

CORAL REEF ANIMALS OF THE INDO-PACIFIC

Animal life from Africa to Hawai'i exclusive of the vertebrates

by

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Sea Challengers

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1996

Monterey, California

Keiji Baba

Galatheidae - Squat Lobsters

This group of anomurans has oval bodies with a sharp rostrum. They get their lobster name because of the long chelipeds. Some species are commensals on corals and crinoids.

820. *Allogalathea elegans* (White, 1847)

Identification: The color varies depending on the crinoid host, but the pattern remains similar; in most cases, longitudinal stripes down the carapace and chelipeds. The exception is red individuals living on red hosts. The rostrum is long and tapering with a series of tiny spines along each edge. Length: 2 cm.

Natural History: Found in association with feather stars. The color of the individual mimics the host. The female of the species is larger. A shrimp species, *Alloponotonia iaini* (#727), closely resembles this crab.

Distribution: Australia; Philippines; Indonesia; Enewetak (South Solitary Island, New South Wales, Australia; Marshall Islands).

821. *Galathea* sp. 1

Identification: This bright red species has very long, thin chelipeds. The body is covered with bristles. The chelipeds have a series of sharply pointed spines, as does the head region. There is a single distinctive white spot on each leg and cheliped.

Natural History: Found in crevices.

Distribution: Indonesia (Sulawesi, Indonesia).

822. *Galathea* sp. 2

Identification: This species has strong sharp spines and bristles on the surface of the chelipeds. The cheliped and claw are shorter than the previous species, and the red body color is mottled with white markings.

Natural History: Lives in small holes on coral substrata. Several individuals are usually found together on a single outcrop.

Distribution: Philippines (Batangas, Luzon, Philippines).

823. *Lauriea siagiani* Baba, 1994

Identification: This elegantly colored squat lobster, is brilliant pink in color with purple stripes on the carapace and legs. The chelipeds have numerous sharp spines and purple spots. The entire animal is densely covered with white and pink bristles.

Natural History: Found inside the central cavity of *Xestospongia* (#35, 36).

Distribution: Indonesia; Philippines (Manado, Indonesia).



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