MUNIDOPSIS ALBATROSSAE, A NEW SPECIES OF DEEP-SEA
GALATHEIDAE (DECAPODA, ANOMURA) FROM THE
EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

BY

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While studying the deep-sea Galatheoidea collected from the Gulf of Mexico
and Caribbean Sea by the R/V “Alaminos” of Texas A & M University and the R/V
“Oregon” of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Pascagoula, Mississippi
(Pequegnat & Pequegnat, 1970, and Pequegnat & Pequegnat, 1971), the authors
discovered two specimens of the giant galatheid, Munidopsis sundi Sivertsen &
Holthuis, 1956, which were collected for the first time from the Gulf of Mexico
and the Caribbean Sea by the R/V “Alaminos”.

During visits to the U.S. National Museum of Natural History in connection
with the above studies, the authors encountered another huge Munidopsis, closely
related to M. sundi, from the “Albatross” 1911 collections in the eastern Pacific
Ocean. A detailed study was made of the “Albatross” specimen in order to clearly
distinguish it from the closely allied Atlantic species, M. sundi, resulting in the
description given below.

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us the “Galathea” specimen, which we have designated as the paratype, from the
Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen.

Munidopsis albatrossae new species (figs. 1, 2)

Munidopsis n. sp. Wolff, 1961: 148, fig. 16.

Material. — “Albatross” Sta. D 5684: 23°23.5’N 112°30’W, eastern Pacific Ocean south of
Magdalena Bay, Baja California, Mexico, 3219 m, 21 April 1911: 1 female (holotype USNM
No. 141453).

“Galathea” Sta. 716: 9°21’N 89°12’W, eastern Pacific Ocean off Central America, 3570 m,
7 May 1952: 1 female (paratype, Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen).

Diagnosis. — A giant species of the orophorhynchus-group of Munidopsis with
broad-based rostrum and very small, unpigmented, slightly movable eyes bearing
a relatively large medial eyespine; anterior and lateral spines of carapace uniform
in size; dorsal surfaces of carapace and abdomen granular, with no large spines; no epipods on pereiopods. Closely related to *M. sundi*.

Description. — Rostrum broad at base with sides tapering and acutely narrowing toward tip as in *M. sundi*; tip broken off in holotype, present in paratype. Dorsal surface of rostral base covered with flattened granules and with longitudinal median spinulose carina extending to middle of gastric region of carapace; lateral margin bearing 4 or 5 spinules on each side up to the break; ventral surface flat.

Figure 1. *Munidopsis albatrossae* new species, female holotype, dorsal view, 2/3 actual size.