THE TAXONOMIC STATUS OF *UCA SALSISITUS* OLIVEIRA, 1939
(DECAPODA, BRACHYURA, OCYPODIDAE)

BY

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ABSTRACT

Although *U. salsisitus* Oliveira, 1939, has been placed as a junior synonym of *U. rapax* (Smith, 1870), a possible synonymy with *Uca vocator* (Herbst, 1804) has never been discarded. The retrieval of one male paratype of *U. salsisitus* and its confrontation with *U. rapax* and *U. vocator* shed light on the synonymy of *U. salsisitus*. It is shown that the type series of *Uca salsisitus* actually includes two species: Oliveira’s original description was based upon *U. vocator* (Herbst), while the illustrations he provided and the retrieved male paratype correspond to *U. rapax* (Smith).

RESUMO

Embora *U. salsisitus* Oliveira, 1939, tenha sido colocado na sinonímia de *U. rapax* (Smith, 1870), uma possível sinonímia com *Uca vocator* (Herbst, 1804) nunca foi descartada. A redescoberta de um macho parátipo de *U. salsisitus* e o confronto deste com *U. rapax* e *U. vocator*, permitiu esclarecer alguns aspectos da sinonímia de *U. salsisitus*. Este trabalho mostra que a série tipo de *Uca salsisitus* na verdade inclui duas espécies: Oliveira baseou sua descrição original em *U. vocator* (Herbst), enquanto que as figuras que ilustram o seu trabalho e o macho parátipo redescoberto correspondem a *U. rapax* (Smith).

INTRODUCTION

Oliveira (1939) published an inventory of the fiddler crab fauna known from Baía de Guanabara, Rio de Janeiro, in which two species and one subspecies of *Uca* were described as new: *Uca olympioi* Oliveira, 1939, *Uca salsisitus* Oliveira, 1939, and *Uca pugnax brasiliensis* Oliveira, 1939. Later on, Crane (1975: 196, 198, 231) considered *Uca olympioi* Oliveira a junior synonym of *Uca uruguayensis* Nobili, 1901, and synonymized *U. salsisitus* Oliveira and *Uca pugnax brasiliensis*...
Oliveira with *Uca rapax* (Smith, 1870). However, neither the type material nor the taxa of Oliveira were available to her, as these had been lost.

Crane (1975) managed to compare topotypic specimens of *U. olympioi* collected by her and by Oliveira himself, with specimens of *Uca uruguayensis* (cf. Crane, 1975: 231) and, therefore, established the synonymy between *Uca olympioi* and *Uca uruguayensis* on a firm basis. On the other hand, the synonymy between *Uca salsisitus* Oliveira, *Uca pugnax brasiliensis* Oliveira, and *Uca rapax* (Smith) remained unclear. Crane (1975: 196) synonymized *U. salsisitus* Oliveira with *U. rapax* (Smith) but a synonymy with *Uca vocator* (Herbst, 1804) was not discarded by her. Actually, Crane commented that “Examination of the type material [of *U. salsisitus*] may show that more than one species is included.”

Some years ago, one male paratype of *U. salsisitus* was retrieved by the regretted Hugo de Souza Lopes (Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, Rio de Janeiro, and Universidade Santa Úrsula, Rio de Janeiro). The confrontation of that male paratype (MZUSP 10270) with specimens of *U. rapax* and *Uca vocator* shed light on the synonymy of *U. salsisitus*. The results of that confrontation are presented herein.

Abbreviations include: MZUSP (Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo); USNM (National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.); P5, last pereiopod. Measurements, in millimeters (mm), correspond to carapace width × carapace length. The descriptive terminology follows that used by Crane (1975).

**Uca salsisitus** Oliveira, 1939 (figs. 1E-F, 2A-F)

*Uca salsisitus* Oliveira, 1939: 131, pl. 3 figs. 7-15, pl. 4 figs. 19-21, pl. 5 figs. 23-24, pl. 7 fig. 40, pl. 8 figs. 43-44, pl. 11 figs. 57-58; 1940: 143.


Material examined of *U. rapax*. — U.S.A., Florida, road to Tahiti Beach, Dade County, South Miami, J. Crane coll., May 1954, J. Crane det. 1971: adult male 20 × 13 mm; young male 17 × 12 mm (USNM 138770). Brazil, Pernambuco, swamp before Olinda, Recife, J. Crane coll. 1953, J. Crane det. 1971: 2 adult males (21.5 × 14.5 mm; 20.5 × 13 mm) and 2 young males (15.5 × 10 mm; 14 × 9 mm) (USNM 138816). Ditto, Rio de Janeiro, Ilha do Pinheiro, Baía de Guanabara, J. Crane coll. December 1953, J. Crane det. 1971: 2 adult males (26 × 16.5 mm; 25 × 16 mm) and 3 young males (16 × 10 mm; 15.5 × 10 mm; 14.5 × 9 mm) (USNM 138819).

Material examined of *U. vocator*. — Venezuela, Zulia, Maracaibo, H. Fleming coll., J. Crane det. 1971: adult male 22.5 × 16 mm; young male 18 × 12 mm (USNM 138867).

Remarks. — Oliveira (1939: 131) based the description of *U. salsisitus* on seven males and one female, all from Ilha do Pinheiro, Baía de Guanabara, Rio de