ELAMENOPSIS GUINOTAE, A NEW SPIDER CRAB FROM BASS STRAIT, AUSTRALIA (BRACHYURA, HYMENOSOMATIDAE)

BY

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ABSTRACT

Elamenopsis guinotae sp. nov. is described from a temperate shallow sandy environment in Bass Strait, Australia. The new species is most similar to E. rotunda, one of four other species in the genus, all from the tropical western Pacific. The two species share a subcircular carapace with the carapace rim width about 1.2 times as wide as long, and long, slender walking legs. It differs in the absence of an anterolateral notch on the carapace and the broader female abdomen. Features differentiating all five species of Elamenopsis are tabulated.

RÉSUMÉ

Elamenopsis guinotae sp. nov. est décrite du Détroit de Bass, dans un environnement d’eaux tempérées, peu profondes et de fonds sableux. La nouvelle espèce est très similaire à E. rotunda, l’une des quatre autres espèces du genre, toutes du Pacifique ouest. Les deux espèces ont en commun une carapace semi-circulaire, 1,2 fois plus large que longue et des pattes marcheuses longues et fines. Cette nouvelle espèce se différencie par l’absence d’une encoche antérolatérale sur la carapace et un abdomen femelle plus large. Les caractères séparants des cinq espèces d’Elamenopsis sont comparés.

INTRODUCTION

The soft sediment fauna of eastern Bass Strait has a notably high diversity (Coleman et al., 1997) and features many apparently rare (narrowly distributed or rarely caught) species among the more than 800 documented species. The decapods of this area are now well documented (Poore, 2004) and, of the known fauna, only a single species of hymenosomatid crab remains

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undescribed (Poore, 2004). The species was featured in O’Hara’s (2002) discussion of endemism, rarity, and vulnerability along a temperate coastline of Australia because it is represented by few individuals taken from four grab samples along a 25 km long 14-15 metre depth contour. The species, which was then incorrectly referred to the genus *Halicarcinus* White, 1846 is described here as a new species of *Elamenopsis* A. Milne-Edwards, 1873.

Hymenosomatid spider crabs are represented in Australia by 30 species (Lucas, 1980; Davie, 2002). In the Bass Strait region between Victoria and Tasmania four species are known thus far: *Halicarcinus ovatus* Stimpson, 1859, *H. rostratus* (Haswell, 1881), *Hymenosoma hodgkini* Lucas, 1980, and *Trigonoplax longirostris* McCulloch, 1908 (cf. Poore, 2004).

The diagnosis of the new species is based on the characters in Naruse & Ng’s (2007) key to species of *Elamenopsis*. Type material is lodged in Museum Victoria, Melbourne (NMV) and the Queensland Museum, Brisbane (QM). Three dimensions are given: carapace length along the median line from the rostrum to the posterior margin (cl); carapace width measured at its widest point (cw); and carapace rim width (often the only measurement available from comparative illustrations) measured transversely at the widest point of the dorsal rim (crw).

**Elamenopsis** A. Milne-Edwards, 1873

Remarks. — *Elamenopsis* was diagnosed and discussed by Naruse & Ng (2007). The genus comprises only four species, all from the western Pacific: *E. lineata* A. Milne-Edwards, 1873 from New Caledonia, the Philippines, Sulawesi, Singapore, and north-eastern Australia (Ng & Richer de Forges, 1996), *E. ariakensis* (Sakai, 1969) from Japan and China (Kosuge et al., 2002), *E. comosa* Ng & Chuang, 1996 from Indonesia, and *E. rotunda* Naruse & Ng, 2007 from Singapore. Naruse & Ng (2007) compared them all and provided a key. The new species described here extends the range of the genus into temperate southern Australia.

**Elamenopsis guinotae** sp. nov. (figs. 1, 2)

Material examined. — Holotype: Australia, Victoria, Bass Strait, 1 km off Woodside Beach (38°33’S 146°57’E), 15 m, 08 Mar. 1989 (stn MSL-LV 2W4), NMV J59277 (female, cl 2.16 mm, cw 2.95 mm).

Paratypes (many lacking some or all ambulatory legs): collected with holotype, NMV J31879 (3 males, cw 1.6 mm); QM W28877 (male, cw 1.6 mm; female, 1.7 mm). One (1) km off Woodside Beach (38°33’S 146°57’E), 14.5 m, 08 Mar. 1989 (stn MSL-LV 1W5), NMV J31881 (juvenile male, cw 1.6 mm); (stn MSL-LV 2W5), NMV J31878 (6 juvenile males, cw