



Two new species of *Parasesarma* De Man, 1895, from Southeast Asia (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Sesarmidae)

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Abstract

Two new species of sesarmid crabs of the genus *Parasesarma* De Man, 1895, are described from mangrove forests in Southeast Asia. *Parasesarma paucitorum* n. sp. is described from northern Sulawesi and is allied to *P. leptosoma* (Hilgendorf, 1869) but differs from the latter in the form of its carapace, leg proportions, the structure of the tubercles on the cheliped dactylus, and the male first pleopods. *Parasesarma raouli* n. sp. is described from southern Peninsular Malaysia and is differentiated from the allied *P. charis* Rahayu & Ng, 2005, and *P. anambas* Yeo, Rahayu & Ng, 2004, by the number and form of the tubercles on the cheliped dactylus, the shape of the male abdomen and structure of the male first pleopods.

Key words: Crustacea, Decapoda, Brachyura, Sesarmidae, *Parasesarma*, taxonomy, new species

Introduction

The Indo-West Pacific genus *Parasesarma* De Man, 1895, currently contains 29 species (Takeda 1971, Ng *et al.* 2008). Additional species have been found more recently in Southeast Asia (Yeo *et al.* 2004; Rahayu & Ng 2005), and it is clear that the genus includes more species than previously recognised. As recognised by Raoul Serène in 1968 in an unpublished report, members of the genus can be separated into two groups. One group has relatively short ambulatory legs, with the meri transversely broad; and the meri and propodi of the second legs being less than three times as long as wide. The second group includes species with proportionately longer ambulatory legs, the meri being distinctly more slender; and the merus and propodus of the second leg being more than three times as long as wide. The very different carapace, cheliped and male pleopods among the members of these two groups, however, suggest that they are not necessarily monophyletic.

Numerous lots of the *Parasesarma plicatum* (Latreille, 1803) species group in the collections of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore were examined as part of a revision of the group. While sorting unidentified material from Sulawesi, Indonesia, we found three specimens of a species from the second group of *Parasesarma* with relatively longer ambulatory legs which has a suite of very distinctive characters. It is here recognised as new. Another series of specimens from Johor, Malaysia, also belonging to the second group of *Parasesarma*, had been labelled as “*Sesarma (Parasesarma) melayuensis*, manuscript name” by R. Serène. This name was never published but was listed in a catalogue of material by Yang (1979). The species had clearly remained undescribed. As there was no published description, the name is a *nomen nudum*.