REDISCOVERY OF THE RARE EUXANTHINE CRAB, *GUINOTELLUS MELVILLENIS* SERÈNE, 1971 (DECAPODA, BRACHYURA, XANTHIDAE) IN THE PHILIPPINES

BY

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ABSTRACT

*Guinotellus melvillensis* Serène, 1971, is a rare euxanthine crab (Brachyura, Xanthidae) described from only a single juvenile male specimen devoid of pereiopods, and has never been reported since. Thirteen additional specimens, all adults, have since been discovered, allowing us to make a complete description of its adult morphology. The affinities of this unique, monotypic genus are also discussed.

RÉSUMÉ

*Guinotellus melvillensis* Serène, 1971, est un crabe Euxanthinae rare (Brachyura, Xanthidae) qui a été décrit à partir d’un unique spécimen juvénile mâle dépourvu de péréiopodes, et qui n’a jamais été signalé depuis. Treize spécimens, tous adultes, ont été découverts, nous permettant de faire une description complète de la morphologie de l’adulte. Les affinités de ce genre monotypique, unique, sont aussi discutées.

INTRODUCTION

Owing to the unusual shape of its carapace and the presence of subhepatic cavities, Serène (1971) described a new genus and new species, *Guinotellus melvillensis*, on the basis of a single juvenile crab specimen collected from the Balabac Strait, southern Palawan, in the Philippines. A more detailed description with additional illustrations of the third maxillipeds, antennulal fossae, subhepatic

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Also available online: www.brill.nl/cr
DOI:10.1163/156854008X363687
cavities, abdomen, and male pleopods, was provided by Serène & Umali (1972). No information was available on the chelipeds and walking legs as the sole specimen did not have any pereiopods attached to its body. Serène (1971) did not give any indication of the subfamilial affiliations of **Guinotellus**, while Serène & Umali (1972) placed it in the subfamily Xanthinae. Both these papers, however, note the resemblance of **Guinotellus** to species of **Hypocolpus** Rathbun, 1897 (Euxanthinae), particularly in the presence of subhepatic cavities. Eventually, Serène (1984) placed **Guinotellus** in the subfamily Euxanthinae.

While studying the crab collection in the National Museum of the Philippines, eight specimens were found, seven of which were collected from an island east of Palawan and one collected from the coast of Batangas, all of which are clearly referable to **Guinotellus melvillensis**, except that they are much larger in size. Later, five more specimens were found in the brachyuran reference collection of the Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle, Paris, all of which had been collected from the southwestern Sulu Archipelago in the same year as the holotype. These, too, were all considerably larger than the holotype. We here take this opportunity to redescribe **G. melvillensis** on the basis of adult specimens and discuss its affinities.

Specimens examined in this paper are deposited in the Crustacean Reference Collection of the National Museum of the Philippines, Manila (NMCR) and in the Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle, Paris (MNHN). Carapace measurements are expressed, in millimeters, as carapace width by carapace length. Abbreviations used are: G1 for the first male pleopod, and G2 for the second male pleopod. The term coapted is used here to indicate when the inner surfaces of the cheliped or legs fit tightly onto the lateral carapace walls when pressed against it.

**TAXONOMIC ACCOUNT**

**Family XANTHIDAE** Macleay, 1838  
**Subfamily EUXANTHINAE** Dana, 1851

**Guinotellus** Serène, 1971

Type species. — **Guinotellus melvillensis** Serène, 1971, by original designation and monotypy.

Diagnosis. — Carapace ovate, broader than long; regions not well defined; dorsal surface highly convex transversely and longitudinally, glabrous and with numerous, short, transverse rows of pits or flat granules, otherwise smooth. Front undivided, triangular, protruding prominently over antennular fossae. Orbits round, relatively short, external orbital tooth absent, with large tubercle near internal orbital angle. Eyestalks short, corneas well developed. Subhepatic and pterygostomial regions with long, shallow, but prominent cavity; divided longitudinally by a