



Two squat lobster species (Crustacea: Decapoda: Anomura) from the Persian Gulf, with description of a new species of *Raymunida* Macpherson & Machordom, 2000

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Abstract

Galathea ternatensis De Man, 1902 and *Raymunida iranica* n. sp., are reported from the Iranian coast as the first records of squat lobster species from the Persian Gulf. The new species morphologically resembles *R. cagnetei* Macpherson & Machordom, 2000, but is unique in the genus in having a small spine near the base of each supraocular spine and a spine ventral to the second branchial marginal spine of the carapace.

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, *Raymunida*, new species, squat lobster, Persian Gulf, Iran

Introduction

The fauna of decapod crustaceans in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman has been generally well studied (cf. Naderloo & Türkay 2012). However, there are few reports on squat lobsters (Chirostyloidea and Galatheaidea exclusive of Porcellanidae; see Ahyong *et al.* 2010; Schnabel & Ahyong 2010) in the areas, with only three species (*Galathea omanensis* Tirmizi & Javed, 1993; *G. yamashitai* Miyake & Baba, 1967; and *Munida roshanei* Tirmizi, 1966) recorded from the Gulf of Oman and no species from the Persian Gulf proper (Tirmizi 1966; Tirmizi & Javed 1993).

During investigations of the crustacean fauna conducted by the second author in coastal waters around Hormozgan Province, Iran, two specimens of squat lobsters were collected by a commercial bottom trawl for demersal fish resources and submitted for identification to the first author. Examination has revealed that one specimen belongs to *Galathea ternatensis* De Man, 1902, and another represents an undescribed species of the genus *Raymunida* Macpherson & Machordom, 2000. The present paper reports the two species from the Persian Gulf for the first time.

The specimens examined are deposited in the Fisheries Laboratory of Hormozgan University, Bandar Abbas, Iran (FHU). The general terminology used in the text follows that of Baba *et al.* (2009, 2011). The use of “pleon” instead of “abdomen” follows Schram & Koenemann (2003). The carapace length (cl), as the indication of specimen size, is measured from the level of the sinus formed by the rostrum and supraocular spines to the posterior margin along the midline. The lengths of articles of chelipeds and ambulatory legs are measured along the dorsomesial and extensor margins, respectively. The abbreviations used in the description include: Mxp3 (third maxilliped), P1 (first pereopod, cheliped), P2–4 (second to fourth pereopods, first to third ambulatory legs), and P5 (fifth pereopod).

Systematic account

Family Galatheididae Samouelle, 1819

Raymunida insulata, another congeneric species recorded from the Indian Ocean, is discriminated from *R. iranica* n. sp. by the absences of the following spines or striae: one to three spinules on the frontal margin mesial to the anterolateral spine of the carapace, striae between two distinct transverse ridges on the second and third pleomeres, a small subdistal spine on the mesial margin of the second article of the antennal peduncle, and a small dorsodistal spine on the merus of the third maxilliped. *Raymunida insulata* is known only from the holotype from off the Seychelles Islands and its coloration is unknown (Macpherson & Machordom 2001).

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