PHRICOTELPHUSA HOCKPINGI SP. NOV., A NEW GECARCINUCID FRESHWATER CRAB FROM PERAK, WEST MALAYSIA (DECAPODA, BRACHYURA)

BY

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INTRODUCTION

Recently, while collecting at Maxwell Hill (now renamed Bukit Larut) near Taiping in Perak, West Malaysia, numerous specimens of an interesting species of leaf-dwelling freshwater crab were obtained. The specimens proved to represent an undescribed species of the family Gecarcinucidae Rathbun, 1904, and is here named Phricotelphusa hockpingi sp. nov. This is the first record of Phricotelphusa Alcock, 1909 from West Malaysia; the genus has so far, only been reported from Burma and Thailand. The genus was first established by Alcock (1909) for telphusa callianira De Man, 1887 from the Mergui Archipelago, off Tenasserim, Burma, and was subsequently revised by Bott (1969, 1970) to include two species and two subspecies. This is also the first record of the family Gecarcinucidae from West Malaysia. The description of the new species forms the subject of this present paper.

Phricotelphusa hockpingi sp. nov. (figs. 1, 2)

Diagnosis. — Carapace squarish, with epigastric and post-frontal cristae distinct. Mandibular palp with two terminal segments. Terminal segment of first male gonopod short, tapered, turned outwards, dorsal and ventral folds overlapping, tip slightly turned laterally. Legs unarmed. Margin of teeth on cutting edges of chelipeds with secondary tubercles.

Description of holotype male. — Carapace squarish, appearing glabrous. Regions distinct. Surfaces behind post-orbital cristae slightly convex, gastric regions appearing flat. Frontal margin entire, straight, slightly deflexed, without distinct median cleft. Frontal median triangle not distinct, with only frontal margin flattened, median portion slightly dilated. Post-orbital cristae strong, not confluent with each other or with epigastric cristae. Epigastric lobes not prominent, separated by short, deep, median groove, with distinct epigastric cristae, lying in front of post-frontal cristae. Cervical groove very
shallow, but H-shaped central depression prominent. Supra- and infra-orbital margins smooth. Orbits large, oval, not fully occupied by eyes. Antero-lateral margin rounded, lightly serrated, crested, with sharp, prominent, forward pointing epibranchial tooth. External orbital angle well developed, outer margin longer. Postero-lateral margins straight, slightly converging, covered with fine, oblique striae. Suborbital, sub-branchial and pterygostomial regions smooth, glabrous. Third maxillipeds smooth, glabrous, ischium squarish, with distinct median sulcus. Exopod without any flagellum. Mandibular palp with two terminal segments. Anterior margin of epistome straight. Posterior margin with sharp, triangular median lobe, lateral sides with only a very low, blunt, obtuse median angle, outer portions (surrounding efferent openings) strongly concave.

Chelipeds unequal, the right being larger. Fingers of both chelipeds slender, longer than palm, tips strongly curved, horn-coloured. Cutting edges of major cheliped with between 13 and 15 teeth and tooth-like denticles. Tips of each of the teeth covered with several very small, sharp, secondary tubercles. Cutting edges of minor cheliped lined with between 18 and 20 smooth teeth and tooth-like denticles. Outer surfaces of both chelipeds (palm, carpus and merus), including the fingers, covered with small, sharp, forward pointing granules, with that on the major cheliped more profusely so. Inner angle of carpus with one sharp spine.

Ambulatory legs long, third and fourth longest. All segments unarmed, distal three being covered with stiff hairs.

Abdomen seven-segmented, T-shaped. Seventh segment triangular, sides distinctly concave, with broad, rounded tip. Sixth segment squarish, with sides