



## A new species of *Parasesarma* (Crustacea: Brachyura: Sesarmidae) from the mangroves of Western Australia

P.J.F. DAVIE & L. PABRIKS

Queensland Museum, PO Box 3300, South Brisbane, Qld 4101. E-mail: Peter.Davie@qm.qld.gov.au

### Abstract

A new species of intertidal sesarmid crab, *Parasesarma hartogi*, is described from the upper mangrove zone in Shark Bay, Western Australia. It differs from its four closest relatives in the *P. plicatum* species-complex by being broader between the epibranchial angles than between the exorbital angles; showing differences in the number and form of the dorsal dactylar tubercles of the male cheliped, a relatively broader gape between the fingers of the adult male chelae, proportions and shape of the male abdomen, and shape of the male first gonopod.

**Key word:** Crustacea, Brachyura, Sesarmidae, *Parasesarma*, mangroves, Indo-West Pacific, new species

### Introduction

The present paper is part of ongoing revisionary studies of the Sesarmidae Dana, 1851 (*sensu* Ng et al. 2008) by the first author. Previous papers have dealt with revisions of *Sarmatium* Dana, 1851 (Davie 1992) and *Neosarmatium* (Davie 1994, Rahayu & Davie 2006), and new species and new records of *Parasesarma* De Man, 1895 (Davie 1993); *Metasesarma* H. Milne Edwards, 1853, and *Geosesarma* (Ng & Davie 1995); *Perisesarma* (Rahayu & Davie 2002, Davie 2003, 2010); *Metaplastax* (Davie & Nguyen 2003)[now in the Varunidae]; and *Sesarmoides* (Davie & Ng 2007).

*Parasesarma* De Man, 1895 (type species *Cancer quadratus* Fabricius, 1798) currently contains 33 species (Ng et al. 2008; Rahayu & Ng 2009, 2010), and is one of the largest genera in the family. It is however somewhat heterogeneous, still contains a number of poorly known and poorly described species, and is in need of a major revision.

The new species was originally collected in the mid-1970s by Dr Ray George of the Western Australian Museum, but good collections of material obtained recently by Dr Barry Wilson as part of an environmental impact assessment in the Onslow area, has highlighted the need for a proper taxonomic assessment and description.

Abbreviations used in the text are: QM, Queensland Museum, Brisbane; WAM, Western Australian Museum, Perth; G1, male first gonopod. Measurements are of the carapace breadth at the widest point, followed by length. Leg segments were measured in a straight line to give maximum dorsal length and so are not always the maximum possible length, and this should be borne in mind when using the ratios. The width of the hind margin was measured at the point at which the lateral carapace suture meets the rear margin.

### Systematic account

#### *Parasesarma* De Man, 1895