

## Sand Crabs of the Genus *Albunea* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Anomura: Albuneidae) from the Ryukyu Islands, Southwestern Japan, with the Description of a New Species

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Three species of the anomuran sand crab genus *Albunea* Weber, 1795, including a new species, are reported from the Ryukyu Islands, southwestern Japan. *Albunea okinawaensis* sp. nov. resembles *A. symmysta* (Linnaeus, 1758) in the morphologies of the setose carapace grooves, dactylus of pereopod III, and posterior margin of the male telson, but differs in the shapes of both the distal segment of the ocular peduncle and the male telson. *Albunea microps* Miers, 1878 and *A. groeningi* Boyko, 2002 are recorded for the first time from the Ryukyu Islands, although both species have been reported from the Japanese mainland.

**Key Words:** Crustacea, Decapoda, Anomura, Albuneidae, *Albunea*, new species, Ryukyu Islands, Japan.

### Introduction

Boyko (2002) presented a worldwide revision of species of the anomuran sand crab families Albuneidae and Blepharipodidae. Eight species of the two families were recognized from Japanese waters: *Albunea elioti* Benedict, 1904, *A. groeningi* Boyko, 2002, *A. microps* Miers, 1878, *A. occulta* Boyko, 2002 (originally spelled as *A. occultus*), *A. speciosa* Dana, 1852, and *Paralbunea dayriti* (Serène and Umali, 1965) in the Albuneidae, and *Blepharipoda liberata* Shen, 1949 and *Lophomastix japonica* (Duruflé, 1889) in the Blepharipodidae. Although *A. symmysta* (Linnaeus, 1758) has been reported from Japan (e.g., Miyake 1960, 1965, 1978, 1999; Asakura 1995; occasionally with the incorrect spelling *A. symnista*), Boyko (2002) stated that there were no verifiable records of this species from Japan based on either the material available for his study or published information. The reports of *A. symmysta* by Japanese authors were referred by Boyko (2002) to *A. groeningi*, *A. occulta*, or *P. dayriti*.

Six albuneid specimens were recently collected from the Ryukyu Islands, southwestern Japan. Examination of these specimens revealed that they represent *Albunea microps*, *A. groeningi*, and an undescribed species resembling *A. symmysta*. This study describes the new species and reports the two known species as the first record of each from the Ryukyu Islands.