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A new species of the potamid genus *Eosamon* Yeo et Ng, 2007 from Bảy Núi mountainous hills, southern Vietnam

Новый вид крабов-потамид рода *Eosamon* Yeo et Ng, 2007 из горных холмов Бай-Нуи, южный Вьетнам

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KEY WORDS: diversity, Brachyura, Potamidae, *Eosamon*, taxonomy, SE Asia, Vietnam, barcoding.

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: разнообразие, Brachyura, Potamidae, *Eosamon*, таксономия, Ю.-В. Азия, Вьетнам, штрихкодирование.

ABSTRACT. A new species of the potamid crab genus *Eosamon* Yeo et Ng, 2007 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Potamidae), *Eosamon baynuiensis* sp.n., is described from Bảy Núi (10°29′N 104°59′E), a range of small mountainous hills located in the Tri Tôn and Tịnh Biên districts of An Giang Province, southern Vietnam. The new species morphologically closely resembles two other *Eosamon* species known from southern Vietnam, *Eosamon brousmichei* (Rathbun, 1904) and *Eosamon nominathuis* Yeo, 2010, but can be distinguished by the shape and proportions of the carapace and terminal segment of G1. Since these crabs live on mountainous hills that are currently isolated within the delta and were once "islands" when sea level was higher, we see the evolution of these species as an example of allopatric (island) speciation. The detailed taxonomy of all described representatives of the genus *Eosamon* from southern Vietnam is discussed in the article.

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РЕЗЮМЕ. Описан новый вид крабов-потамид рода *Eosamon* Yeo et Ng (Crustacea: Decapoda: Potamidae), *Eosamon baynuiensis* sp.n., который обнаружен в небольших гористых холмах Бай-Нуи (Bảy Núi,10°29′N 104°59′E), расположенных в районах Три-Тон и Тан-Бьен провинции Анзянг на юге Вьетнама. Новый вид морфологически очень похож на два других вида рода *Eosamon*, известных из Вьетнама, *Eosamon brousmichei* (Rathbun, 1904) и *Eosamon nominathuis* Yeo, 2010, но хорошо отличается по форме и пропорциям карапакса и терминального сегмента G1. Поскольку эти крабы обитают на гористых холмах, которые в настоящее время изолированы в пределах дельты и когда-то были «островами», когда уровень моря был выше, мы рассматриваем эволюцию этих видов как пример аллопатрического (островного) видообразования. В статье рассматривается подробная систематика всех описанных представителей рода *Eosamon* из южного Вьетнама.

Introduction

Potamid crabs (Crustacea: Decapoda: Potamidae) typically inhabit freshwater environments, such as rivers, lakes, forest and limestone areas [Dang, Ho, 2012; Fang *et al*., 2013; Do, 2014; Do *et al*., 2015, 2017; Ng, Tri, 2022; Huang *et al*., 2024; Dang *et al*., 2025], as well as few species are known from brackish water and marine coastal areas [Đăng, Hồ, 2003; Esser, Cumberlidge, 2011; Marin, 2023]. More than a third of them (~500 species) belong to the Asian subfamily Potamiscinae Bott, 1970, making it the most evolutionarily successful group of the region [Ng, Yeo, 2003; Ng *et al*., 2008; Yeo *et al*., 2008]. Currently, 61 species of potamid crabs have been described from Vietnam, although this number is likely not exhaustive [Anh *et al*., 2024; Dang *et al*., 2025]. At the same time, the southern part of Vietnam, escapes the view of researchers, although about a dozen species of freshwater potamid crabs have already been described from this region [De Man, 1898; Rathbun, 1904; Türkay, Naiyanetr, 1987, 1989; Yeo, Ng, 2007, 2009; Yeo, 2010], although they were mostly collected at the beginning of the 20th century. In the recent time, only *Tayninhon nuibaden* Dang, Tien et Tu, 2025 has been described from Ba Den Mountain (Núi Bà Đen)

Fig. 1. *Eosamon baynuiensis* sp.n. from the Bảy Núi mountainous hills, An Giang Province, southern Vietnam, holotype male (51×41 mm), ZMMU Ma-6238: dorsal and ventral views, alive coloration.

Рис. 1. *Eosamon baynuiensis* sp.n. из горных массивов Бай-Нуи, провинция Анзянг, южный Вьетнам, голотип, самец (51×41 мм), ZMMU Ma-6238: дорсальный и вентральные виды, прижизненная окраска.

[Dang *et al*., 2025]. The investigation of the taxonomy of potamids has presented numerous challenges, owing to the abundance of unique morphological descriptions of species lacking molecular genetic information and even precise geographic locations (e.g., Yeo [2010]).

While conducting our biodiversity investigation in the Bảy Núi mountainous hills (10.29°N, 104.59’E), located in the Tri Tôn and Tịnh Biên districts of An Giang Province (Mekong Delta) in southern Vietnam in November 2023, we found medium-sized freshwater potamid crabs that were initially identified as belonging to the genus *Eosamon* Yeo et Ng, 2007. A thorough examination of the collected specimens and a comprehensive review of the original descriptions of other species in the genus (see below) revealed that these crabs represent a new species, described in detail below.

Material and Methods

SAMPLE COLLECTION AND PROCESSING. Crabs were collected using crab traps in mountainous streams (about 100–250 m a.s.l.) by local people on Bảy Núi mountainous hills (10°29′N, 104°59′E), Tri Tôn and Tịnh Biên districts of An Giang Province, southern Vietnam at September 2022. Totally, three different locations (mountainous hills) were studied (see below). All collected specimens were photographed alive and then preserved in 90% ethanol for subsequent DNA analysis.

The type material has been deposited in the collections of the Zoological Museum of Moscow State University, Moscow (ZMMU) and the Laboratory of Hydrobiology of the Southern Branch of the Joint Vietnam–Russia Tropical Science and Technology Research Centre, Hồ Chi Minh City, Vietnam (VRTC).

MORPHOLOGICAL STUDY. Photographs of the morphological features were prepared using a Canon G16 digital camera and digital camera mounted on an Olympus SZX10 stereomicroscope. Morphometric measurements (CW×CL) in millimeters, include carapace width (CW), measured at the widest point across the carapace, and carapace length (CL), measured along the median dorsal line.

The general terminology is based on Ng and Clark [2022]. The morphological description of the new species follows the terminology and descriptive framework used by Tan et al. [2021] with some modifications. The abbreviations G1 and G2 are used for the male first and second gonopods, respectively; P is used for ambulatory pereiopods.

AMPLIFICATION AND DNA SEQUENCING. Total genomic DNA was extracted from muscle tissue using the innuPREP DNA Micro Kit (AnalitikJena, Germany). A fragment of the mitochondrial gene coding for cytochrome c oxidase subunit I (COI mtDNA) gene marker was amplified with the help of the universal primers LCO1490 (5'–GGTCAACAAATCATAAAGATATTGG–3') and HC02198 (5'–TAAACTTCAGGGTGACCAAAAAATCA–3') [Folmer *et al.*, 1994] in the frames of the standard protocols.

The obtained sequences are deposited in the GenBank (NCBI) database for further phylogenetic researches. Due to the fact that there are no sequences of representatives of the genus *Eosamon* in the available databases, we did not perform a special phylogenetic analysis.

Results

Order Decapoda Latreille, 1802
Family Potamidae Ortmann, 1896
Subfamily Potamiscinae Bott, 1970
Genus *Eosamon* Yeo et Ng, 2007
***Eosamon baynuiensis* sp.n.**
Figs 1–6.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. HOLOTYPE: male (51×41 mm), ZMMU Ma-6238 — VIỆT NAM, An Giang Province, Tịnh Biên, Bảy Núi, st. 1, 10°29′14.0″N, 104°54′40.8″E, about 200–250 m asl, upper stream of the mountainous stream, sampled with crab traps, 10–11 November 2023.

PARATYPES: male (49×40 mm), female (44×36 mm), ZMMU Ma-6239 — same locality and data as for holotype; female (49×43 mm), male (48×39 mm), VRTC — same locality and data as for holotype, 10–11 November 2023.

Additional material. 2 mature males, 2 mature females, VRTC – VIỆT NAM, An Giang Province, Tịnh Biên, Bảy Núi, st. 2, 10°29′41.1″N, 105°00′52.4″E, about 150–200 m asl, upper part of the mountainous stream, sampled with crab traps, 10–11 November 2023; 3 mature males, 3 mature females, VRTC – VIỆT NAM, An Giang Province, Tịnh Biên, Bảy Núi, st. 3, 10°23′33.5″N, 104°59′58.2″E, about 100 m asl, upper part of the mountainous stream, sampled with crab traps, 10–11 November 2023.

ETYMOLOGY. The species name was given after Bảy Núi (10°29′N, 104°59′E), a range of small mountainous hills located in the Tri Tôn and Tịnh Biên districts of An Giang Province, southern Vietnam, were this potamid crab species was discovered.

DESCRIPTION. Holotype male (ZMMU Ma-6238) (Figs 1, 3*a–f*, 4*a*, *c*, *e*, *g*, *h*, 5*a*, *b*). Carapace about 1.25× broader than long, subquadrate, dorsal surface convex transversely and longitudinally, smooth, regions feebly defined (Fig. 3*a*); anterolateral region lined with granules; posterolateral margin with rugae (Fig. 3*b*, *d*); cervical groove and H-shaped groove between gastric and cardiac regions deep, distinct (Fig. 3*a*). Epigastric region distinct, separated by narrow groove (Fig. 3*a*). Postfrontal lobe slightly convex, separated medially by Y-shaped groove extending to frontal region. Front deflexed downwards, postorbital region distinctly concave. Dorsal orbital margin ridged, external orbital angle triangular, epibranchial tooth pointed, clearly demarcated from external orbital tooth by gap; supraorbital and infraorbital margins cristate (Fig. 3*a*, *b*). Branchial regions relatively convex, smooth, with small tubercles. Pterygostomial regions smooth, with several feebly marked granules; epistome lateral margins sinuous; median lobe triangular (Fig. 3*b*).

Third maxilliped (Fig. 3*d*) with merus about 1.12× as broad as long, almost quadrate, with median depression; ischium about 1.2× as long as broad, rectangular, with distinct median sulcus.

Chelipeds slightly unequal (Fig. 3*a*); merus trigonal in cross section, margins crenulated (Fig. 3*a*); carpus with sharp spine on inner-distal angle, covered with striae; chela of major cheliped about 1.5× as long as high, with convex granules (Fig. 4*g*); dactylus bent inwards, with granules dorsally, gap narrow when fingers closed, cutting margins lined with teeth; chela of minor cheliped about 1.6× as long as high, with convex granules (Fig. 4*h*); dactylus bent inwards, with granules dorsally, cutting margins lined with teeth.

Ambulatory pereiopods relatively slender; P2 with merus about 2.2× as long as dactylus; P5 with propodus about 2× as long as broad, equal to dactylus, dactylus slender, with spine-like setae.

Thoracic sternum (Fig. 3*b*) narrowly oval, generally smooth and pitted; sternites 3, 4 fused without median suture. Sternopleonal cavity (Fig. 3*b*) deep; pleonal locking tubercle barely visible, median longitudinal groove between sternites 7, 8 long.

Pleon triangular, somite 3 widest; somite 6 about 2.2× broader than long.

Telson triangular, with about 1.2× as broad as long (Fig. 3*b*).

G1 stout, tip of terminal segment not reaching pleonal locking mechanism; subterminal segment stout, about 1.8× as long as terminal segment (Fig. 2*e*); terminal segment cone-shape, bent outwards, inferior margin of terminal segment straighter than superior margin, tip of G1 terminal segment gradually tapering (Fig. 3*f*). G2 slightly longer than G1, basal segment about 1.6× as long as distal segment (Fig. 3*e*).

Paratype female (ZMMU Ma-6239) (Fig. 3*g*, *h*): generally similar to male. Carapace (Figs 2, 3*g*) about 1.25× broader than high, broader than in male, dorsally smooth, trapezoidal, wider anteriorly; cervical groove and H-shaped groove between gastric and cardiac regions deep, distinct; anterolateral region lined with granules. Chelipeds more similar in size and shape than in male (Fig. 3*g*); palm of larger cheliped stout, about longer than height, with convex granules, fingers straight on both chelipeds, dactylus slightly curved, gap narrow. Vulva medium-sized, circular, superior margin reaching suture 5/6 in situ, opening inward.

Fig. 2. *Eosamon baynuiensis* sp.n. from the Bảy Núi mountainous hills, An Giang Province, southern Vietnam, paratype female (44×36 mm), ZMMU Ma-6239: dorsal and ventral views, alive coloration.

Рис. 2. *Eosamon baynuiensis* sp.n. из горных массивов Бай-Нуи, провинция Анзянг, южный Вьетнам, паратип, самка (44×36 мм), ZMMU Ma-6239: дорсальный и вентральной виды, прижизненная окраска.

Pleon almost oval, surface pitted, truncated basally; somite 6 trapezoidal, about 2.8× wider than long. Telson semicircular, 2.0× wider than length (Fig. 2).

REMARKS. The terminal segment of G1 showed different development of dorsal flap and its proximal portion (Fig. 5). The holotype male (ZMMU Ma-6238) has dorsal flap with well-marked convex proximal portion (Fig. 5*a*, *b*), while same-sized paratype male (ZMMU Ma-6239) and paratype male (VRTC) collected at the same locality have dorsal flap with less noticeable proximal portion, which is not convex and feebly developed. We emphasize that this morphological feature can vary, and cannot be considered interspecific.

SIZE. The largest collected male (holotype, ZMMU Ma-6238) has carapace 51×41 mm; the largest female (paratype, VRTC) has carapace 49×43 mm.

LIVE COLORATION. The carapace is brownish-red, sometimes slightly bluish; frontal and other ridges on the front of the carapace are reddish; the orbital ridges are red; the segments at the base of the chelipeds are brownish, while the palm and fingers are brightly red; walking legs (pereopods) are brownish-purple or bluish; the corneal eyes are dark brown or black (see Figs 1, 2, 6).

TAXONOMIC REMARKS. Only two species of the genus *Eosamon* are recently known from Vietnam, both from its southern part: *Eosamon brousmichei* (Rathbun, 1904) was probably collected from Thị Vải Mountain (Núi Thị Vải, 10°35′17.5″N, 107°05′46.0″E) (=Montagnes de Cau-Thi-Vay) near Vũng Tàu in Bà Rịa–Vũng Tàu province; and *Eosamon nominathuis* Yeo, 2010, which was described based on MNHN museum collections from southern Vietnam (=Cochinchine), without exact locality [Rathbun, 1904; Yeo, 2010].

From *Eosamon brousmichei* (after Rathbun [1904] and Yeo [2010]), the new species could be separated by 1) anterolateral margin almost entire, with feebly marked granules (versus

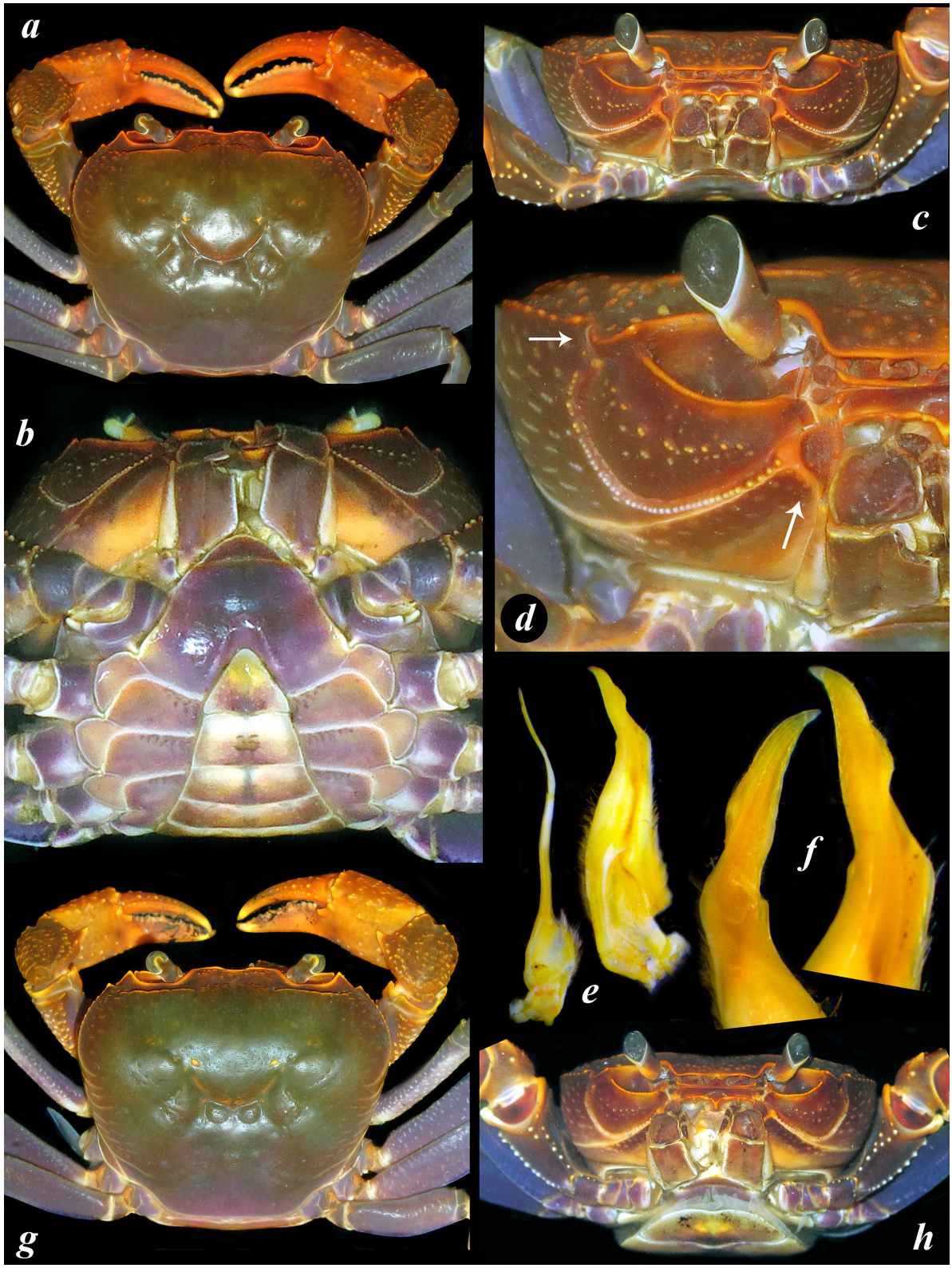

Fig. 3. *Eosamon baynuiensis* sp.n. from the Bảy Núi mountainous hills, An Giang Province, southern Vietnam, holotype male (51×41 mm), ZMMU Ma-6238 (*a–f*), paratype female (45×38 mm), VRTC (*g*, *h*): *a*, *g* — carapace and chelipeds (dorsal view); *b* — thoracic sternites and abdomen; *c* — carapace, frontal view; *d* — anterior carapace; *e* — G1 and G2, frontal view; *f* — terminal segment of G1, different views view. Scale bar — 2 mm.

Рис. 3. *Eosamon baynuiensis* sp.n. из горных массивов Бай-Нуи, провинция Анзянг, южный Вьетнам, голотип, самец (51×41 мм), ZMMU Ma-6238 (*a–f*), паратип, самка (45×38 мм), VRTC (*g*, *h*): *a*, *g* — карапакс и хелипеды (вид сверху); *b* — грудные стерниты и брюшко; *c* — карапакс, вид спереди; *d* — передняя часть карапакса; *e* — G1 и G2, вид спереди; f — терминальный сегмент G1, вид с разных сторон. Масштаб 2 мм.

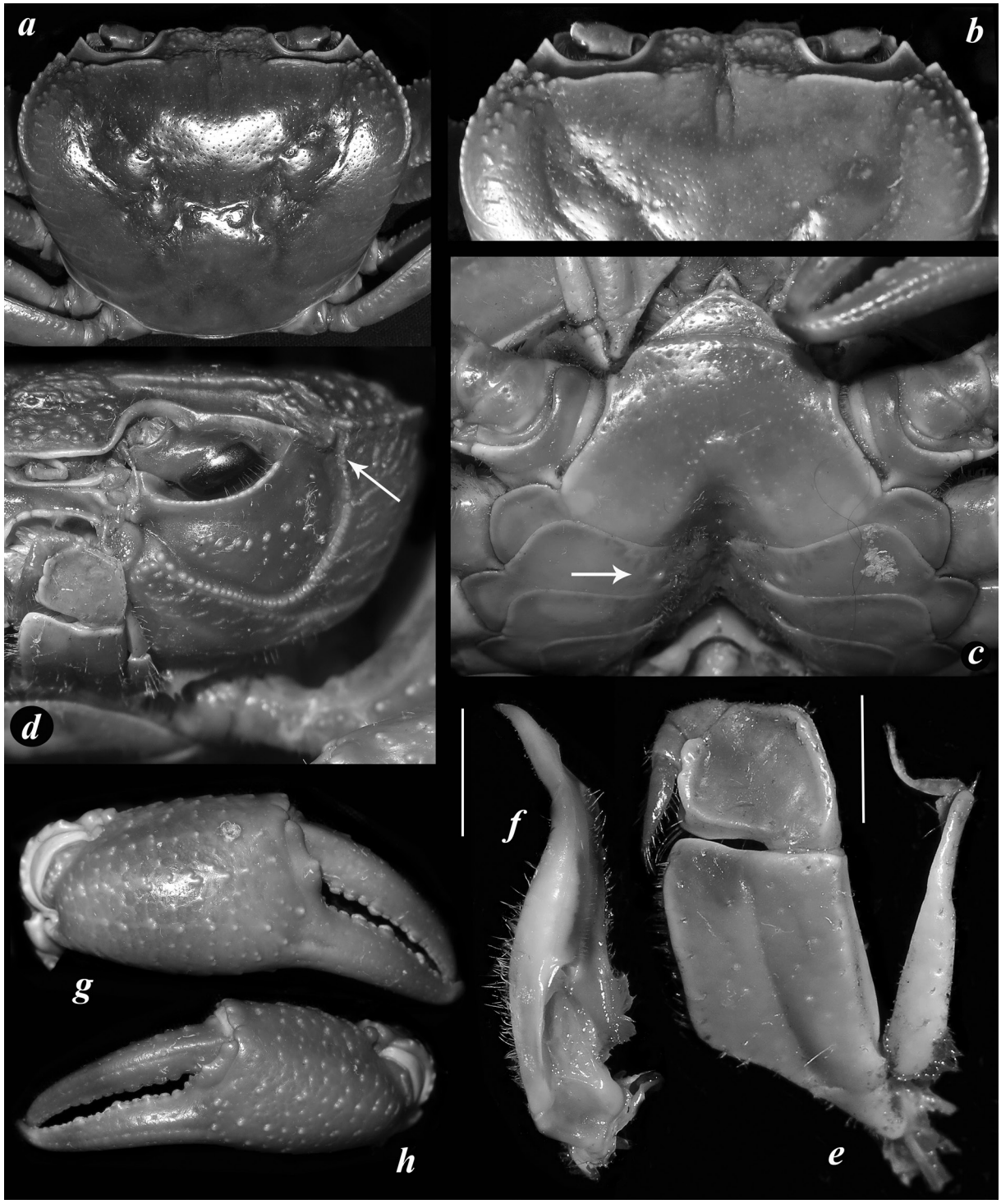

Fig. 4. *Eosamon baynuiensis* sp.n. from the Bảy Núi mountainous hills, An Giang Province, southern Vietnam, holotype male (51×41 mm), ZMMU Ma-6238 (*a*, *c*, *e*, *g*, *h*), paratype male (49×40 mm), ZMMU Ma-6239 (*b*, *f*), paratype female (45×38 mm), VRTC (*d*): *a* — carapace (dorsal view); *b* — frontal margin of carapace (dorsal view); *c* — thoracic sternites; *d* — anterior carapace; *e* — third maxilliped; *f* — G1; *g* — chela of major cheliped (frontal view); *h* — chela of minor cheliped (frontal view). Scale bar — 2 mm.

Рис. 4. *Eosamon baynuiensis* sp.n. из горных массивов Бай-Нуи, провинция Анзянг, южный Вьетнам, голотип, самец (51×41 мм), ZMMU Ma-6238 (*a*, *c*, *e*, *g*, *h*), паратип, самец (49×40 мм), ZMMU Ma-6239 (*b*, *f*), паратип, самка (45×38 мм), VRTC (*d*): *a* — карапакс (вид сверху); *b* — передний край карапакса (вид сверху); *c* — грудные стерниты; *d* — передняя часть карапакса; *e* — третья максиллипеда; *f* — G1; g — клешня большей хелипеды (вид спереди); *h* — клешня малой хелипеды (вид спереди). Масштаб 2 мм.

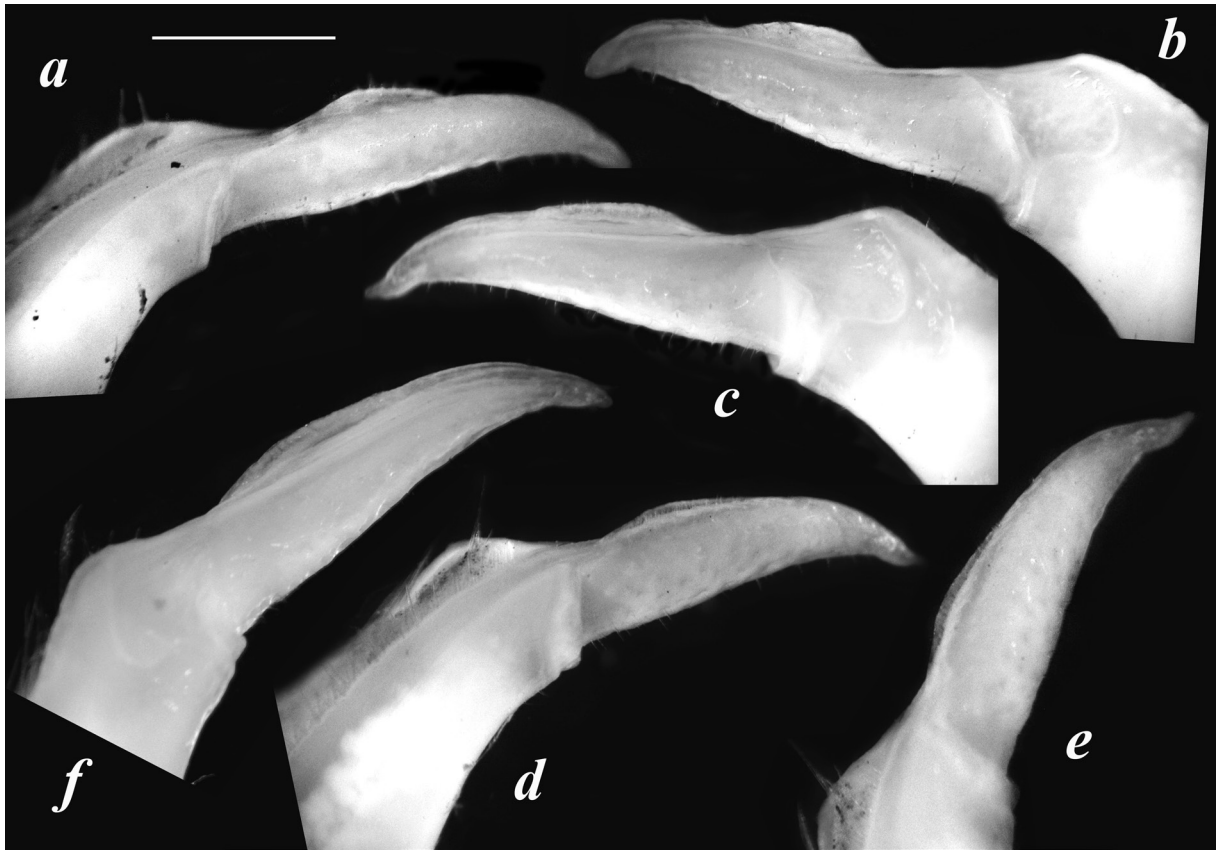

Fig. 5. *Eosamon baynuiensis* sp.n. from the Bảy Núi mountainous hills, An Giang Province, southern Vietnam, holotype male (51×41 mm), ZMMU Ma-6238 (*a*, *b*), paratype male (49×40 mm), ZMMU Ma-6239(*c*–*e*); paratype male (48×39 mm), VRTC (*f*): terminal segment of G1. Scale bar — 1 mm.

Рис. 5. *Eosamon baynuiensis* sp.n. из горных массивов Бай-Нуи, провинция Анзянг, южный Вьетнам, голотип, самец (51×41 мм), ZMMU Ma-6238 (*a*, *b*), паратип, самец (49×40 мм), ZMMU Ma-6239 (*c*–*e*); паратип, самец (48×39 мм), VRTC (*f*): терминальный сегмент G1. Масштаб 1 мм.

anterolateral margin distinctly serrated, with well-marked granules); 2) the upper corner of the supraorbital ridge with a pronounced notch (Fig. 3*d*, arrow); 3) pterygostomial region of carapace smooth, with several feebly marked granules (Fig. 3*d*, arrow) (versus covered with well-marked granules); 4) G1 terminal segment relatively longer, about 0.42× length of subterminal segment (versus relatively shorter, about 0.37× length of subterminal segment), and more stouter, about 3.4× longer than broad (versus more gradually tapered and stouter, about 4.2× longer than broad), with curved tip and a relatively higher dorsal flap (versus tip not curved and dorsal flap distinctly lower); subterminal segment of G1 broader.

From *Eosamon nominathuis* (after Yeo [2010]), the new species could be separated by 1) the upper corner of the supraorbital ridge with a pronounced notch (Fig. 3*d*, arrow); 2) pterygostomial region of carapace smooth, with several feebly marked granules (Fig. 3*d*, arrow) (versus covered with well-marked granules); 3) suture between thoracic sternites 2 and 3 convex (Figs 3*b*; 4*c*) (versus suture between thoracic sternites 2 and 3 straight); 4) G1 terminal segment relatively longer, about 0.42× × length of subterminal segment (versus relatively stouter, about 0.37× length of subterminal segment), and more stouter, about 3.4× longer than broad (versus more gradually tapered and slenderer, about 5.0× longer than broad), with tapering curved tip (versus blunt and feebly curved tips).

The new species is obviously related and morphologically close to other species of the genus *Eosamon*, for example, *Eosamon boonyaratae* (Naiyanetr, 1987) and *Eosamon phuphanense* (Naiyanetr, 1992), both known from Thailand (e.g., Ng, Naiyanetr [1993]).

REMARKS ON *E. BROUSMICHEI* AND *E. NOMINATHUIS*. The description of *Eosamon brousmichei* (Rathbun, 1904) is based on the specimens deposited in the MNHN (see Yeo [2010]). Type material of both species is presented by medium sized individuals (30.4×25.1 mm – 37.0×28.6 mm), versus large-sized individuals of *Eosamon baynuiensis* sp.n. (45×38 mm – 49×43 mm), used for the description (see above). Presumably, either small or immature individuals were used to write the first two species, and therefore the use of morphological features of the male G1 structure as an interspecific trait is highly controversial. Moreover, it was shown above that the shape of the terminal segment of G1, even in similar sized adult males can vary even in individuals collected in the same location (see Fig. 5). Obviously, *Eosamon baynuiensis* sp.n., *E. brousmichei* and *E. nominathuis* are similar in their morphology and phylogeny. Many of the morphological features discussed above are likely to have intraspecific variation, as well as changing with age, so a final decision about phylogenetic relationships can only be made after conducting a molecular genetic analysis of all the species from Southern Vietnam. Such work has already started. Additionally, it would like to point out that representatives of the genus *Eosamon* currently inhabit mountainous areas (actually small isolated mountainous hills) located within the low-level Mekong Delta, and were once islands when the sea level was

Fig. 6. *Eosamon baynuiensis* sp.n. in natural habitats, Bảy Núi mountainous hills, An Giang Province, southern Vietnam.
Рис. 6. *Eosamon baynuiensis* sp.n. в природной среде, горные массивы Бай-Нуи, провинция Анзянг, южный Вьетнам.

higher (e.g., Woodruff [2003]; Miller [2005]; Gupta [2009]; Tjallingii *et al*. [2010]). Therefore, we view the development of these species as a case of allopatric speciation, similar to that of island species.

GENBANK ACCESSION NUMBERS. PX959533 (holotype), PX959534 (st. 1); PX959535, PX959536 (st. 2); PX959537 (st. 3).

GENETIC DIVERSITY. The genetic diversity between studied specimens (N=8) from different hills (see Material) is very low, close to 0.002 substitutions per 100 nucleotides (about 0.2%).

HABITAT. Semi-terrestrial species that live on the banks of small mountain streams and build burrows in coastal clay shoals near the water; active at night.

DISTRIBUTION. Possibly endemic; known only from Bảy Núi mountainous hills (10°29′N, 104°59′E), Tri Tôn and Tịnh Biên districts of An Giang Province, southern Vietnam.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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