

A New Species of *Macrophthalmus* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Macrophthalmidae) from Iriomote Island, Ryukyu Islands, Japan

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A new species of the sentinel crab genus *Macrophthalmus* is described from Iriomote Island, southwestern Ryukyu Islands, Japan. *Macrophthalmus ryukyuanus* sp. nov. is referred to the *M. telescopicus* species group, within which it is morphologically most similar to *M. milloti* Crosnier, 1965. The forms of the eye, male chela, and fourth ambulatory leg clearly distinguish the new species from the latter. The new species is also compared to *M. microfylacas* Nagai, Watanabe and Naruse, 2006 and *M. latipes* Borradaile, 1903. A key to the Japanese species of the *M. telescopicus* group is provided.

Key Words: Crustacea, Decapoda, Brachyura, Macrophthalmidae, *Macrophthalmus ryukyuanus*, new species, taxonomy.

Introduction

The *Macrophthalmus telescopicus* species group comprises nine species from the Indo-Pacific. The group is characterized by elongated ocular peduncles that usually extend beyond the external orbital angle. Most of its member species dwell in sublittoral environments (e.g., Borradaile 1903; Takeda and Komai 1991; Fransen 1998; Minemizu 2000; Nagai *et al.* 2006). During a recent survey made by the second author with the purpose of documenting the subtidal benthic fauna around the Yaeyama Islands in the southwestern Ryukyu Islands, two specimens of an undescribed species of the *M. telescopicus* group were collected. Preliminary examination showed that the undescribed species was morphologically similar to *M. milloti* Crosnier, 1965 and *M. microfylacas* Nagai, Watanabe and Naruse, 2006; however, it was distinctive in that the dactylus of the fourth ambulatory leg was slightly broadened. In the present report we describe this species and compare it in detail with allied congeners.

The specimens examined in this study are deposited in the Ryukyu University Museum, Fujukan, in Okinawa, Japan (RUMF); and the Zoological Reference Collection, Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore (ZRC). The abbreviations CL, CW, G1, and G2 are used for carapace length, carapace width, male first gonopod, and male second gonopod, respectively. Comparison data of *M. microfylacas* and *M. milloti* are cited from Nagai *et al.* (2006).