New findings and current taxonomic uncertainties about Sesarmidae of East African mangroves

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Abstract

Sesarmidae is the most specious crab family present in the mangrove forests of the Old World. In addition, sesarmids are by far the most studied mangrove crabs from an ecological, ethological, physiological and population genetics point of view. Also the taxonomy and systematics of this taxon are extensively studied, combining morphological, morphometric and genetic tools.
As a result of this massive work, at present, the family Sesarmidae includes around 30 genera, some of them widely distributed throughout the Indo-Pacific area, and a large number of species. However, these numbers are subject to a rapid increase, since new species, as well as, new genera are frequently found. The rapidly growing taxonomic information about sesarmids, however, is pointing out the need for a revision of some existing genera, while the discovery of cryptic and pseudo-cryptic species also contributed to change the systematics of Sesarmidae. In this poster we will present the current classification of the East African sesarmid crabs, underlying the gaps in our knowledge about nomenclature and phylogenetic relationships.

Keywords
systematic, taxonomy, phylogenetic relationships, cryptic species