A NEW DEEP-SEA CRAB, GENUS CHACEON, FROM THE ARABIAN SEA (CRUSTACEA, DECAPODA, GERYONIDAE)

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ABSTRACT: The sixth nominal species of Chaceon to be recorded from the western Indian Ocean is named from a specimen collected off Somalia in 504-506 meters. Chaceon somaliensis, n. sp., resembles C. macphersoni (Manning and Holthuis, 1988) and differs from the other four species known from the area in having the dactylus of the walking legs dorsoventrally depressed. It differs from C. macphersoni in having slenderer legs, a smoother body, and a much deeper, evenly curved orbit.

KEY WORDS: Deep-sea crab - Chaceon - Geryonidae - Somalia

INTRODUCTION

Enrique Macpherson, Instituto de Ciencias del Mar, Barcelona, Spain, recently forwarded to me for study a single adult male belonging to the deep-sea crab genus Chaceon that had been collected by members of his laboratory in the Arabian Sea off the coast of Somalia. At first I believed that this specimen could be identified with C. macphersoni, known from localities off South Africa, Mozambique, and Madagascar (Manning and Holthuis, 1988, 1989), but direct comparison with material of that species showed that two taxa were involved. The new species is described below.

The holotype has been deposited in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (USNM). Measurements are in millimeters. Abbreviations used in the account below include: cb, carapace width; cl, carapace length; P5, fifth leg (fourth walking leg).

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Chaceon somaliensis, new species
(Fig.1)

MATERIAL AND MEASUREMENTS:
Arabian Sea, off Somalia, 4°12'N, 48°15'E to 4°18'N, 48°19'E, depth 504-506 meters, collected 24 June 1991: 1 male, cl,103mm, cb,117mm, holotype (USNM 264762)
Other measurements of P5: merus length 73.5, height 16.4; propodus length 48.6 height 11.2; dactylus length 37.7, height 2.3, width 2.2; telson length 11.0, width 16.0.

DIAGNOSIS:
A large Chaceon, cl to more than 100 mm, cb to 117 mm, with low, obtuse anterolateral teeth on the carapace and dorsoventrally depressed dactyls on the walking legs.
Carapace 1.13 times broader than long, moderately inflated, convex from front to back. Frontal teeth short and blunt, medians extending further forward than laterals. Distance from first to second anterolateral tooth more than 2/3 distance from first to third tooth, latter equal to distance from third to fifth tooth. Branchial regions of carapace very rugose. Orbits relatively deep, dorsal margin evenly convex; suborbital tooth low; suborbital margin evenly curved, with low tubercles. Outer angle of merus of third maxilliped not produced laterally. Cheliped merus with sharp subdistal spine dorsally, distal spine absent; carpus with coarse tubercles dorsally, lacking outer spine or angled projection, inner spine well developed; propodus with coarse tubercles dorsally, lacking distal dorsal spine. Meri of walking legs with distal dorsal spine. Dactyli of walking legs dorsoventrally depressed, tips sharp. P5: merus 4.5 times longer than high; carpus with line of erect spinules dorsally; propodus 4.3 times longer than high; dactylus 0.8 times as long as propodus. Telson 1.5 times wider than long.

REMARKS:

*Chaceon somaliensis* resembles *C. macphersoni* and differs from the other species known from the western Indian Ocean, *C. paulensis* (Chun, 1903), *C. collettei* Manning, 1992, *C. chuni* (Macpherson, 1983), and *C.クロニ* Manning and Holthuis, 1989, in having dorsoventrally depressed dactyli on the walking legs. A fifth, as yet unnamed species that also has laterally compressed dactyli on the walking legs, was identified with the European *C. affinis* (Milne Edwards and Bouvier) by Alcock (1899); an account of that species is in preparation.

Fig.1. *Chaceon somaliensis*, n. sp., male holotype, cl,103 mm: a, dorsal view; b,c, carapace and frontal region, enlarged; d, P5.
Manning: New Chaceon from Somalia

_Chaceon somaliensis_ differs from _C. macphersoni_ in having slender legs, a comparatively greater gap between the first and second anterolateral teeth of the carapace (2/3 rather than 1/2 the distance from the first to third tooth), a smoother carapace, especially on the hepatic regions and the postfrontal areas, and a completely different shape on the orbital margin. In _C. macphersoni_ the outer edge or the orbit shows an angular turn at the dorsal suture, but this margin is evenly curved in the orbit of _C. somaliensis_, in which the orbit is also distinctly deeper.

NAME:
The specific name is derived from the type locality, off Somalia.

DISTRIBUTION:
Known only from the type locality.

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REFERENCES


