DESCRIPTION OF THE MALE OF ASTHENOGNATHUS HEXAGONUM
RATHBUN, 1909 (DECAPODA, PINNOTHERIDAE)

BY

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ABSTRACT

The male of Asthenognathus hexagonum Rathbun, 1909 was found for the first time. A description, including the systematic characters as well as illustrations of this pinnotherid crab are presented. A key to the Indo-Pacific species of Asthenognathus is also provided.

RÉSUMÉ

Le mâle d’Asthenognathus hexagonum Rathbun, 1909 a été trouvé pour la première fois. Une description, incluant les caractères systématiques, ainsi que des illustrations de ce crabe Pinnotheridae sont présentées. Une clé d’identification des espèces indo-pacifiques du genre Asthenognathus est aussi fournie.

INTRODUCTION

The genus Asthenognathus Stimpson, 1858 is currently represented by four species: one from the eastern Atlantic including the Mediterranean, Asthenognathus atlanticus Monod, 1933 and three from the Indo-west Pacific, A. inaequipes Stimpson, 1858, A. hexagonum Rathbun, 1909, and A. gallardoi Serène & Soh, 1976. A. hexagonum was first reported by Rathbun (1909) based on female specimens collected from Koh Kong, Gulf of Thailand, but until now, male specimens of this species have never been found. While examining the crab collections deposited in the Beijing Natural History Museum, male specimens of A. hexagonum were found for the first time, namely in material collected from Guangdong Province, China, and these are described in the present paper. A key to the Indo-Pacific species of Asthenognathus is provided in this report as well.

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The abbreviation G1 is used for the male first pleopods. Measurements provided are for carapace length (CL) and width (CW), respectively. Specimens are deposited in the Beijing Natural History Museum (BNHM).

DESCRIPTIVE PART

Asthenognathus hexagonum Rathbun, 1909 (figs. 1-2)

Asthenognathus hexagonum Rathbun, 1909: 111; 1910: 339, fig. 24, pl. 2 fig. 14; Serène & Soh, 1976: 27, fig. 28C; Jiang et al., 2007: 79-80, 82, fig. 2.

Material examined. — One male (BNHM J207016), 9.0 by 12.0 mm, northern South China Sea off Shanwei (22°47′N 115°21′E), depth 8 m, bottom muddy, 14 December, 1982. — One male (juvenile) (BNHM J207017), 5.0 by 6.7 mm, northern South China Sea off Shantou (23°24′N 116°46′E), depth 16 m, bottom muddy, 10 September 1982.

Description. — Carapace hexagonal, 1.33 times as broad as long (fig. 1A); surface finely punctuated and median regions discernible. Mesogastric region with a pair of short, transverse grooves, and a pair of U-shaped depressions below these; cardiac region distinctly convex; intestinal region depressed. Front broad, deflected, its breadth about 1/5th of CW. Its anterior margin nearly straight, slightly concave in the middle; dorsal surface covered with fine granules and tomentum; a median longitudinal groove extending to the post-frontal lobe. Anterolateral margin of carapace with ridge, composed of two or three rows of granules; a branch of the granulated ridge extending inward above the base between the first and the second ambulatory legs, forming a subtriangular facet in the posterolateral part of the carapace; an oblique, granular ridge is present on the facet. The posterior margin is broad, subequal to the width of the frontal-orbital margin.

Third maxillipeds (fig. 1D) slender, broadly gaping; ischium a little longer than merus, suture between ischium and merus transverse; merus broader on distal margin than on proximal, but ischium narrower on distal than on basal margin; both segments longer than broad; both with inner margin smooth, and bearing an oblique, shallow groove near inner margin.

Chelipeds symmetrical, stout (fig. 1B, C). Merus smooth, with a row of setae along the dorsal margin, and tomentum on the outer surface. Carpus convex on outer surface, somewhat rhomboid, inner margin rounded. Palm stout, height slightly shorter than length; outer surface smooth, with two ridges, of which ventral one extending from the base of the palm to the middle of the immovable finger; inner surface smooth. Fingers about as long as palm, narrowly gaping. Movable finger with one broad tooth on base of inner margin, the median part with two or three small granules, distal part smooth; with three tufts of setae in distal half of