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ON A NEW SPECIES OF *NURSIA* (CRUSTACEA: DECAPODA: BRACHYURA: LEUCOSIIDAE) FROM FUJIAN PROVINCE, CHINA

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ABSTRACT. - A new species of leucosiid crab of the genus *Nursia* is described from northern Fujian, China. The new species is closest to *N. lamellata* Ihle, 1918, but can easily be separated by various carapace and chelipedal characters.

KEYWORDS. - Leucosiidae, *Nursia*, new species, China

INTRODUCTION

As part of the first author's studies of the marine crabs of China, specimens of a leucosiid crab from southern China were recently examined and are here described as a new species. The present note serves to describe this new species, here named *Nursia hamipleopoda*. This becomes the fifth member of the genus known from China (Dai & Yang, 1991). The measurements provided respectively are of the carapace length and width. The terminology used follows that by Ihle (1918). The type specimens are deposited in the Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Qingdao, China.

TAXONOMY

Nursia hamipleopoda, new species
(Fig. 1)

Material examined. - Holotype male (3.4 by 3.8 mm), No. S76-A2, Fujian, China, 25°28'N 120°5O'E, depth 93 m, muddy bottom, coll. 9 Jun.1988.

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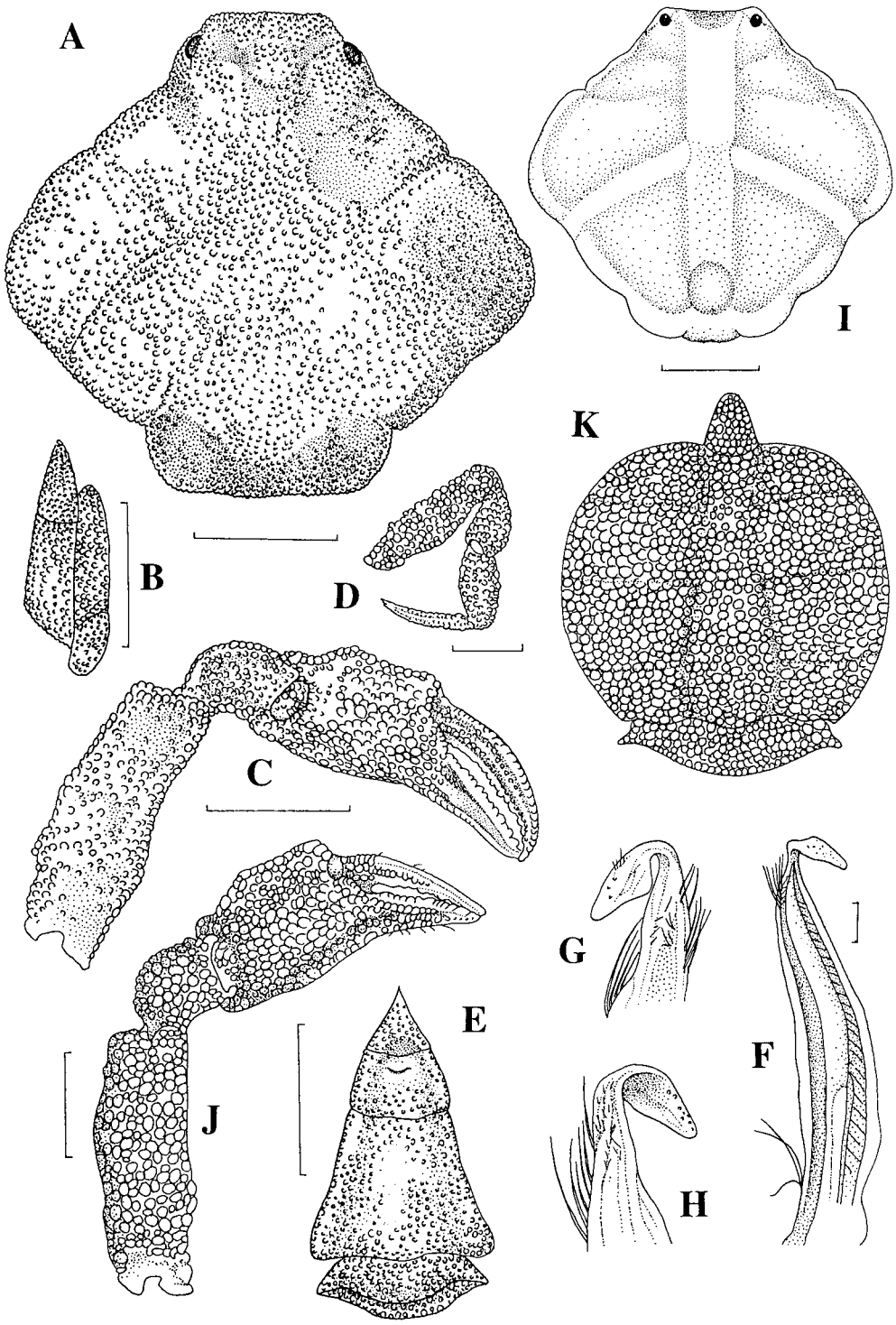

Fig. 1. *Nursia hamipleopoda*, new species. A-H, holotype male (3.4 by 3.8 mm); I-K, paratype female (3.5 by 4.0 mm). A, carapace; B, left third maxilliped; C, left cheliped; D, right last ambulatory leg; E, male abdomen; F, male first pleopod; G, H, distal part of male first pleopod; I, carapace (granules not drawn); J, right cheliped; K, female abdomen. Scales: A-F, J, K = 1.0 mm; G = 0.1 mm.

Paratype - 1 ovigerous female (3.5 by 4.0 mm), No. 46-B7, Fujian, China, 24° 30'N 119°45'E, depth 89 m, shelly bottom with sandy mud, coll. 13 Jan.1984.

Description. - Male carapace subpentagonal, broader than long, dorsal surface depressed with frontal, mesogastric, intestinal regions and oblique ridges raised, surface with fine granules and punctations. Intestinal region convex. Front broad, with fine granules, anterior border truncated. Carapace with broad, relatively low longitudinal median ridge which runs from front to intestinal region; posterolateral border with an oblique ridge extending to mesogastric region, ending in a small but distinct tubercle. Anterolateral border slightly convex, longer than posterolateral border, with a small median notch. Junction of posterolateral border and posterior border notched. Posterior border thin, sharp, broader than front, transversely truncated, bluntly rounded on each side. Dorsal surface of carapace in female with fine granules, anterior border of front slightly concave; two lateral borders slightly rounded, bluntly protruding. Mesogastric region without tubercle on each side. Surfaces of pterygostomian regions, thoracic sterna and third maxilliped with fine granules. Exopod of third maxilliped reaching the middle of merus; merus triangular, slightly shorter than ischium.

Chelipeds stout, short, symmetrical, surface covered with densely set granules. Merus 2.1 times as long as broad. Carpus almost round. Palm 1.5 times as long as broad, outer border armed with 3 tubercles. Movable finger longer than palm. Dorsal surface of two fingers with two longitudinal grooves each, cutting edges with small, blunt teeth.

First ambulatory leg longest, last leg shortest. Surface of each joint with fine granules. Dactylus clawed, longer than palm. Meri of first three legs subcylindrincal in cross-section. Last leg with posterior border of merus convex, 2.5 times as long as broad. Dactylus long, sharp about 1.5 times as long as palm, borders with acute granules.

Surface of male abdomen densely covered with fine granules, with 5 segments (1+2+R+6+T), first two segments of equal width, second segment twice as long as first segment, sixth segment with a small tubercle near distal end. Telson triangular. Female abdomen with 3 segments (1+R+1), surface with fine granules.

Etymology. - The name is derived from Latin "hamus-(hook)" alluding to the hooked shape of the male first pleopod. Gender feminine.

Remarks. - The genus *Nursia* now contains 18 species (Ihle, 1918; Serène, 1968). Ihle (1918) recognised three subspecies of *N. elegans* Ihle, 1918, but the differences between them are such that they should be regarded as distinct species. Of these species, *Nursia hamipleopoda*, new species, is most similar to *N. lamellata* Ihle, 1918, in general carapace features. The two species can, however, easily be distinguished by the forms of the hepatic face (dorsal view) and branchial regions, shape of the tubercles on the posterior border of the female carapace, as well as the armature on the outer border of the merus of the cheliped (Table 1).

Table 1. Differences between *N. lamellata* Ihle, 1918, and *N. hamipleopoda*, new species.

	N. lamellata	*N. hamipleopoda*
1. Hepatic face on dorsal view	distinct	less prominent
2. Branchial region	strongly convex	gently convex
3. Posterior border of female carapace	with 3 hatchet-like tubercles	with 3 semi-rounded tubercles
4. Outer border of merus of cheliped	without tubercles	with 3 tubercles

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