



The Sarawak Museum Journal

Vol. XXXVI No. 57

December 1986



ISSN: 0375-3050

E-ISSN: 3036-0188

Citation: Ng, P. K. L. (1986). *Perithelphusa Lehi* Sp. No., A New Species of Highland Freshwater Crab from Sarawak, Borneo (Crustacea Decapoda, Brachyura, Parathelphusidae). The Sarawak Museum Journal, XXXVI (57): 291-296

PERITHELPHUSA LEHI SP. NOV., A NEW SPECIES OF HIGHLAND FRESHWATER CRAB FROM SARAWAK, BORNEO (CRUSTACEA DECAPODA, BRACHYURA, PARATHELPHUSIDAE)

Peter K.L. Ng

(Department of Zoology, National University of Singapore)

INTRODUCTION

In January 1986, in conjunction with his studies of the freshwater crabs of South East Asia, the author made collections in the streams of Gunong Serapi (formerly Gunong Matang) northwestern Sarawak, about 15 km west of Kuching, the state capital. Among the specimens obtained were ten males and four females which could not be identified with any known species, and are here named *Perithelphusa lehi* sp. nov. A complete description of the species, and a discussion of its relationship with the other species in the genus forms the context of the present paper.

The genus *Perithelphusa* was established in 1899 by J.G. De Man for a new variety of *Potamon borneense* von Martens, 1868 — var. *hiliaris*, from central Borneo. The genus, as presently recognised, contains only four species, the type, *P. borneensis* (=var. *hiliaris* De Man, 1899 and *Potamon (Perithelphusa) silvicola* De Man, 1899), *P. buttikoferi* (De Man, 1899), *P. rouxi* Bott, 1970 and *P. lehi* sp. nov. Bott (1970), who most recently revised the freshwater crabs of this region, included the genus *Perithelphusa* in the family Sundathelphusidae Bott, 1969, but the very well developed frontal median triangle in the genus makes this classification very difficult to accept. This, and the fact that its external morphology and structure of its gonopods show a tremendous similarity to crabs of the family Parathelphusidae Alcock, 1910 has convinced the author that the proper place of the genus *Perithelphusa* should be in the family *Parathelphusidae* instead.

**PERITHELPHUSA LEHI SP. NOV.,
A NEW SPECIES OF HIGHLAND FRESHWATER CRAB
FROM SARAWAK, BORNEO
(CRUSTACEA DECAPODA, BRACHYURA,
PARATHELPHUSIDAE)**

by

Peter K.L. Ng

(Department of Zoology, National University of Singapore)

INTRODUCTION

In January 1986, in conjunction with his studies of the freshwater crabs of South East Asia, the author made collections in the streams of Gunong Serapi (formerly Gunong Matang) northwestern Sarawak, about 15 km west of Kuching, the state capital. Among the specimens obtained were ten males and four females which could not be identified with any known species, and are here named *Perithelphusa lehi* sp. nov. A complete description of the species, and a discussion of its relationship with the other species in the genus forms the context of the present paper.

The genus *Perithelphusa* was established in 1899 by J.G. De Man for a new variety of *Potamon borneense* von Martens, 1868 – var. *hiliaris*, from central Borneo. The genus, as presently recognised, contains only four species, the type, *P. borneensis* (= var. *hiliaris* De Man, 1899 and *Potamon (Perithelphusa) silvicola* De Man, 1899), *P. buttikoferi* (De Man, 1899), *P. rouxi* Bott, 1970 and *P. lehi* sp. nov. Bott (1970), who most recently revised the freshwater crabs of this region, included the genus *Perithelphusa* in the family Sundathelphusidae Bott, 1969, but the very well developed frontal median triangle in the genus makes this classification very difficult to accept. This, and the fact that its external morphology and structure of its gonopods show a tremendous similarity to crabs of the family Parathelphusidae Alcock, 1910 has convinced the author that the proper place of the genus *Perithelphusa* should be in the family Parathelphusidae instead.

Type specimens are deposited in the Sarawak Museum (SM), Kuching, Sarawak, East Malaysia, Borneo; Zoological Reference Collection (ZRC), National University of Singapore; Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie Naturelle (RMNH), Leiden, Netherlands and the Naturhistorisches Museum Basel (MBA), Basel, Switzerland. The abbreviations G1 and G2 stand for the male first and second pleopods respectively. All measurements are in millimetres.

TAXONOMY

FAMILY PARATHELPHUSIDAE ALCOCK, 1910

GENUS *PERITHELPHUSA* DE MAN, 1899

Perithelphusa lehi sp. nov.
(Pls. XV, XVI; Fig. 1)