp. nov is easily distinguished from its cogeners by its short, thickset, distally auriculate first male pleopod.

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