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The identity of *Cancer thunborgii* Euphrasén, 1795, a senior synonym of *Cronius ruber* (Lamarck, 1818) (Crustacea: Brachyura: Portunidae)

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One of the most poorly known books on natural history was a volume by Bengt Andersson Euphrasén in 1795 that gave an account of the fauna of Saint Barthélemy in the Caribbean Lesser Antilles (ca. 17°53'52.47"N 62°51'2.0"W). The only taxon he reported that has been recognized as an original description is a plant, *Iresine angustifolia* (Euphrasén, 1795) (family Amaranthaceae), and this only happened because the species was highlighted by Swedish botanist Johan Wikström in the early 1800s. The zoology in Euphrasén's book has not been considered by most workers. Euphrasén had hoped that the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences would publish his manuscript, but well-known Swedish naturalist Anders Sparrman, who was a disciple of Carolus Linnaeus and the keeper of the natural history collections in the academy (see Broberg *et al.* 2012), advised against it, stating that a description of *Cancer* was the only thing new in it (and without any illustration as well) (Nyberg 2013). Clearly, Sparrman was wrong about *Iresine angustifolia*, as well as a few other species (Nyberg 2013). There are in any case, over 200 plants and 111 animals listed in his book. Euphrasén eventually had the book printed by a private publisher in 1795, a year before he died in misery (Nyberg 2013). In general, Euphrasén's (1795) book is only mentioned in passing or with some passages quoted in history books on Saint Barthélemy, or St. Barth, as a Swedish colony. Few people have seen Euphrasén's book and still fewer have read it. A German translation was printed in 1798, but has remained as neglected as the original.

Euphrasén (1795) discusses several brachyuran and anomuran crabs between pages 78 to 80, all shallow-water species, and probably collected by or for him by locals. He was clearly aware of the relevant literature of his time, and gave references to Linnaeus, Houttuyn, Seba, Borowski, De Geer, Fabricius and Rumphius. His *Cancer grapsus* (see Euphrasén 1795: 78) is today known as *Grapsus grapsus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (family Grapsidae MacLeay, 1838); *Cancer pelagicus* (p. 78) is now *Portunus pelagicus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (family Portunidae Samouelle, 1819); *Cancer ruricola* (p. 79) is now *Gecarcinus ruricola* (Linnaeus, 1758) (family Gecarcinidae MacLeay, 1838) (see Ng *et al.* 2008); and *Cancer diogenes* (p. 80) is now *Petrochirus diogenes* (Linnaeus, 1758) (family Diogenidae Ortmann, 1892) (see McLaughlin *et al.* 2010). *Portunus pelagicus* (Linnaeus, 1758) is actually an Indo-West Pacific species and is not known from the West Indies (see Lai *et al.* 2010), and was probably a mistaken identification for the common swimming crab species found there, *Callinectes sapidus* Rathbun, 1896. *Cancer thunborgii* was the only species Euphrasén could not match with the known taxa, and so he named it as new. This name has been forgotten by all workers and has remained unused since. The species is named, not after the famous botanist Carl Peter Thunberg, who had been Euphrasén's tutor in Uppsala, Sweden, but after a local vicar who found the crab for him. It was caught in the harbour of Gustavia, St. Barth, in 1788.

The following passage in Euphrasén (1795: 77-78) deals with the new species:

“*Cancer (Thunborgii)*” *brachyurus, thorace hispido utrinque dentato, fronte octo dentata, manibus angulatis spinosis scabris. Thorax magnitudine formaque C. pelagicae hispidus, latior quam longus untrinque novem dentatus seu spinosus, spinis alternis majoribus apice nigris. Rostrum inter Oculos Brevissimum octo dentatum dentibus apice nigris. Cauda inflexa, aphylla. Brachia thorace longiora, angulata, antice spinis quatuor, apice nigris armata. Manus Septem Andulata, angulis tuber culocis, quatuor Spinosa, Spina I:ma extra ad Basin, 2. 3. 4. supera inter basin pollicemque. Digitus longitudine 2/3 manus quinque sulcatus, suberectus, introrsum in aequaliter dentatus, dentibus, apiceque nigris. Pollex Similis digito, Septem sulcatus. Pedes inermes octo, ancipites, lateralis culi sulcati, utrinque ciliati. Digiti 3. Primorum parium ensi fur mis Digitus ultimi paris ovatus, membrane nacesis. Finnes uti Hammen vid Gustavia ær en bland de rarare; defs kott ates.” [*Cancer (Thunborgii)* crab. Carapace hairy, dentate on both sides, front with eight teeth,*