

NOTES ON THE FRESHWATER CRABS OF THE  
GENUS *MORITSCHUS* PRETZMANN, 1965  
(CRUSTACEA: DECAPODA: PSEUDOTHELPHUSIDAE)  
WITH DESCRIPTION OF *M. NARINNENSIS*  
FROM SOUTHERN COLOMBIA

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**Abstract.**—*Moritschus narinnensis*, n. sp. adds a second species to a genus of pseudothelphusid crabs previously considered to be monotypic. The distribution of the genus appears to be confined to the high mountains of the Pacific slope of the Western Cordillera of Colombia and Ecuador, in areas neighboring the boundary between them, but their closest affinities are with *Hypolobocera henrici* from the Amazonian drainage of Ecuador and Perú. The generic diagnosis is redefined to accommodate the new species and a key is given to separate the two taxa.

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In 1897, Mary J. Rathbun, following the system of genera of freshwater crabs then in use, described a sample of small crabs collected by H. Deyrolle near Quito, Ecuador, which she named *Pseudothelphusa ecuadorensis*. Almost 70 years later, Pretzmann (1965) created the monotypic subgenus *Moritschus* of the genus *Hypolobocera*, to receive this species. In his monograph of the Pseudothelphusidae, Rodríguez (1982) gave generic status to *Moritschus* and mentioned the similarity of its gonopod to that of *Hypolobocera henrici*, a species from the Amazonian drainage of Ecuador and Perú. The species is fairly common around Quito and has been collected repeatedly in that area. Recent intensive collections in southern Colombia have revealed the presence there of a second, undescribed species of *Moritschus*.

The material is deposited at the Museum of Natural History, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá (ICN-MHN), and in the reference collection of the Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas (IVIC).

Tribe Hypolobocerini Pretzmann, 1971  
Genus *Moritschus* Pretzmann, 1965  
*Moritschus ecuadorensis* (Rathbun, 1897)

**Material examined.**—Alluriquin, affluent of Rio Toachi, SE of Santo Domingo de los Colorados, Pichincha Province, Ecuador; 31 Nov 1980; H. Díaz; 12 males, the largest cb. 22.0 mm, cl. 13.9 mm (IVIC).

**Remarks.**—These specimens agree well with the description and illustration of the species given by Rathbun (1897) and Rodríguez (1982). The border of the marginal lobe of the gonopod has a band of very tiny spinules, barely visible with the stereoscopic microscope at a magnification of 500 times. The 5th abdominal sternites of the males are deeply invaginated to form gonopodial receptacles where the apices of the gonopods are lodged. However, the mature males usually carry the gonopods outside the abdominal fossa, protruding on each side of the folded abdomen. The large gonopodial receptacles and the extrusion of the gonopods are also characteristic of *Hypolobocera henrici*; in other pseudothelphu-



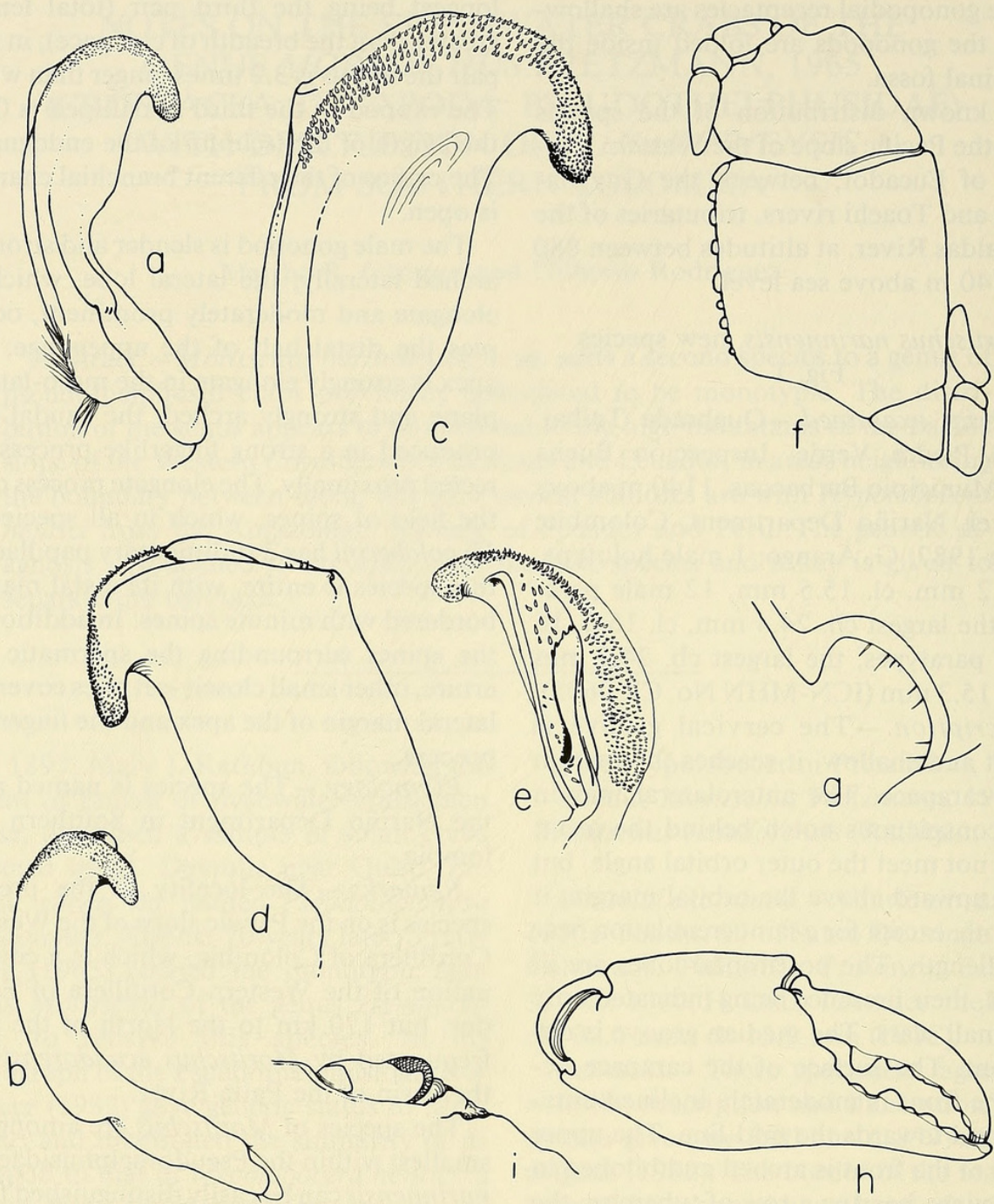


Fig. 1. *Moritschus narinnensis*, holotype, ICN 0605: a-e, Left gonopod (a, Caudal view; b, Same lateral view; c, Apex in caudal view; d, Apex in mesial view; e, Apex in distal view); f, Third maxilliped, left; g, Aperture of efferent channel; h, Larger chela; i, Detail of anterolateral margin of carapace at the outer orbital angle.

duced in strong fingerlike process directed proximally. Elongate process over field of spines entire, its distal margin bordered with minute spines. Lateral margin of apex and fingerlike process covered with small closely-set spines. .... *M. narinnensis*

Since the gonopod type found in *Moritschus* somewhat resembles the gonopod of some *Hypolobocera*, particularly *H. henrici*, a revised definition of *Moritschus* is given below to distinguish between the genera and to accommodate the new species described above.

*Moritschus Pretzmann, 1965*

Pseudothelphusid crabs of small size (carapace breadth usually less than 26 mm). The anterolateral margin of the carapace does not meet the outer orbital angle, but curves upward above the orbital margin. The exognath of the third maxilliped is less than half the length of the lateral margin of the ischium of the endognath. The male gonopod is slender and strongly arched laterally; the lateral lobe occupies the distal half of the appendage; it is elongate and moderately prominent; the apex is strongly elongate in the meso-lateral plane and strongly arched; its caudal end is produced in a beak or strong fingerlike process directed proximally.

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