

## Preface—A carcinological tribute to Ng Ngan Kee (14 April 1966 to 5 July 2022)

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**FIGURE 1.** Ng Ngan Kee in her prime. (Left) Conducting a workshop at the open house event of Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research (now Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum) in 2012; (Right) Study trip to India in September 2011. Photographs: (Left) Joelle C.Y. Lai; (Right) Bee Yan Lee.

It has been almost two years since the passing of Dr Ng Ngan Kee, a respected scientist, dedicated educator, generous colleague, and steadfast friend, who was warmly loved by her friends, colleagues and students. Ngan Kee began working at the National University of Singapore (NUS) in 1988 where she assisted in the ecological and endocrinological research of freshwater and estuarine fishes. She later switched to working on the aquaculture of the mitten crabs, *Eriocheir* spp., which kick-started her lifelong interest in crab taxonomy and biology. In 2001, she continued her career in NUS as an educator, where she progressed from roles as a Graduate Teaching Assistant, through Instructor and then Lecturer in 2016. During this period, she also completed her doctoral degree on varunid crabs, graduating in 2007. In her years as an educator, she positively impacted many generations of students with her selfless and boundless dedication to their studies and, as a researcher, made major inroads into the systematics of thoracotreme crabs, particularly of the family Varunidae. As a matter of fact, her Ph.D. thesis contained descriptions of many new taxa, the formal descriptions of which she had been working on with colleagues before her untimely death, and now it is up to these colleagues to finish her work and continue her legacy. Her gentleness and kind

temperament made her a “big sister” to many under her wing, and her collaborative nature resulted in many cross-disciplinary and multi-national publications with colleagues and students all over the world—establishing her reputation as “a scientific ambassador of the first degree” (Lee & Jaafar 2022).

**TABLE 1.** List of new taxa described by Ng Ngan Kee. (\*denotes that it is published in this volume).

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<b>Families</b>
Leptograpsodidae Guinot, N.K. Ng & Rodríguez Moreno, 2018
Xenograpsidae N.K. Ng, Davie, Schubart & Ng, 2007

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<b>Subfamilies</b>
Gaeticinae Davie & N.K. Ng, 2007
Thalassograpsinae Davie & N.K. Ng, 2007

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<b>Genera</b>
<i>Chhapparus</i> N.K. Ng, Trivedi & Bhat, 2022
<i>Conleyus</i> Ng & N.K. Ng, 2003
<i>Cyclorma</i> Naruse & N.K. Ng, 2012
<i>Noarograpsus</i> N.K. Ng, Manuel & Ng, 2006
* <i>Parvonotus</i> Davie & N.K. Ng, 2024
<i>Platyeriocheir</i> N.K. Ng, Guo & Ng, 1999
<i>Pseudogaetice</i> Davie & N.K. Ng, 2007
<i>Sestrostoma</i> Davie & N.K. Ng, 2007
<i>Tuerkayana</i> Guinot, N.K. Ng & Rodríguez Moreno, 2018

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<b>Species</b>
<i>Caridina apodosis</i> Cai & N.K. Ng, 1999
<i>Caridina breviata</i> N.K. Ng & Cai, 2000
<i>Caridina dentifrons</i> N.K. Ng & Cai, 2000
<i>Caridina mutata</i> Cai & N.K. Ng, 1999
<i>Caridina nanaoensis</i> Cai & N.K. Ng, 1999
<i>Caridina yulinica</i> Cai & N.K. Ng, 1999
<i>Caridina wumingensis</i> Cai & N.K. Ng, 1999
<i>Clistocoeloma melanesicum</i> Lee, N.K. Ng & Ng, 2013
<i>Clistocoeloma nobile</i> Lee, N.K. Ng & Ng, 2023
<i>Conleyus defodio</i> Ng & N.K. Ng, 2003
<i>Euchirograpsus danielae</i> N.K. Ng & Martin, 2010
<i>Euchirograpsus guinotae</i> N.K. Ng & Martin, 2010
<i>Helice epicure</i> N.K. Ng, Naruse & Shih, 2018
<i>Orcovita holthuisi</i> N.K. Ng & Ng, 2009
<i>Orcovita mcneiceae</i> N.K. Ng & Ng, 2002
<i>Otognathon uru</i> N.K. Ng, Komai & Ng, 2009
<i>Pagurus holmi</i> N.K. Ng & McLaughlin, 2009
* <i>Parvonotus meridionalis</i> Davie & N.K. Ng, 2024
<i>Ptychognathus insolitus</i> Osawa & N.K. Ng, 2006
<i>Ptychognathus lipkei</i> N.K. Ng, 2010
<i>Sinopotamon baiyanense</i> N.K. Ng & Dai, 1997
<i>Xenograpsus testudinatus</i> N.K. Ng, Huang & Ho, 2000

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From 1990 to 2022 (but mostly from 1997), Ngan Kee authored or co-authored 67 scientific publications, with two further posthumous papers in the present volume. Ngan Kee’s earlier work focussed on aspects of fish biology, but from the late 1990s, her scientific attention turned to crustaceans, especially brachyuran crabs. Some of her most notable

papers examined the commercially important (and globally invasive) mitten crabs (*Eriocheir* spp.) and the hydrothermal vent crabs (*Xenograpsus*) featured in *Nature* in 2004 (Jeng *et al.* 2004) (see Lee & Jaafar 2022 for publication list). A total of 2 families, 2 subfamilies, 9 genera and 22 species, all decapod crustaceans, have been named by Ngan Kee (Table 1).

We remember Ngan Kee as the kind, jolly soul with a sharp scientific mind who loved her crustaceans, but whose time with us was abruptly cut short. It was with much sadness that we received news of Ngan Kee's rapidly declining health in mid-2021 followed by her passing a year later. She was a valued colleague and friend, and the strong response to the call for papers for this volume is a testament to the high regard with which Ngan Kee continues to be held by colleagues worldwide. This special volume of *Zootaxa* assembles research articles by a wide range of authors, from former students to contemporaries and friends, and senior colleagues, spanning those who were her teachers and mentors, to those whom she mentored and taught. As the *Zootaxa* editor for Brachyura from 2020 to 2022, it is fitting that we celebrate Ngan Kee's scientific contributions through this venue. Herein, a total of 36 new species of crustaceans are described in 34 papers, all of which are dedicated to her memory.

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