Crabs of the genus *Tetralia* Dana, 1851 are obligate commensals of *Acropora* corals (Patton, 1966). Absence of distinctive features coupled with obfuscate color patterns have created problems in the placement of species in the genus (Galil, 1986). An attempt to establish the identity of the taxa revealed a long forgotten varietal description, here given specific status.

**Tetralia cinctipes** Paulson, 1875

*Tetralia heterodactyla* Heller, 1861a: 14; 1861b: 354 (part).
*Tetralia cavimana* var. *cinctipes* Paulson, 1875: 60, tab. 7 fig. 8.
*Tetralia cavimanus* - Miers, 1884: 537 (part).
*Tetralia glaberrima* - Borradaile, 1902: 265 (part); Klunzinger, 1913: 314 (part).
*Tetralia glaberrima* forma *pullidactyla* Patton, 1966: 287.

Material examined:
Red Sea, 1855, leg. G. Ritter von Frauenfeld, 1♂, 1♀ (NHMW 11).
Seychelles Islands, 1882, 4-12 fm, HMS "Alert", leg. R. W. Coppinger, 1♂, 1♀ (BM).
Don-Lan, Taiwan, 23 August 1982, on *Acropora*, 4 m, leg. Y. S. Chen 1♂, 1♀ (TAU); 5 m, 1♂, 1♀ (TAU).
Gulf of Davao, Mindanao, Philippine Islands, 20 June 1936, 1♂, 4♀ (AMNH 8076).
Indonesia: Moluccas Islands, Obilatoe, reef, 23-27 April 1930, Snellius Expedition, 3♂, 2♀ (RMNH). Kera near Timor I., 11-13 November 1929, Snellius Expedition, 2♂, 3♀ (RMNH); 2♂, 3♀ (RMNH).
Off Akatamiro Bay, Rapa I., Tubuai Islands, 8 February 1971, 50 ft, leg. D. M. Devaney, 1♂, 2♀ (BPBM 71201).

The material is deposited in the American Museum of Natural History, New York (AMNH); Australian Museum, Sydney (Aust. M); British Museum of Natural History, London (BM); Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu (BPBM); Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien (NHMW); Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden (RMNH).
Description. — Carapace lenticular, shiny, slightly convex, microscopically granular behind front. Frontal margin wide, sinuous, dentate. Denticles successively larger laterally. Median lobes feebly traced. Front usually separated by shallow emargination from crenate superior orbital angle. Postorbital angle acute, projecting outward. Anterolateral margins somewhat concave (fig. 1A). In younger specimens (cl. < 5 mm) carapace broadest at outer angles of orbits (fig. 1C). In larger specimens, especially gravid females, carapace contracted in front. A sharp epibranchial spine at junction of anterior and posterior lateral margins in juveniles. No epibranchial spines in adults. Posterior lateral margins widely convex. Thoracic sternum oval, medially sutured anteriorly. First three sternites forming an arcuate triangle (fig. 2A).

Inferior orbital angle triangular, granulate, its apex deflected outward. Lower margin of antennular fossa minutely serrate. Basal article of antennae extending between the superior and inferior orbital angles, reaching orbital