

Two Estuarine Hermit Crab Species of the Genus *Clibanarius* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Diogenidae) from the Ryukyu Islands, Southern Japan

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Two estuarine species of the hermit crab genus *Clibanarius* are recorded for the first time from the Ryukyu Islands, southern Japan. The occurrence of *Clibanarius demani* Buitendijk, 1937 in Okinawa Island represents a new addition to the Japanese fauna and greatly extends its distributional range to the northeast. *Clibanarius infraspinatus* (Hilgendorf, 1869) is broadly distributed in the Indo-West Pacific including the mainland of Japan, but there have been no definite records from the Ryukyu Islands until the present report. A brief note on the species of *Clibanarius* recorded from the Ryukyu Islands is provided, along with a key to these species.

Key Words: Crustacea, Decapoda, *Clibanarius*, new records, Ryukyu Islands, key to species.

Introduction

The diogenid genus *Clibanarius* Dana, 1852, a major group of hermit crabs commonly found in intertidal and shallow subtidal areas, includes 59 species worldwide (McLaughlin *et al.* 2007). Most species are distributed in the tropical and warm temperate zones and inhabit coral and rocky shores or sandy and muddy estuaries. Osawa and Fujita (2006) summarized the taxonomic information on 37 species known from the Indo-West Pacific region, but they overlooked one nominal species of uncertain status, *C. pacificus* Stimpson, 1858.

During an ecological study on the estuarine hermit crabs in Nakagusuku Bay of Okinawa Island in southern Japan, the second author found two species of *Clibanarius* new to the hermit crab fauna of the Ryukyu Islands. One species is *C. demani* Buitendijk, 1937, and the present specimens represent a great geographical range extension to the northeast. The second species is *C. infraspinatus* (Hilgendorf, 1869), which is broadly distributed in the Indo-West Pacific including the mainland of Japan, but for which there have been no definite records in the Ryukyu Islands. The present paper reports on both species, with a brief note on the *Clibanarius* fauna of the Ryukyu Islands and an identification key to all the species recorded from the Ryukyu Islands and Taiwan.

The specimens examined in this study are deposited in the Natural History Museum and Institute, Chiba (CBM). Shield length, abbreviated as sl, is measured from the tip of the rostrum to the midpoint of the posterior margin of the shield.