

Spider Crabs of the *Samadinia pulchra* complex (Crustacea: Decapoda: Epialtidae)

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ABSTRACT. The spiny spider crab, *Samadinia pulchra* (Miers in Tizard, Moseley, Buchanan & Murray, 1885) (type locality: Bohol Sea, Philippines) has long been considered to be widespread in the western Pacific and Indian Ocean, with *Anamathia livermorii* Wood-Mason in Wood-Mason & Alcock, 1891, described from the Andaman Sea, in its synonymy. Reassessment of *Samadinia pulchra* from throughout its purported range indicates that it comprises a complex of three species: *S. pulchra* sensu stricto, occurring in the northwestern Pacific, from the South China Sea to Japan; *S. livermorii*, occurring in the Indian Ocean, ranging from southwestern Indonesia to East Africa; and a new species, *S. jimlowryi* sp. nov., ranging from northwestern Australia to southeastern Indonesia.

Introduction

The spiny spider crab, *Anamathia pulchra*, was described by Edward Miers in 1886 based on a single specimen collected by the HMS *Challenger* in the Philippines. It was soon followed by description of a similarly spiny species, *Anamathia livermorii* Wood-Mason in Wood-Mason & Alcock, 1891, from the Andaman Sea. Presumably on account of their strong similarities, *A. livermorii* was synonymized with *A. pulchra* and transferred to *Scyramathia* (see Alcock, 1895), then to *Rochinia* (see Rathbun, 1925), and most recently to *Samadinia* Ng & Richer de Forges, 2013, a genus of 37 species to date (see Lee *et al.*, 2021; Richer de Forges *et al.*, 2021; Takeda *et al.*, 2022; Davie & Lee, 2023; Lee *et al.*, 2023). Subsequent studies reported

S. pulchra (Miers, 1886) from wide-ranging localities including Japan and Taiwan (Sakai, 1938; Takeda, 1975; Ho *et al.*, 2004), the South China Sea (Serène & Lohavanijaya, 1973; Griffin, 1976), Indonesia (Griffin & Tranter, 1986a) and northern Australia (Griffin & Tranter, 1986b; Richer de Forges & Poore, 2008), and the western Indian Ocean from Madagascar and East Africa (Doflein, 1904; Richer de Forges & Ng, 2013; Muñoz *et al.*, 2021). Consequently, *S. pulchra* has long been regarded as wide-ranging in the Indo-West Pacific and distinguished from its congeners by the combination of strongly divergent rostral spines, and the presence of 20 long, upright dorsal spines on the carapace (including preorbital and hepatic spines). Here, we reassess *Samadinia pulchra* from throughout its purported range and recognize a complex of three species, documented below.

Keywords: Epialtidae, new species, deep sea, spider crab, taxonomy, species complex

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