

PREFACE

The systematic research landscape for decapod crustaceans has changed dramatically in recent years. The publication of the annotated checklists for all extant brachyuran species (Ng et al., 2008) and anomuran families Chirostylidae, Galatheidae and Kiwaidae (Baba et al., 2008) has catalyzed a concerted effort by carcinologists to check primary references, enumerate names and check the validity of taxa (especially at the species level). De Grave et al. (2009) recently listed all known decapod crustacean suprageneric taxa known, with estimates of the number of valid species in each grouping.

This supplement of the Raffles Bulletin of Zoology (No. 23) completes the listing of all valid species of the infraorder Anomura: the Lithodoidea, Lomisoidea and Paguroidea (McLaughlin, Komai et al., 2010); the Porcellanidae (Osawa & McLaughlin, 2010); the Aegloidea (McLaughlin, Lemaitre et al., 2010) and the Hippoidea (Boyko & McLaughlin, 2010). Chan's (2010) annotated checklist of the world's marine lobsters brings together the marine species of the infraorders Astacidea, Glypheidea, Achelata and Polychelata.

With the eventual publication of the collective shrimp checklist by De Grave & Fransen (in prep.) for the suborder Dendrobranchiata, and the infraorders Stenopodidea and Caridea, over 92% (cf. De Grave et al., 2009) of the decapod crustacean species will have been listed, valid name for each species fixed, and the names linked to their primary references. It is the hope of all members of this research community that these lists will serve as frameworks to drive the study, protection and enjoyment of biodiversity—an apt conclusion to the International Year of Biodiversity (www.unep.org/iyb).

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Editors

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