

Short Communication

# On the taxonomical status of the Chilean species of *Cancer* Linneo, 1758 (Crustacea, Decapoda) and description of the Neotypo of *Cancer setosus* Molina 1782.

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## Summary

During many years Cancridae was monogeneric with genus *Cancer* worldwide represented. The last years many authors publish different genus and species from *Cancer*. In Chile the genus *Cancer* was represented by four species, three of them with large volumens in the national and international trade, due to lack of knowledge in Chile of the changes done and new *status* existing we prepare this note, including the Neotypo of *Cancer setosus* Molina, 1782 as *Romaleon setosus* n.comb.

**Key Words:** Decapod, Cancrinae, *Cancer*.

Palabras clave: Decapoda, Cancrinae, *Cancer*.

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## Text

The family Cancridae Latreille has two sub families: Cancrinae Latreille, 1802 and Lobocarcinae Beurlen, 1830. The Chilean species of *Cancer s.l.* belong to the sub family Cancrinae and three of them to *Cancer s.s.* Linné, 1758 (Nations, 1975) as follows:

*Cancer s.s.* Linné, 1758: *Cancer (Cancer) porteri* Rathbun, 1930  
*Metacarcinus* A. Milne Edwards, 1882  
*Cancer (Metacarcinus) edwardsii* Bell, 1836 (*lapsus calamorum* por *edwardsi*)  
*Cancer (Metacarcinus) plebejus* Poepfig, 1836

*Romaleon* Gistel, 1848

*Cancer (Romaleon) polyodon* Poepfig 1836

The four spp. of *Cancer s.s.* are holding up to genus by Schweitzer & Feldmann, 2000 and the species *plebejus* that Nations, 1975 set-up in the genus *Metacarcinus* was moved by Schweitzer & Feldmann *op.cit.* to

the genus *Cancer s.s.* and finally Ng.P.K.L. *et.al.*2008 set- up the Chilean species, published in *Systema Brachyorum*, in the following way:

*Cancer porteri* Rathbun, 1930  
*Cancer plebejus* Poepig, 1836  
*Metacarcinus edwardsi* (Bell, 1835)

Accordingly Schweitzer & Feldmann, 2000 “ in the genus *Metacarcinus* there exist two types of chelipeds, one of them has the nails similar to that of *Cancer spp. sensu stricto* because they has short hand (propod) and nails (dactyl and part of the propod) with spiny keels or they are smooth similar to the chelipeds of *Cancer edwardsi* Bell, 1835”, so the species, present in Chile, due to the morphology of its chelipeds is assigned to the new genus *Metacarcinus* among other species, so the actual and valid name is *Metacarcinus edwardsi* ( Bell, 1835).

Key for genus of the Chilean Cancrinae.

(Translated and modified by the authors from Schweitzer & Feldmann, 2000)

Diagnosis of Cancrinae: Caparace with odd number of frontalspines; posterolateral margin smooth or with two small spines. Regions of the caparace separated by weak hollow or indistinct grooves; carapace region with variable ornamentation but no as above; anterolateral spines typically better developed, longer.

- 1.- Anterolateral spines singular, curving anteriorly.....*Romaleon*
- 1'- Anterolateral spines predominantly fissured or separated to bases, short, granulated or serrate  
..... 2
- 2.- Anterolateral spines predominantly strongly fissured or separated to bases...*Cancer*
- 2'- Anterolateral spines less distinctly fissured or small, separated to bases, terminations granular or serrate.....*Metacarcinus*

As a way to complete the information about our Cancrinae we decide to describe the Neotype for *Cancer setosus* Molina, 1782 due to the different descriptions and names given to the species of Molina by several authors cited here and the holotype is lost. Accordingly to the original description of the Molina' specimen without doubt the species belong to him, specially because the character “the hairy in caparace and legs”, there are few Chilean species with that character but its caparace are very different.

*Romaleon setosus* (Molina 1782) *n. comb.*

*Synonyms* *Cancer setosus* Molina, 1782  
*Cancer dentatus* Bell, 1835  
*Cancer polyodon* Poepig, 1836



**Fig- 1.-** Neotipo: A male of 8,5 cm length and 12,5 cm wide. Carapace wider than long, specially in the median portion of the caparace; surface of the caparace rough and hairy; orbits close; anterolateral margins with sharp spines, curves and ornamented with teeth, separated to bases; posterior margin smooths.

Description of Neotipo: Caparace slightly convex, with small granules spared, hairs large and strong that cover caparace, sternal region, pereiopods and chelipeds; regions of the carapace lightly marked; margins anterolateral and lateral with 10 or 11 strong teeth, curved, sharp and densely spiny, the central is the largest; the first of the orbital teeth is the smaller; the two posterolateral teeth well marked, the first the biggest. Frontal teeth thick, those between the antennae smaller, the median one slender and more projected that the external pair; a shallow lobe between the interorbital teeth; antennal teeth long, inclined toward each other; two sharp infero-orbital spines, the inner one the larger but much smaller than the antennal spine. Opistoma is overlapped by the third maxillipeds. Chelipeds rough above; two spines on merus; two large spines on carpus, one on articulation, one at the inner angle, smaller scattered spines besides one below inner angle; two rows of spines above palm and proximal half of dactyl. Five carinae on outer surface of palm are granulate and hairy. Black of fingers occupies the distal two-thirds. Ventral surface of body and margins of legs coarsely hairy; legs broad and flat, dactyls with four or five rows of hairs.

Color: Above reddish brown, somewhat mottled with yellowish, specially in young specimens; beneath red mottled with yellow.

Measures: L.C. 8.5 cm; A.C. 12.5 cm

Distribution: Neotype was extracted in Burka Caleta place, Coliumo Bay, at 10 m of depth: this neotype was hosted in Zoological Museum of the University of Concepcion MZUC-UCCC with number 38692 with 5 paraneotipo with the numbers MZUC-UCCC 38693-38697.

Range: From Ecuador, Ancon bay (Perú) to Taitao peninsula (Chile). Between intertidal, the young specimens on coarse bottom to 45 m the adults ( Cortez. Monroy, 1994).

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