

6-1979

Callianassa (Callichirus) acanthochirus (Stimpson, 1866) (Crustacea: Decapoda: Thalassinidae) from the Coastal Waters of Alabama

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DOI: 10.18785/negs.0301.06

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Recommended Citation

Heard, R. W. and R. C. Reames. 1979. *Callianassa (Callichirus) acanthochirus* (Stimpson, 1866) (Crustacea: Decapoda: Thalassinidae) from the Coastal Waters of Alabama. *Northeast Gulf Science* 3 (1). Retrieved from <https://aquila.usm.edu/goms/vol3/iss1/6>

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Callianassa (Callichirus) acanthochirus (Stimpson, 1866) (Crustacea: Decapoda: Thalassinidea) FROM THE COASTAL WATERS OF ALABAMA

One June 8, 1976, a single specimen of mud shrimp, *Callianassa acanthochirus* (Stimpson, 1866), was collected with a bucket dredge from the R/V Rounsefell approximately two miles south of Fort Morgan, Baldwin County, Alabama (30°10'N, 87°55'W). The specimen, a small, apparently mature male, had a carapace length of 13 mm. The body length, measured from the tip of the rostrum to the end of the telson, was 44 mm. It was taken at a depth of approximately 10 meters on a firm, fine sand bottom. Associated species occurring in the same same were a porcellanid crab, *Euceramus praelongus* (Stimpson, 1860), and a bivalve, *Pandora trilineata* Say, 1822.

All previous reports of *C. acanthochirus* are from southern Florida (Miami, Florida Keys, Dry Tortugas), the Caribbean (Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Barbados,

Antigua) and Venezuela (see Biffar, 1971). This Alabama record extends the range of *C. acanthochirus* approximately 700 km northwestward from south Florida into the northeastern Gulf of Mexico.

Biffar (1971) gave an excellent supplemental description of *C. acanthochirus* based on material collected from south Florida and the Caribbean region. He also reviewed the literature, taxonomy, ecology, and previous records of this and other species of *Callianassa* Leach, 1814, from the south Florida area. Morphologically, our specimen agrees in all major respects with Biffar's account.

Of the known northwestern Atlantic species, *C. acanthochirus*, along with four other species -- *C. guassutina* Rodrigues, 1966; *C. longiventris* A. Milne-Edwards, 1870; *C. rathbunae* Schmitt, 1935; and *C. hartmeyeri* Schmitt, 1935 -- are characterized by having a pair of spinous lateral projections on the frontal margin of the carapace (Fig. 1, B). *Callianassa acanthochirus* is readily distinguished from these other species by the presence of 2 to 3 well-developed spines on the dorsal margin of the palm of the major chela (Fig. 1, A).

Stimpson (1866) originally described *C. acanthochirus* as the type for the genus *Glypturus* with the type locality as the Florida Keys. Schmitt (1935) considered *Glypturus* a junior synonym of *Callianassa* and placed *C. acanthochirus* in the subgenus *Callichirus* Stimpson, 1866. In a brief systematic review of the family Callianassidae, de Saint Laurent (1973) described five new genera and reelevated *Callichirus* to full generic rank. Pending a more complete systematic revision of *Callianassa* we tentatively continue to recognize *Callichirus* as a subgenus.

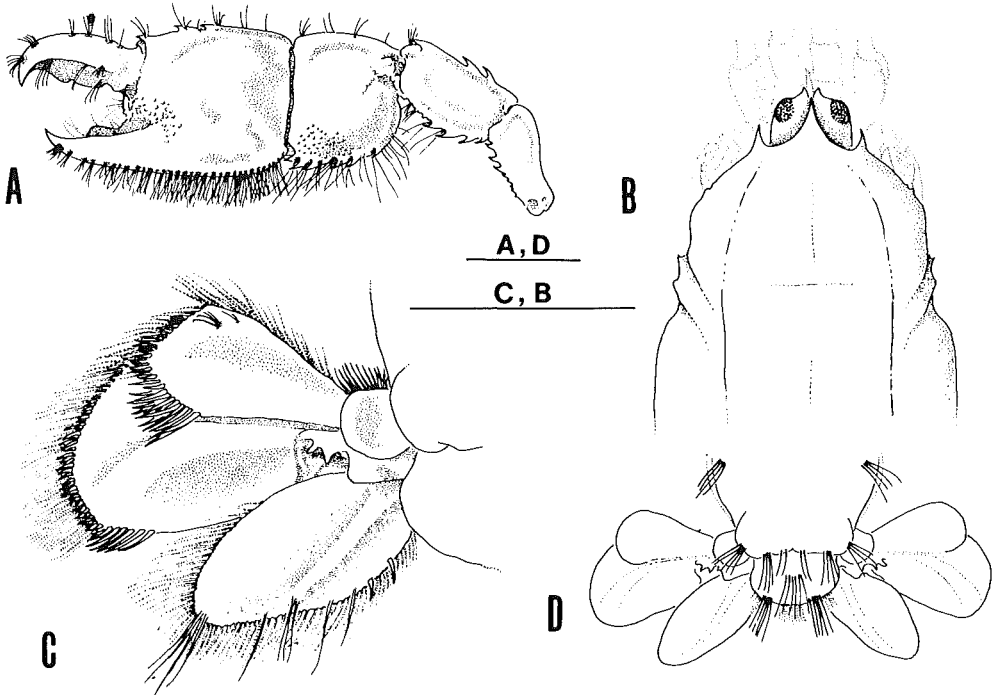


Figure 1. *Callianassa acanthochirus* (Stimpson), 44 mm male, Baldwin County, Alabama. A, major first chela, lateral inner view; B, dorsal view of anterior part of carapace; C, left uropods showing setation and spination; D, telson and posterior part of sixth abdominal segment showing setation (setation on uropods excluded). Scales = 5 mm.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank B. S. Heard for inking the figure, and A. B. Williams for confirming the identification of our specimen.

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