NOTES AND NEWS

NEW RECORD AND RANGE EXPANSION OF THE NARROW-FRONTED FIDDLER CRAB UCA (UCA) MAJOR (HERBST, 1782), FROM THE STATE OF VERACRUZ, MEXICO

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[Preambular note.— Uca (Uca) major (Herbst, 1782) was originally described in 1758 by Seba [i.e., in a nomenclaturally invalid work that must be disregarded for the purposes of the ICZN] as “Cancer Uka una, Brasiliensis” from specimens allegedly collected in South America (Crane, 1975). However, the type locality of Cayenne, French Guiana is questionable (Chace & Hobbs, 1969).] A valid description was published by Herbst (1782) based on specimens from the Bahamas that he designated Cancer vocans major. After this description by Herbst, the species has accumulated nine synonyms by about the same number of authors. In 1962 Holthuis revived Herbst’s description, calling the species Uca major, an identity maintained to the present. The species is considered a member of the subgenus Uca (sensu stricto) by Crane (1975) and Rosenberg (2001). In the Atlantic Ocean only three species represent this subgenus: U. major, Uca maracoani (Latreille, 1802-1803) and Uca tangeri (Eydoux, 1835). A total of seven further species along the Pacific coast of the Americas forms the remainder of the subgenus (Beinlich & Von Hagen, 2006).

The distribution of U. major is thought to include Mexico, Panama and Venezuela in North and South America as well as numerous localities on the Caribbean islands such as the Bahamas (i.e., Bimini and San Salvador), Cuba, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Saint Croix, Guadeloupe, Haiti and Trinidad (Crane, 1975). Since there are no reliable records after 1758 (cf. Chace & Hobbs, 1969; Crane, 1975), it is unlikely to be found in the Guianas or Brazil. In Kingston Harbour, Jamaica, Barnwell (1986) found relatively large individuals (carapace width ≤

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35.5 mm) in the lower tidal levels of an exposed sandy flat while the upper intertidal was occupied by other *Uca* species. Also, this find corrected the misconception that *U. maracoani* occurred on the island (Rathbun, 1918). The first report of this fiddler crab in Mexico by Kingsley in 1880 is questionable due to the lack of museum material (Crane, 1975). Chace & Hobbs (1969) provide a good diagnosis of this crab and include Mexico in the species range. However, the unique, confirmed record of this species from Mexico and continental America is provided by Barnwell & Thurman (1984). Two females were captured near mangroves on the Rio Seco at Puerto Ceiba, Tabasco (fig. 1: 18°25′N 93°09′W).

This contribution reports a second record of *Uca major* from the east-central coast of Mexico in the State of Veracruz. Ten adult males and one female were collected on 27 September 2005, from an exposed intertidal sandy-mud flat near the mouth of Laguna de la Mancha (fig. 1: 19°35′N 96°23′W). The male *U. major* collected from the Laguna de La Mancha averaged 24.48 ± 0.64 mm (SEM) in carapace width and 15.68 ± 0.41 mm in length. The eleven specimens were deposited in the National Crustacean Collection at the Institute of Biology, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (Catalogue number CNCR 24067). Meticulous surveys in different mangrove stands (sensu Lugo & Snedaker, 1974) and areas void of vegetation other than grass were conducted. The species was