

A New Species of the Varunid Crab Genus *Gopkittisak* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Grapsoidea) from the Ryukyu Islands

Tomoyuki Komai

Natural History Museum and Institute, Chiba,
955-2 Aoba-cho, Chuo-ku, Chiba, 260-8682 Japan
E-mail: komai@chiba-muse.or.jp

(Received 20 April 2011; Accepted 12 June 2011)

A new species of the varunid crab genus *Gopkittisak* Naruse and Clark, 2009, *G. angustum* sp. nov., is described on the basis of seven specimens from intertidal sand flats at Iriomote Island, Ryukyu Islands, Japan. It is close to its sole congener *G. gallardoi* (Serène and Soh, 1976), but the different shapes of the carapace and male abdomen, as well as the setal pattern of the propodus of the fourth pereopod and the coloration in life, distinguish the new taxon from *G. gallardoi*.

Key Words: Crustacea, Decapoda, Brachyura, Varunidae, *Gopkittisak*, new species, Japan.

Introduction

The varunid crab genus *Gopkittisak* was established by Naruse and Clark (2009) to accommodate *Asthenognathus gallardoi* Serène and Soh, 1976, a species which had until then been traditionally placed in the subfamily Asthenognathinae of the family Pinnotheridae (Serène and Soh 1976; Ghani and Tirmizi 1991; Jiang *et al.* 2007; Ng *et al.* 2008). This species was originally described on the basis of a single ovigerous female from the Andaman Sea, although Serène and Soh (1976) also identified a single female specimen from Nhatrang Bay, Vietnam, as belonging to their new taxon. Since the original description, this species has been recorded from Pakistan (Ghani and Tirmizi 1991; Tirmizi and Ghani 1996), the Gulf of Tonking in the South China Sea (Jiang *et al.* 2007), and the Philippines (Naruse and Clark 2009).

While sampling of shallow-water decapod crustaceans in the Yaeyema Islands, southern Ryukyu Islands, Japan, I collected some varunid crabs from burrows in intertidal sand flats at Iriomote Island. Initially, these specimens were tentatively identified as *Asthenognathus gallardoi*, but direct comparison with two topotypic female specimens collected by myself from Phuket, Thailand, revealed that the Japanese specimens are specifically distinct. In this paper, I describe and illustrate a new species, *G. angustum*, on the basis of seven specimens, including six males and one female.

The material examined in this study is deposited in the Natural History Museum and Institute, Chiba. The size of specimens is indicated by the carapace length×carapace width in millimeters.