

Two new species and the molecular phylogeography of freshwater crab of the genus *Bottapotamon* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Potamidae)

Ning Gao¹, Ying-Yi Cui¹, Jie-Xin Zou^{Corresp. 1}

¹ Research Laboratory of Freshwater Crustacean Decapoda & Paragonimus, School of Basic Medical Sciences, Nanchang University, Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, China

Corresponding Author: Jie-Xin Zou

Email address: jxzou@ncu.edu.cn

Bottapotamon chenzhouense sp.n. and *B.luxiense* sp.n. described from Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Jiangxi Province, respectively. They all have diagnostic features of genus *Bottapotamon*. *B.chenzhouense* sp.n. can be distinguished by features such as the G1, which has a white fold covering the surface of the entire terminal second segment, with a clear corner. And *B.luxiense* sp.n. has a round carapace, the width of G1 is same from base to terminal. The authors used mitochondrial cytochrome oxidase I, 16S rRNA and nuclear histone H3 gene fragments to explore the relationship between new species and other freshwater crabs belonging to genus *Bottapotamon*. The results support two new species assignment to genus *Bottapotamon* and a clear differentiation from the other analyzed species. In addition, the divergence time of genus *Bottapotamon* was estimated to be 3.49-1.08mya. In the geological area where genus *Bottapotamon* is distributed, the Wuyi Mountains gradually formed offshore and inland of southeastern China by the compression of the Pacific plate and the Indian plate in Neogene-Quaternary. The Luoxiao Mountains continued forming in the north-south direction because of neotectonic movement, and the geographical distribution pattern of genus *Bottapotamon* gradually formed.

1 **Two new species and the molecular phylogeography of**
2 **freshwater crab of the genus *Bottapotamon* (Crustacea:**
3 **Decapoda: Brachyura: Potamidae)**

4 Ning Gao¹, Ying-yi Cui¹, Jie-xin Zou¹

5 ¹ Research Laboratory of Freshwater Crustacean Decapoda & Paragonimus, School of Basic
6 Medical Sciences, Nanchang University, Nanchang, Jiangxi, China

7

8 Corresponding Author:

9 Jie-xin Zou¹

10 1299 Xuefu Avenue, Nanchang City, Jiangxi Province 330031, China

11 Email address: jxzou@ncu.edu.cn

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33 Abstract

34 *Bottapotamon chenzhouense* sp.n. and *B.luxiense* sp.n. described from Hunan Province and
35 Jiangxi Province, respectively. They all have diagnostic features of genus *Bottapotamon*. *B.*
36 *chenzhouense* sp.n. can be distinguished by features such as the G1, which has a fold covering
37 the surface of the entire terminal second segment, with a clear corner. And *B.luxiense* sp.n. has
38 an elliptical carapace, the width of G1 is same from base to terminal. The authors used
39 mitochondrial cytochrome oxidase I, 16S rRNA and nuclear histone H3 gene fragments to
40 explore the relationship between new species and other freshwater crabs belonging to genus
41 *Bottapotamon*. The results support two new species assignment to genus *Bottapotamon* and a
42 clear differentiation from the other analyzed species. In addition, the divergence time of genus
43 *Bottapotamon* was estimated to be 3.49-1.08mya. In the geological area where genus
44 *Bottapotamon* is distributed, the Wuyi Mountains gradually formed offshore and inland of
45 southeastern China by the compression of the Pacific plate and the Indian plate in Neogene-
46 Quaternary, and the Luoxiao Mountains continued forming in the north-south direction because
47 of neotectonic movement, the geographical distribution pattern of genus *Bottapotamon* gradually
48 formed.

49

50 Introduction

51 Genus *Bottapotamon* is a unique genus of freshwater crabs from the China mainland that
52 belong to Crustacea: Malacostraca: Decapoda: Brachyura: Potamidae. In the 1960s, and 1970s,
53 genus *Bottapotamon* was divided into *Parapotamon* and *Malayopotamon* according to
54 morphological classification. In 1997, the genus *Bottapotamon* was identified on the basis of its
55 morphological characteristics, such as the carapace and first gonopod (G1)(Tiirkay & Yun 1997).

56 Until the start of the study, genus *Bottapotamon* include *B.fukiense*, *B.engelhardti*,
57 *B.yonganense*, *B.lingchuanense*(Tiirkay & Yun 1997), *B.youxiense*(Cheng et al. 2010) and
58 *B.nanan*(Zhou et al. 2008). According to geographical division of Chinese animal(Zheng &
59 Zhang 1965), their habitat spans the natural geographical area, including central China region
60 (IIB) and south China region (IIIB, IIIC), the three freshwater crab natural geographical area in
61 mainland China. 5 kinds of species of genus *Bottapotamon* are located in the central China
62 region(II) eastern hilly plains subregion (IIB), and only *B.lingchuanense* was isolated in the
63 South China region (III) Guangxi-Guangdong subregion (IIIB). By organizing collections and
64 newly collected specimens, the author discovered two new species in Chenzhou city, Hunan
65 Province, and Luxi County, Jiangxi Province. This paper compares the morphological features of
66 8 species including two new species of genus *Bottapotamon*, and use 16S rRNA(Crandall et al.
67 1996), mtDNA COI(Folmer et al. 1994) and nuclear histone H3(Colgan et al. 1998) gene
68 fragments were used to analyze phylogenetic relationships and estimate divergence time to
69 support the establishment of new species of genus *Bottapotamon* and to discuss the phylogenetic
70 relationship, distribution pattern and possible association with major geological and historical
71 events.

72

73 Materials & Methods

74 **Specimen collection**

75 Specimens were preserved in 95% ethanol and deposited at the Department of Parasitology
76 of the Medical College of Nanchang University (NCU MCP), Jiangxi Province, China. The
77 author compared specimens with holotype of the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of
78 Sciences. All 26 specimens were used for mtDNA COI, 16S rRNA and histone H3 gene
79 fragment amplification (*Table 1*).

80 **Phylogenetic analyses and Divergence time estimation**

81 Genomic DNA was extracted from leg muscle tissue with an OMEGA EZNA™ Mollusc
82 DNA Kit. The 16S rRNA, mtDNA COI, and histone H3 regions were selected for amplification
83 by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) (*Table 2*). The amplification products were sent to the
84 Beijing Genomics Institute for bidirectional sequencing, and the sequencing results were spliced
85 manually to obtain the sequence data. DNA sequences of *B.yonganense* specimens collected
86 from the suburb of Sanming city, Fujian Province, China, could not be amplified due to poor
87 preservation.

88 After searching the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) database, we
89 finally selected the sequences of four individuals with the same primer sequences as the
90 outgroups (*Candidiopotamon rathbunae* (GenBank accession numbers: mtDNA COI-AB290649,
91 16S rRNA-AB208609, histone H3- AB290668), *Geothelphusa dehaani* (GenBank accession
92 numbers: mtDNA COI - AB290648, 16S rRNA - AB290630, histone H3 - AB290667),
93 *Himalayapotamon atkinsonianum* (GenBank accession numbers: mtDNA COI-AB290651, 16S
94 rRNA-AB290632, histone H3-AB290670), and *Ryukyum yaeyamense* (GenBank accession
95 numbers: mtDNA COI-AB290650, 16S rRNA-AB290631, histone H3-AB290669)). After
96 comparing and selecting the conservative regions, the length of the sequences is 1323 bp.
97 According to the Akaike information criterion (AIC), MrMTGui: ModelTest and MrModelTest
98 (phylogenetic analysis using parsimony (PAUP)) obtained the best models as GTR+I+G; MEGA
99 6.06(Tamura et al. 2013)was used to establish a phylogenetic tree based on the maximum
100 likelihood (ML)(Trifinopoulos et al. 2016). The Bayesian inference (BI) tree was established
101 using MrBayes(Ronquist & Huelsenbeck 2003).

102 The divergence times of genus *Bottapotamon* were estimated from the combined 16S rRNA
103 and mtDNA COI sequences, based on the Bayesian evolutionary analysis sampling trees
104 (BEAST) program, and four calibration points were used. The Potamidae family is divided into
105 two major subfamilies, Potamiscinae and Potaminae, estimated to have a divergence time of
106 20.9-24.7 mya, which was set as calibration point 1 in our study(Shih et al. 2010). Regarding the
107 Parathelphusidae subfamily, the authors associated with the NCU MCP found that
108 *Somanniathelphusa taiwanensis*, which is distributed in Taiwan Island, separated from
109 *Somanniathelphusa amoyensis*, which is distributed in Fujian Province, approximately 0.27-1.53
110 mya. The results are consistent with the quaternary glacial period and interglacial period and are
111 in accordance with the separation between Taiwan Island and Fujian Province; this time point
112 was set as calibration point 2(Jia et al. 2018). In the geological area where genus *Bottapotamon*
113 is distributed, the Wuyi Mountains gradually formed by the compression of the Pacific plate and

114 the Indian plate in Neogene-Quaternary (1.64-23.3 mya)((Zhenzhong 1984)), this time point was
115 set as calibration point 3. A Yule speciation model was constructed for speciation within genus
116 *Bottapotamon*. We used a GTR+G model with parameters obtained from MrMTGui: ModelTest
117 and MrModelTest (PAUP) for each gene. Seventeen independent MCMC chains were run for
118 200,000,000 generations, and every 20,000 generations were sampled. The convergence of the
119 17 combined chains was determined by the evolutionary stable strategy (ESS) (>200 as
120 recommended) for each parameter in Tracer after appropriate burn-in and cutoff (default of 10%
121 of sampled trees). Trees in the 17 chains were combined using LogCombiner (v. 1.6.1,
122 distributed as part of the BEAST package) and were assessed using TreeAnnotator (v. 1.6.1,
123 distributed as part of the BEAST package). A chronogram was constructed by FigTree (v. 1.3.1,
124 Rambaut, 2009).

125 **Nomenclatural note**

126 The electronic version of this article in Portable Document Format (PDF) will represent a
127 published work according to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN),
128 and hence the new names contained in the electronic version are effectively published under that
129 Code from the electronic edition alone. This published work and the nomenclatural acts it
130 contains have been registered in ZooBank, the online registration system for the ICZN. The
131 ZooBank LSIDs (Life Science Identifiers) can be resolved and the associated information viewed
132 through any standard web browser by appending the LSID to the prefix <http://zoobank.org/>. The
133 LSID for this publication is: [urn: lsid: zoobank.org: pub:211926FF-6950-4DFE-95C4-
134 F5247CA9E0BA]. The online version of this work is archived and available from the following
135 digital repositories: PeerJ, PubMed Central and CLOCKSS.

136

137 **Results**

138 **Systematics**

139

140 Potamidae Ortmann, 1896

141 *Bottapotamon* Tüerkay et Dai, 1997

142 ***Bottapotamon chenzhouense* sp.n., *Bottapotamon luxiense* sp.n.**

143

144 ***Bottapotamon chenzhouense* sp.n.**

145 urn: lsid zoobank. org: art: E43C4BBB-E429-4C17-8ACD-E4295F426BCB

146

147 **Materials examined**

148 Holotype: 1 ♂ (25.72 × 15.69 mm) (NCU MCP 643), Huangcao village, Chenzhou city,
149 Hunan Province, China, 25°39'24.60"N, 113°30'4.07"E, 141 m asl. Coll. Dingmei Luo, July 26th
150 2006. Paratypes: 1 ♀ (18.7 × 13.7 mm) (NCU MCP 643), same data as holotype.

151 **Description**

152 Carapace nearly subquadrate; dorsal surface slightly convex, with small granular
153 depressions; cervical groove between gastric and hepatic region shallow; branchial region

154 inconspicuous (*Fig. 1A*). H-shaped groove between the gastric region and cardiac region deep,
155 obvious. Postfrontal lobe and postorbital crest blunt, separated by a narrow gap in the middle of
156 the frontal border; orbital border smooth with no obvious depression. Exorbital angle obtuse,
157 almost in line with epibranchial tooth; antero-lateral border distinctly cristate, smooth, with
158 curved-end abdomen; posterior border flat and angular to postero-lateral border (*Fig. 1B*).

159 Surface of the third maxilliped has inconspicuous granules; width of the merus
160 approximately 1.3 times the length; length of ischium approximately 1.2 times the width; merus
161 trapezoidal with median depression. Ischium trapezoidal, median sulcus distinct, exopod reaches
162 1/3 of the proximal end of the merus, end without flagellum. Dactylus extends downward beyond
163 the junction of the merus and ischium (*Fig. 2A*).

164 Male cheliped surfaces rugose; carpus short; inner-distal angles with sharp spines without
165 spinules at the base; length of palm of the larger chela is approximately 1.6 times the height.
166 Immovable finger long and thin and forms a small gap when fingers closed; inconspicuous
167 triangular tooth on inner margins of fingers (*Fig. 2B*).

168 The ambulatory legs are slender and the surface is smooth. The length of the propodus of
169 the last pair of ambulatory legs is approximately 2.5 times the width; the length of the dactylus is
170 1.3 times that of the propodus (*Fig. 2C*).

171 The male sternum is relatively flat and has granular small pits. The first section is triangular
172 and the second to fourth sections are fused. The interruption between sternite sutures is medium
173 in depth and wide. The median longitudinal sutures of sternites 7/8 are shorter; the tubercle of
174 abdominal lock is on the medial side of the fifth male ventral nail (*Fig. 3A, 3B*).

175 G1 is slender, and the terminal segment is beyond the tubercle of the abdominal lock and
176 beyond the fourth and fifth breastplate lines (*Fig. 4*); the second segment bends toward the back
177 side. The most obvious feature is that there is a fold with a clear corner covering the surface of
178 the second segment; the interval with the last segment is not continuous, and the length is
179 approximately 5.75 times that of the end segment. There is obvious contraction near the base,
180 and the base is broad (*Fig. 5A, 5B, 5C*). The G2 base is approximately twice as long as the whip-
181 like end (*Fig. 5D*).

182 **Remarks**

183 Same as genus *Bottapotamon*, *B.chenzhouense* sp.n. has a subquadrate carapace, with
184 insignificant small granular depressions and a clear H-shaped groove in the gastric region and
185 cardiac region. The interruption between sutures of sternites is deep and wide, and the median
186 longitudinal suture of sternites 7 and 8 is short. The male abdomen forms a long, narrow triangle.
187 G1 is slender and exceeds the tubercle of the abdominal lock. However, the postfrontal lobe and
188 postorbital crest of *B.chenzhouense* sp. n. are dull. The epibranchial tooth is not obvious. The
189 antero-lateral border is uplifted, the extremity curves to the carapace, and the third maxillium
190 does not have a whip. The inner-distal angle of the male cheliped has an inconspicuous sharp
191 spine but no small spines at the base. G1 is slender, with obvious contraction near the base. The
192 most obvious feature is the white fold with a clear corner covering the surface of the segment
193 next to last and the interval with the last segment is not continuous (*Table. 3*).

194 **Etymology**

195 The species is named after the type locality: Chenzhou city, Hunan Province, China.

196 **Distribution**

197 *B.chenzhouense* sp.n. was found under stones in a mountain stream in Huangcao village,
198 Chenzhou city, Hunan Province, China.

199

200 ***Bottapotamon luxiense* sp.n.**

201 urn: lsid zoobank. org: art: 1C1CC520-193A-405E-9A2D-DC79E7D4AA87.

202

203 **Materials examined**

204 Holotype: 1 ♂ (18.72×15.69 mm) (NCU MCP 4200), Yixiantian Wugongshan Mountain,
205 Luxi county, Pingxiang city, Jiangxi Province, China, 27°28'56.16"N, 114°10'27.51"E, 1331 m
206 asl. Coll. Jiexin Zou, May 6th 2019. Paratypes: 1 ♂ (19.22 × 16.38 mm) (NCU MCP 4200).
207 Others: 12 ♀ (16.7 × 15.7 mm, 15.41×15.36 mm, 14.23×12.98 mm, 15.63×14.52 mm,
208 16.13×15.86 mm, 16.23×14.97 mm, 13.65×12.33 mm, 14.56×13.15 mm, 15.27×14.10 mm,
209 16.02×15.43 mm, 15.89×15.01 mm, 13.13×12.46mm) (NCU MCP 4200), 12 ♂ (15.66×13.89
210 mm, 14.21×13.11mm, 13.69×12.01 mm, 14.23×13.69 mm, 15.17×14.31 mm, 14.19×13.69 mm,
211 14.69×13.54 mm, 14.73×13.52 mm, 12.87×11.36 mm, 13.00×12.13 mm, 13.58×12.29 mm,
212 15.26×14.36 mm) (NCU MCP 4200), same data as holotype.

213 **Description**

214 Carapace nearly ellipse; dorsal surface slightly convex, with small granular depressions;
215 cervical groove obvious. H-shaped groove between the gastric region and cardiac region deep
216 and obvious. Postfrontal lobe and postorbital crest blunt; orbital border smooth with no obvious
217 depression. Exorbital angle sharp; antero-lateral border distinctly cristate, smooth, with curved-
218 end abdomen; posterior border flat and angular to postero-lateral border (*Fig. 6*). Surface of the
219 third maxilliped has inconspicuous granulars; width of the merus approximately 1.4 times the
220 length; length of ischium approximately 1.1 times the width; merus trapezoidal with median
221 depression. Ischium trapezoidal, median sulcus distinct, exopod reaches 1/3 of the proximal end
222 of the merus, end without a flagellum. Dactylus extends downward beyond the junction of the
223 merus and ischium (*Fig. 7A*).

224 Male cheliped surfaces rugose; carpus short; inner-distal angles with sharp spines without
225 spinules at the base; length of palm of the larger chela is approximately 1.8 times the height.
226 Immobile finger long and thin and forms a wide gap when fingers closed; inconspicuous
227 triangular tooth on inner margins of fingers (*Fig. 7B*).

228 The ambulatory legs are slender and the surface is smooth. The length of the propodus of
229 the last pair of ambulatory legs is approximately 2.6 times the width; the length of the dactylus is
230 1.3 times that of the propodus (*Fig. 7C*).

231 The male sternum is relatively flat and has granular small pits. The first section is triangular
232 and the second to fourth sections are fused. The interruption between sternite sutures is medium
233 in obvious. The median longitudinal sutures of sternites 7/8 are shorter; the tubercle of
234 abdominal lock is on the medial side of the fifth male ventral nail (*Fig. 8*).

235 G1 is slender, and the terminal segment is beyond the tubercle of the abdominal lock and
236 beyond the fourth and fifth breastplate lines (*Fig. 9*); The most obvious feature is that the width
237 of G1 is same from basis to terminal (*Fig. 10A, 10B, 10C*). The G2 base is approximately twice
238 as long as the whip-like end (*Fig. 10D*).

239 **Remarks**

240 Same as genus *Bottapotamon*, *B.luxiense* sp.n. has insignificant small granular depressions
241 and a clear H-shaped groove in the gastric region and cardiac region. The interruption between
242 sutures of sternites is deep and wide, and the median longitudinal suture of sternites 7 and 8 is
243 short. The male abdomen forms a long, narrow triangle. G1 is slender and exceeds the tubercle
244 of the abdominal lock. However, *B.luxiense* sp.n. has an elliptical carapace, exorbital angle has a
245 sharp angle, and the third maxillium does not have a whip. G1 is slender, the width of G1 is same
246 from base to terminal (*Table. 3*).

247 **Etymology**

248 The species is named after the type locality: Yixiantian Wugongshan Mountain, Luxi county,
249 Pingxiang city, Jiangxi Province, China.

250 **Living color**

251 The dorsal surfaces of the carapace and pereopods are dark purple-red, and the joints of the cheliped
252 merus and carpus the ambulatory legs are bright red. The inner surface of the immovable finger and distal
253 part of the movable finger are almost milky (*Fig. 6*).

254 **Variation**

255 Adult specimens are usually much more brightly colored than juveniles. The terminal segment of the
256 G1 may vary in proportionate length, while the angle at which it point varies from around 30-45 degrees.

257 **Distribution**

258 *B.luxiense* sp.n. was found under stones in a mountain stream in Yixiantian Wugongshan
259 Mountain, Luxi county, Pingxiang city, Jiangxi Province, China (*Fig. 11*).

260

261 **Ecology**

262 *B. chenzhouense* sp.n. and *B.luxiense* sp.n.were collected in the Luoxiao Mountains, which
263 belong to the central China region (II) western mountain plateau subregion (IIA) of Chinese
264 freshwater crabs natural geographic area, which has a humid subtropical monsoon climate and is
265 in the Xiangjiang River and Ganjiang River watershed, which has rich biodiversity and is one of
266 the most important biological compounds in eastern Asia(Chunlin 1998). Similar to the natural
267 habitat of other *Bottapotamon* species, *B.chenzhouense* sp.n. and *B.luxiense* sp.n. can be found
268 under small rocks in sandy creek beds in narrow mountain streams or highway drains with clear,
269 slow flowing and cool water surrounded by dwarf shrubs or grasse(*Fig. 12*).

270

271 **Phylogenetic analyses and Divergence time estimation**

272 The combined mtDNA COI, 16S rRNA and nuclear histone H3 phylogenetic trees were
273 constructed by ML analysis, and the corresponding support values were calculated by ML and BI
274 analyses, both of which had high support values. The results confirmed that *B.chenzhouense* sp.

275 n. and *B.luxiense* are new species of genus *Bottapotamon* and supported the relationship of genus
276 *Bottapotamon*. (Fig. 13)

277 The divergence time estimation results are consistent with the four calibration points. Genus
278 *Bottapotamon* diverged approximately 3.49-1.08 mya, *B.fukiense* and *B.youxiense* diverged 1.96
279 mya (95% confidence interval =2.65-1.31 mya),*B.luxiense* diverged 1.90mya(95% confidence
280 interval =2.05-1.09 mya), *B.lingchuanense* and *B.chenzhouense* sp. n. diverged 1.51 mya (95%
281 confidence interval =1.6-0.7 mya); *B.engelhardti* and *B.nanan* diverged 1.08 mya (95%
282 confidence interval =1.76-0.80 mya).(Fig. 14)

283

284 Discussion

285 Two new species of *B.chenzhouense* sp.n., collected from the Chinese Luoxiao Mountains
286 in the central China (II) western mountain plateau subregion (IIA), are reported in this paper.
287 The cervical groove of *B.chenzhouense* sp.n. is shallow and insignificant. The postfrontal lobe
288 and postorbital crest are broad, and the third maxilliped does not have a whip. G1 is slender, with
289 obvious contraction near the base. The most obvious feature is a fold with a clear corner
290 covering the surface of the second segment, and the interval with the last segment is not
291 continuous. *B.luxiense* sp.n. elliptical carapace, exorbital angle has a sharp angle. G1 is slender,
292 the width of G1 is same from basis to end. On the basis of the mtDNA COI, 16S rRNA and
293 nuclear histone H3 gene fragments, the results also support the establishment of two new species
294 and demonstrate its intramolecular affinity.

295 In the central China region (II) eastern hilly plain subregion (IIB), there are *B.fukiense*,
296 *B.youxiense*, *B.nanan*, *B.engelhardti* and *B.yonganense* (lack of molecular data)(Fig. 15). On the
297 east coast of Fujian Province, four species, excluding *B.fukiense*, are found on only the eastern
298 side of the Wuyi Mountains, indicating that the mountains are a significant barrier to the species.
299 *B.fukiense* is distributed on both sides of Wuyi Mountains; one of the possible reasons for the
300 distribution of this species is that the low mountains and hilly regions may have created natural
301 conditions for freshwater crabs to spread along the river system(Lin-bo et al. 2012). Another
302 possible reason is the Pacific plate and Indian plate extrusion at the Neogene-Quaternary (1.64-
303 23.3 mya)(Zhenzhong 1984). As the Wuyi Mountains formed, the genus *Bottapotamon* species
304 originally distributed in this area separated; this event is also consistent with the *B.fukienense*
305 divergence time (2.65-1.31 mya)(Fig. 14). The eastern side of the Wuyi Mountains is
306 mountainous and hilly, which makes it extremely easy to isolate freshwater crabs with weak
307 migration abilities; thus, other species of genus *Bottapotamon* evolved.

308 In the South China region (III) Guangxi & Guangdong subregion (IIIB). This region unique
309 karst formation and the south Asian subtropical humid monsoon climate conditions provide a
310 good living environment for all kinds of wildlife, including freshwater crabs. However, only one
311 species of genus *Bottapotamon*, *B.lingchuanense*, was isolated in this area, and there is a 830 km
312 gap between it and other species distributed within the Wuyi Mountain Range, which has always
313 been the focus of genus *Bottapotamon* research. In this study, two new species of genus
314 *Bottapotamon*, *B.chenzhouense* sp.n. was first discovered in Chenzhou city, Hunan Province, in

315 south of Luoxiao Mountains, in central China region (II) western mountain plateau subregion
316 (IIA), and *B.luxiense* sp.n. is distributed in north of Luoxiao Mountains(Fig. 15). Divergence
317 time estimation results suggested that *B.chenzhouense* sp.n., *B.luxiense* sp.n., and
318 *B.lingchuanense* were isolated at almost the same time (*B.luxiense* diverged 1.90mya,
319 *B.lingchuanense* and *B.chenzhouense* sp.n. diverged 1.51 mya). The authors speculated that
320 Luoxiao Mountains continued to rise due to neotectonic movement and gradually became the
321 Xiangjiang River and Ganjiang River watershed(Chunlin 1998). The ancestors of genus
322 *Bottapotamon* occurred on both sides of Luoxiao Mountains due to the formation of the
323 mountains, and under the influence of karst landforms and the Danxia landform, gradually
324 isolated *B.luxiense* sp.n., *B.chenzhouense* sp.n and *B.lingchuanense*. In addition, this area is a
325 good living environment, and the authors speculate that in the region where genus *Bottapotamon*
326 was found and in south China region (III) Fujian-Guangdong-Jiangxi subregion (IIIC), the new
327 species of genus *Bottapotamon* are likely to exist.

328

329 **Conclusions**

330 *B.chenzhouense* sp.n. and *B.luxiense* sp.n., two new species from Luoxiao Mountains were
331 reported in this paper. These new species compensate for the geographical gap of genus
332 *Bottapotamon*, and confirms the independence of genus *Bottapotamon* and its intra- and
333 interspecific relationships. Combined with estimates of divergence times, it is suggested that
334 genus *Bottapotamon* formed at 3.49-1.08 mya. Molecular evidence supports the scientific
335 hypothesis of the authors that genus *Bottapotamon* originated on both side of the Wuyi
336 Mountains and Luoxiao mountains. In the geological area where genus *Bottapotamon* is
337 distributed, the Wuyi Mountains gradually formed offshore and inland of southeastern China by
338 the compression of the Pacific plate and the Indian plate in Neogene-Quaternary and Luoxiao
339 Mountains continued growing in the north-south direction because of neotectonic movement, the
340 geographical distribution patterns of genus *Bottapotamon* gradually formed.

341

342 **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND DECLARATIONS**

343 **Acknowledgements**

344 We thank Mao-rong Cai, Hua Guo for collecting the specimens of the new species. Special
345 thanks is expressed to Xin-nan Jia and Shu-xin Xv for for their help and advice. We would also
346 thank Professor Xian-min Zhou for his guidance in this study.

347 **Data Availability**

348 Regarding data availability: all specimens in this study are housed in the permanent
349 collections at the Department of Parasitology, Medical College of Nanchang University (NCU
350 MCP), and the raw DNA data are included in the supplemental files.

351

352 **References**

- 353 **Turkay, M & Yun, DA. 1997.** Review of the Chinese freshwater crabs previously placed
354 in the genus *Malayopotamon* Bott, 1968 (Crustacea : Decapoda : Brachyura :
355 Potamidae). *The Raffles bulletin of zoology.* 45. 189-207.
- 356 **Cheng YZ, Lin GH, and Li YS. 2010.** Two New Species of Freshwater Crabs
357 (Decapoda : Potamidae) Serving as Intermediate Hosts of *Paragonimus* in
358 Fujian, China. *Chinese Journal of Parasitology and Parasitic Diseases* 28:241-
359 245.
- 360 **Zhou X, Zhu C, and Naruse T. 2008.** *Bottapotamon nanan*, a New Species of
361 Freshwater Crab (Decapoda, Brachyura, Potamidae) from Fujian Province,
362 China. *Crustaceana* 81:1389-1396.
- 363 **Zheng ZX, and Zhang RZ. 1965.** Chinese animal geography area. *Journal of*
364 *Geographical Sciences* 23.
- 365 **Crandall KA, Fitzpatrick JF, and Faith D. 1996.** Crayfish Molecular Systematics:
366 Using a Combination of Procedures to Estimate Phylogeny. *Systematic Biology*
367 45:1-26.
- 368 **Folmer O, Black M, Hoeh W, Lutz R, and Vrijenhoek R. 1994.** DNA primers for
369 amplification of mitochondrial cytochrome c oxidase subunit I from diverse
370 metazoan invertebrates. *Mol Mar Biol Biotechnol* 3:294-299.
- 371 **Colgan DJ, Mclauchlan A, Wilson GDF, Livingston SP, Edgecombe GD,**
372 **Macaranas J, Cassis G, and Gray MR. 1998.** Histone H3 and U2 snRNA DNA
373 sequences and arthropod molecular evolution. *Australian Journal of Zoology*
374 46:419-437.
- 375 **Tamura K, Stecher G, Peterson D, Filipowski A, and Kumar S. 2013.** MEGA6:
376 Molecular Evolutionary Genetics Analysis Version 6.0. *Molecular Biology and*
377 *Evolution* 30:2725-2729.
- 378 **Trifinopoulos J, Nguyen L-T, Haeseler Av, and Minh BQ. 2016.** W-IQ-TREE: a fast
379 online phylogenetic tool for maximum likelihood analysis. *Nucleic Acids Research*
380 44:W232-W235.
- 381 **Ronquist F, and Huelsenbeck JP. 2003.** MrBayes 3: Bayesian phylogenetic inference
382 under mixed models. *Bioinformatics* 19:1572-1574.
- 383 **Shih HT, Yeo DCJ, and Ng PKL. 2010.** The collision of the Indian plate with Asia:
384 molecular evidence for its impact on the phylogeny of freshwater crabs
385 (Brachyura: Potamidae). *Journal of Biogeography* 36:703-719.
- 386 **Jia XN, Xu SX, Bai J, Wang YF, Nie ZH, Zhu CC, Wang Y, Cai YX, Zou JX, and**
387 **Zhou XM. 2018.** The complete mitochondrial genome of *Somanniathelphusa*
388 *boyangensis* and phylogenetic analysis of Genus *Somanniathelphusa*
389 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Parathelphusidae). *Plos One* 13:e0192601-.
- 390 **Zhenzhong L. 1984.** THE Origin And Morphological Characteristics Of The Wuyi
391 Mountain, Fujian Province. *Journal of Nanjing University(Natural Sciences).*
- 392 **Lin-bo S, Xiao-yan Z, Jie-xin Z, Yan W, Da-ren L, Chun-chao Z, and Xian-min Z.**
393 **2012.** Distribution pattern of the freshwater crabs among Wuyi Mountains.
394 *Journal of Nanchang University (Natural Science)* 36:556-561.
- 395 **Chunlin W. 1998.** Formation Of Luxiao Mountains And Development Of Its Danxia
396 Land Feature. *Journal of Xiangtan Normal University:*110-115.

Table 1 (on next page)

Specimens and GenBank accession numbers of genus *Bottapotamon*.

1

	Localities	Museum catalogue No.	Haplotypes	COI Accession No.	16S Accession No.	H3 Accession No.
<i>Bottapotamon fukiense</i>	Shangshan Village, Zhenghe County, Fujian	NCU MCP4156	Bfj1	MK920086	MK795653	MK952581
	Siqian Village, Shouning County, Fujian	NCU MCP4090	Bfj2	MK920097	MK795654	MK952582
	Xiapu Village, Ningde County, Fujian	NCU MCP4089	Bfj3	MK920088	MK795655	MK952583
		NCU MCP4089	Bfj4	MK920089	MK795656	MK952584
<i>Bottapotamon youxiense</i>	Xiwei Village, Youxi County, Fujian	NCU MCP4092	Byx1	MK920099	MK795666	MK952594
	Xiwei Village, Youxi County, Fujian	NCU MCP4158	Byx2	MK920100	MK795667	MK952595
	Xiwei Village, Youxi County, Fujian	NCU MCP4159	Byx3	MK920101	MK795668	MK952596
<i>Bottapotamon engelhardti</i>	Chimu Village, Youxi County, Fujian	NCU MCP4091	Bes1	MK920081	MK795648	MK952576
	Tangsan Village, Youxi County, Fujian	NCU MCP4157	Bes2	MK920082	MK795649	MK952577
		NCU MCP4157	Bes3	MK920083	MK795650	MK952578
		NCU MCP4157	Bes4	MK920084	MK795651	MK952579
NCU MCP4157		Bes5	MK920085	MK795652	MK952580	
<i>Bottapotamon nanan</i>	Siqian Village, Shouning County, Fujian	NCU MCP4090	Bna1	MK920093	MK795660	MK952588
		NCU MCP4090	Bna2	MK920094	MK795661	MK952589
	Yongjia County, Zhejiang	NCU MCP4038	Bna3	MK920095	MK795662	MK952590
		NCU MCP4038	Bna4	MK920096	MK795663	MK952591
	Yongjia County, Zhejiang	NCU MCP4039	Bna5	MK920097	MK795664	MK952592
		NCU MCP4039	Bna6	MK920098	MK795666	MK952593
	Bindong Village, Lingchuan	NCU MCP3281	Blc1	MK920090	MK795657	MK952585

<i>Bottapotamon lingchuanense</i>	County, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region					
	Yuanpu Village, Gongcheng County, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region	NCU MCP4076	Blc2	MK920091	MK795658	MK952586
		NCU MCP4076	Blc3	MK920092	MK795659	MK952587
<i>Bottapotamon chenzouense</i> sp.n.	Zixing County, Chenzhou City, Hunan	NCU MCP643	Bcz1	MK920079	MK795646	MK952574
		NCU MCP643	Bcz2	MK920080	MK795647	MK952575
<i>Bottapotamon luxiense</i> sp.n.	Yixiantian Wugongshan Mountain, Luxi County, Pingxiang City, Jiangxi	NCU MCP4200	Blx1	MK993542	MK981408	MK993544
		NCU MCP4200	Blx2	MK993543	MK981409	MK993545
<i>Bottapotamon yonganense</i>	Sanming City, Fujian	NCUMCP4096		Lack of sequence		

Table 2 (on next page)

Primer sequences used in this study.

Gene	Primer name	Sequence (5'-3')	sequence length	Reference
COI	COI-1490	GGTCAACAAATCATAAAGATATTGG	750bp	Folmer et al., 1994
	COI-2198	TAAACTTCAGGGTGACCA AAAAATCA		
16S	16S-1471	CCTGTTTANCAAAAACAT	550bp	Crandall and Fitzpatrick, 1996.
rRNA	16S-1472	AGATAGAAACCAACCTGG		
H3	H3-F	ATGGCTCGTACCAAGCAGACVGC	374bp	Colgan et al.,1998
	H3-R	ATATCCTTRGGCATRATRGTGAC		

1

2

Table 3 (on next page)

Differences between *Bottapotamon* species.

	<i>B.fukiense</i>	<i>B.yonganense</i>	<i>B.engelhardti</i>	<i>B.nanan</i>	<i>B.youxiense</i>	<i>B.lingchuanense</i>	<i>B.chenzhouense</i> sp.n	<i>B.luxiense</i> sp.n.
Frontal and gastric region	Protuberant	Protuberant	Protuberant	Protuberant	Protuberant	Protuberant slightly	Protuberant	Protuberant
Cardiac, intestinal and branchial region	Shallow	Protuberant	Protuberant	Shallow	Shallow	Protuberant slightly	Protuberant	Protuberant
Cervical groove	Low	Distinct	Low	Distinct.	Low	Low	Low	Distinct.
H shaped groove	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct.	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct	Distinct.
postfrontal	Prominent	Prominent	Blunt	Prominent	Prominent	Prominent	Blunt	Blunt
Postorbital crest	Prominent	Blunt	Blunt	Blunt	Prominent	Blunt	Blunt	Prominent
Exorbital angle	Blunt	Triangle	Blunt	Blunt	Triangle	Triangle	Triangle	Triangle
Epibranchial tooth	Granular	Not prominent	Not prominent	Low but distinct	Not prominent	Not prominent	Blunt	Not prominent
Anter olateral regions	Ridgy	Ridgy	Ridgy	Ridgy	Ridgy	Long granular	Blunt	Blunt
Third maxilliped ischium	Length to width ratio 1.5	Length to width ratio 1.4	Length to width ratio 1.5	Length to width ratio 1.3	Length to width ratio 1.2	Length to width ratio 1.5	Length to width ratio 1.0	Length to width ratio 1.1
Third maxilliped merus	Length to width ratio 1.3	Length to width ratio 1.1	Length to width ratio 1.2	Length to width ratio 1.4	Length to width ratio 1.1	Length to width ratio 1.2	Length to width ratio 1.3	Length to width ratio 1.4
Male abdomen	Triangular	Narrow and long triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Triangular	Narrow and long Triangular	Triangular
Male pleonal somite 6	Width to length ratio 2.1	Width to length ratio 1.9	Width to length ratio 2.2	Width to length ratio 2.0	Width to length ratio 1.8	Width to length ratio 2.1	Width to length ratio 2.5	Width to length ratio 2.5
Male telson	Width to length ratio 1.5	Width to length ratio 1.3	Tongue shape, width to length ratio 1.3	Triangular, width to length ratio 1.4	Tongue shape, width to length ratio 1.5	Width to length ratio 1.2	Width to length ratio 1.3	Width to length ratio 1.3
Immovable finger	Length to width ratio 1.3	Length to width ratio 1.7	Length to width ratio 1.4	Length to width ratio 1.7	Length to width ratio 1.7	Length to width ratio 1.4	Length to width ratio 1.4	Length to width ratio 1.8
Immovable finger and movable finger	Length ratio 1.4	Length ratio 1.3	Length ratio 1.2	Length ratio 1.7	Length ratio 1.6	Length ratio 1.2	Length ratio 1.7	Length ratio 1.6
G1	Subdistal segment contract, distal segment long and narrow	Distal Segment tabular arcuate	Distal segment long and narrow	With distinct longitudinal groove	Subdistal segment narrow, Distal segment spacious and strong	Distal segment Contract, terminal Segment tortuous slightly	the white fold with a clear corner covering the surface of the segment next to last and the interval with the last segment is not continuous.	G1 is slender, and the terminal segment is beyond the tubercle of the abdominal lock and beyond the fourth and fifth breastplate lines; the width of G1 is same from basis to end.

Figure 1

B.Chenzhouense sp.n. Holotype male (20.7 × 15.7 mm) (NCU MCP 643-1) .

(A) Overall habitus; (B) frontal view of cephalothorax. Photograph courtesy of Jie-Xin Zou, November 2018.

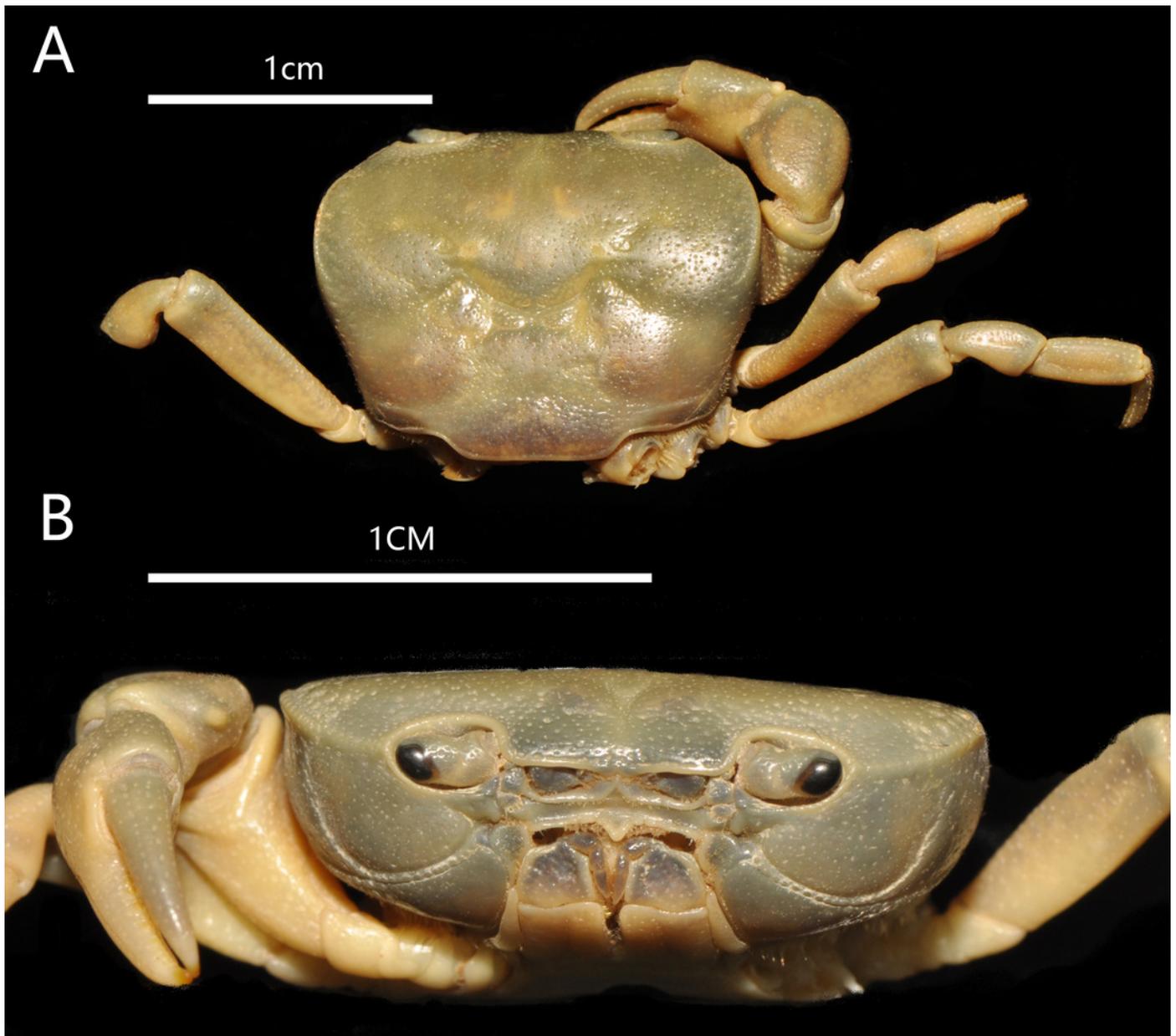


Figure 2

B.Chenzhouense sp.n. Holotype male (20.7 × 15.7 mm) (NCU MCP 643-1).

(A) left third maxilliped; (B) outer view of chelipeds; (C) right fourth ambulatory leg.

Photograph courtesy of Jie-Xin Zou, November 2018.

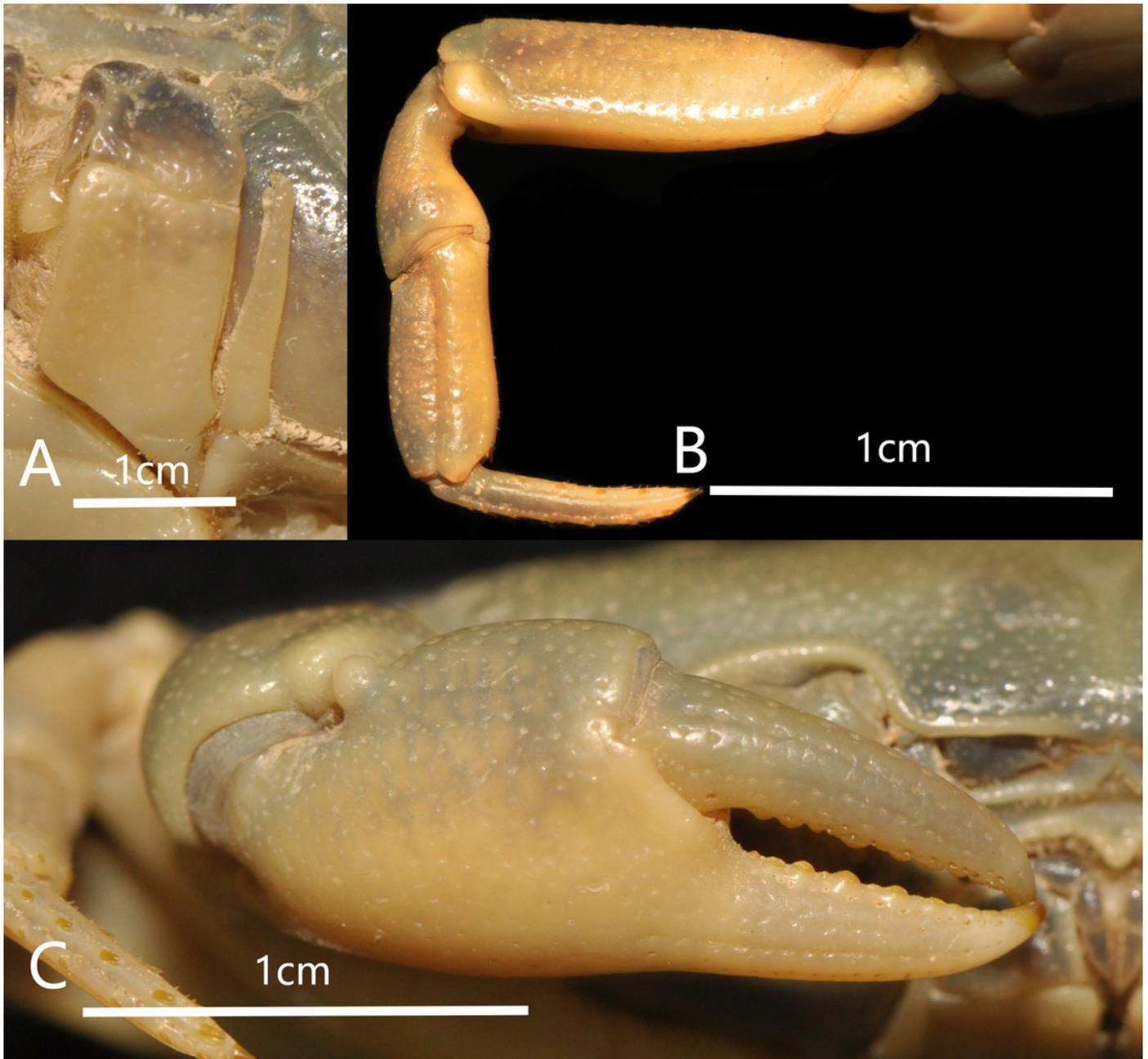


Figure 3

B.Chen Zhouense sp.n. Holotype male (20.7 × 15.7 mm) (NCU MCP 643-1).

(A) male sternum. Interruption between sutures of sternites 4/5, 5/6, 6/7; tubercle of abdominal lock. (B) median longitudinal suture of sternites 7, 8. Photograph courtesy of Jie-Xin Zou, November 2018.

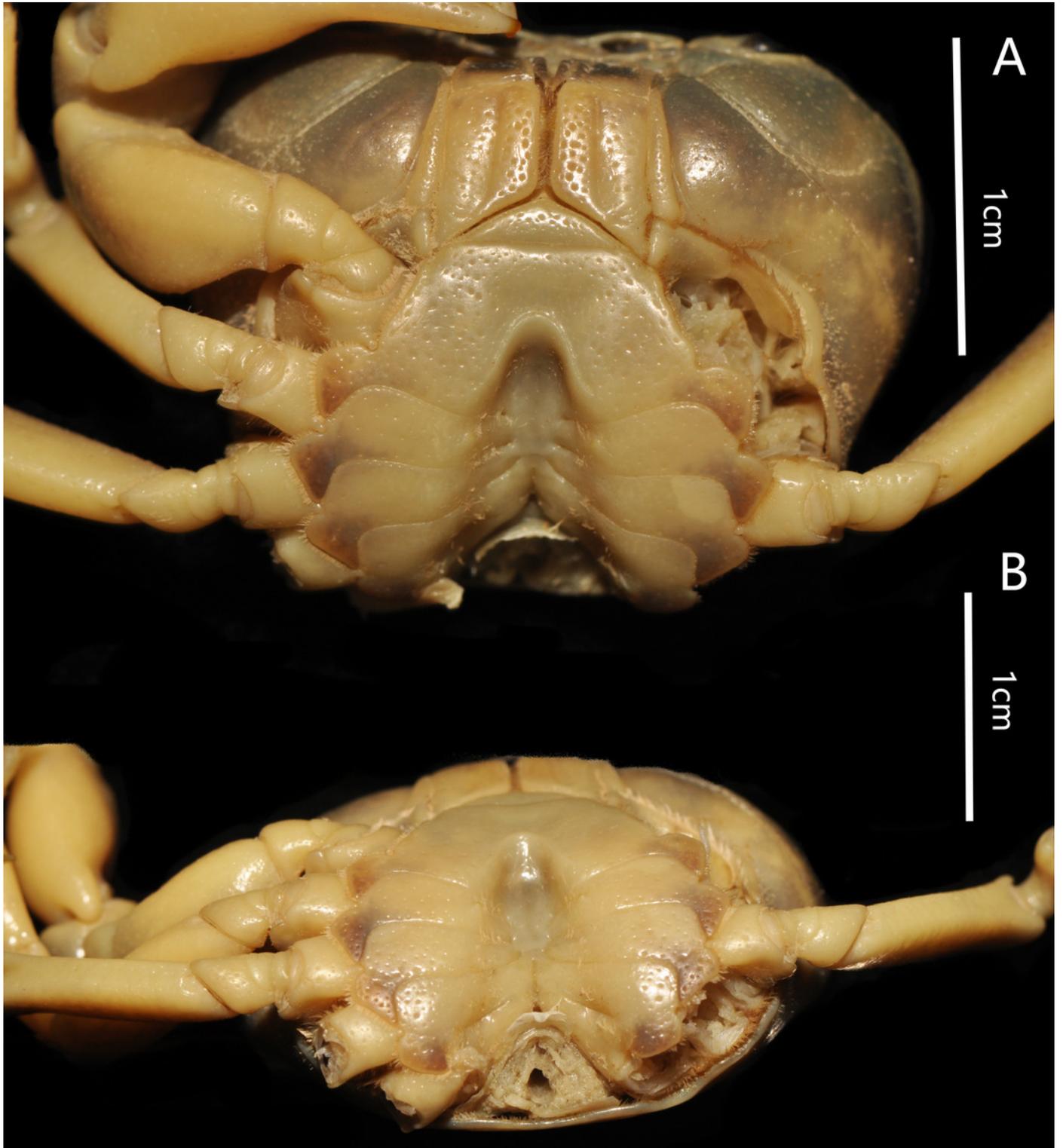


Figure 4

B.Chenzhouense sp.n. Holotype male (20.7 × 15.7 mm) (NCU MCP 643-1).

Natural position of male G1 and median longitudinal suture of sternites 7,8. Photograph courtesy of Jie-Xin Zou, November 2018.

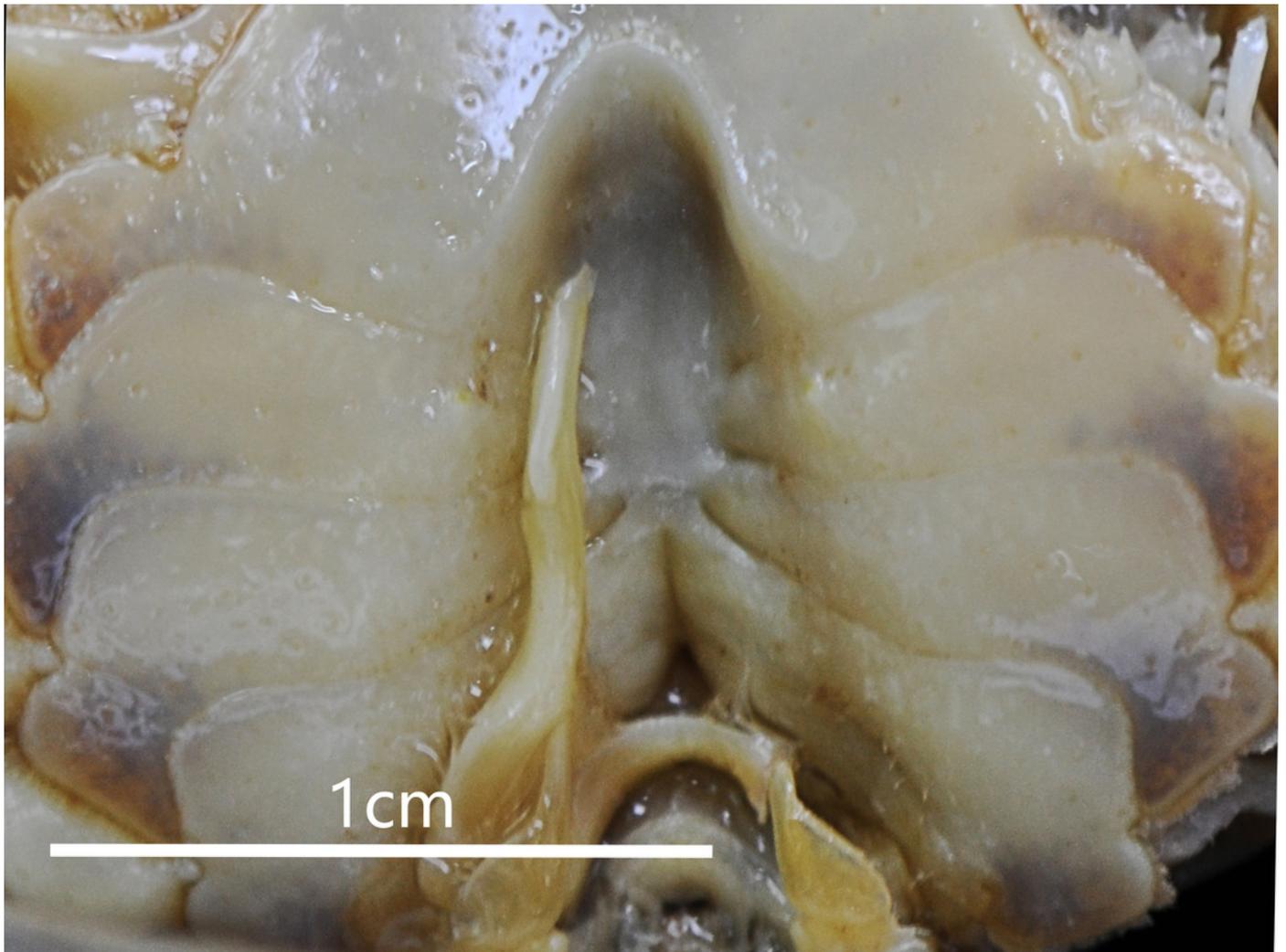


Figure 5

B.Chenzhouense sp.n. Holotype male (20.7 × 15.7 mm) (NCU MCP 643-1).

(A) ventral view of left G1; (B) ventral view of distal part of left G1; (C) dorsal view of distal part of left G1; (D) left G2. Scales: A, D = 1.0mm ; B, C = 0.5mm.

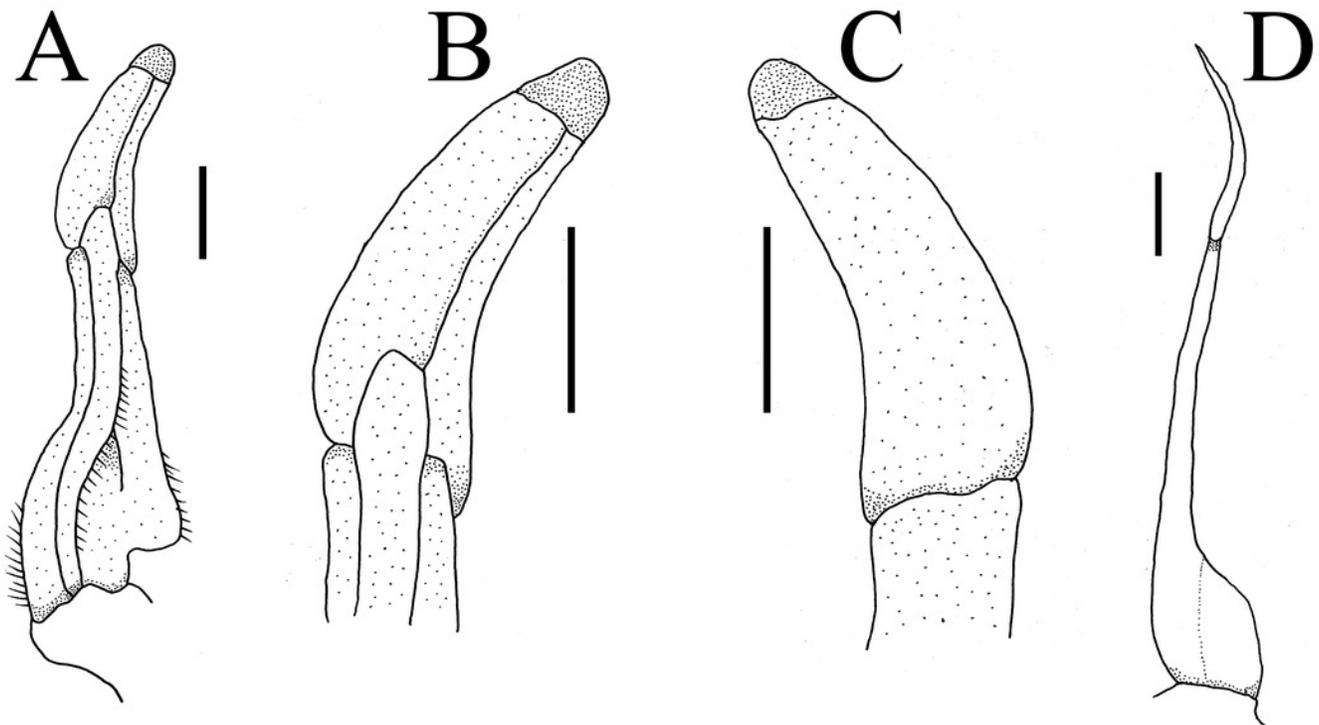


Figure 6

B.luxiense sp.n. Holotype male (18.72x15.69 mm) (NCU MCP 4200-Blx1).

Overall habitus. Photograph courtesy of Jie-Xin Zou, May 2019.



Figure 7

B.luxiense sp.n. Holotype male (18.72x15.69 mm) (NCU MCP 4200-Blx1).

(A) left third maxilliped; (B) outer view of chelipeds; (C) right fourth ambulatory leg.

Photograph courtesy of Jie-Xin Zou, May 2019.

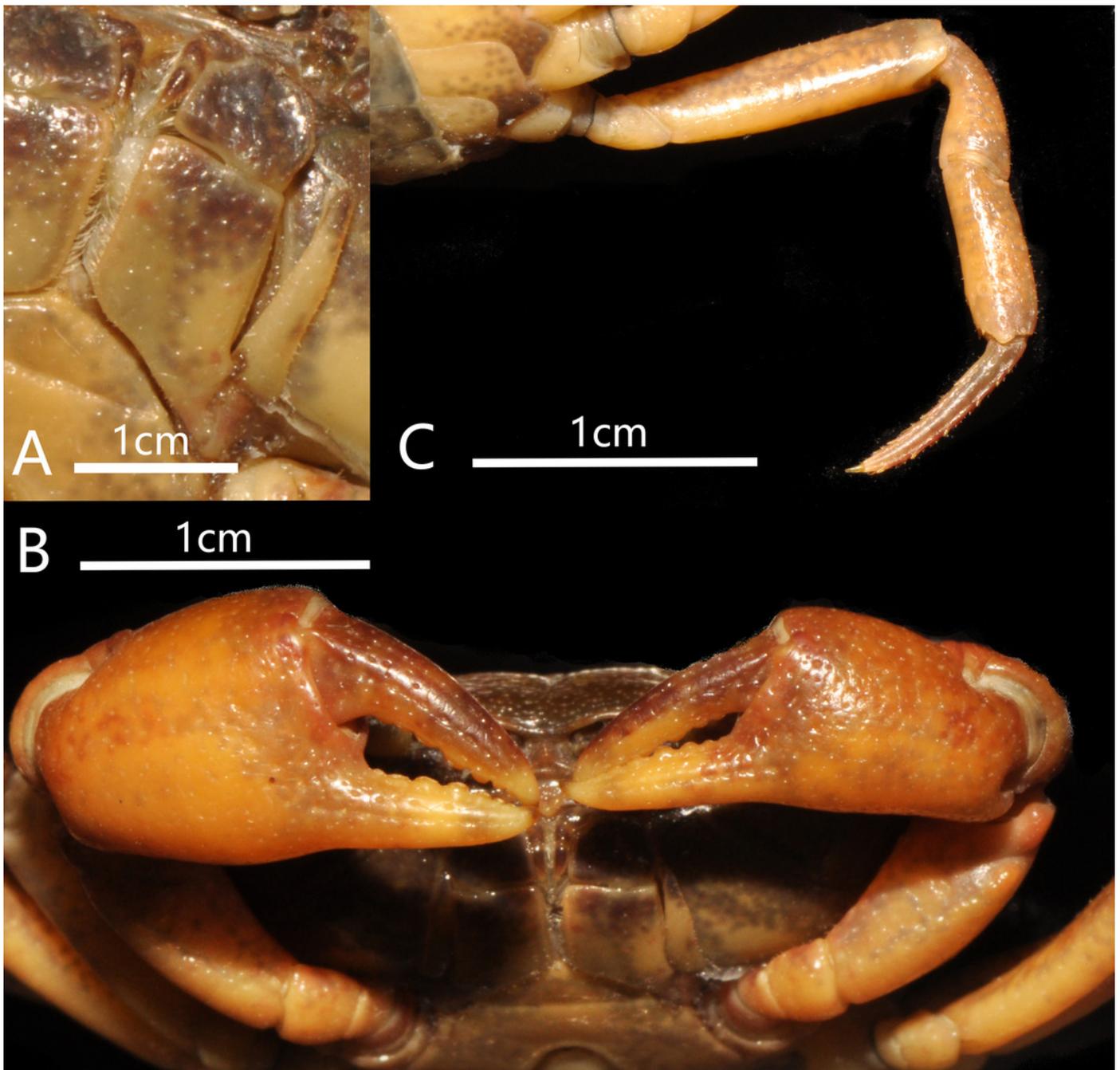


Figure 8

B. luxiense sp.n. Holotype male (18.72x15.69 mm) (NCU MCP 4200-Blx1).

Male sternum. Photograph courtesy of Jie-Xin Zou, May 2019.

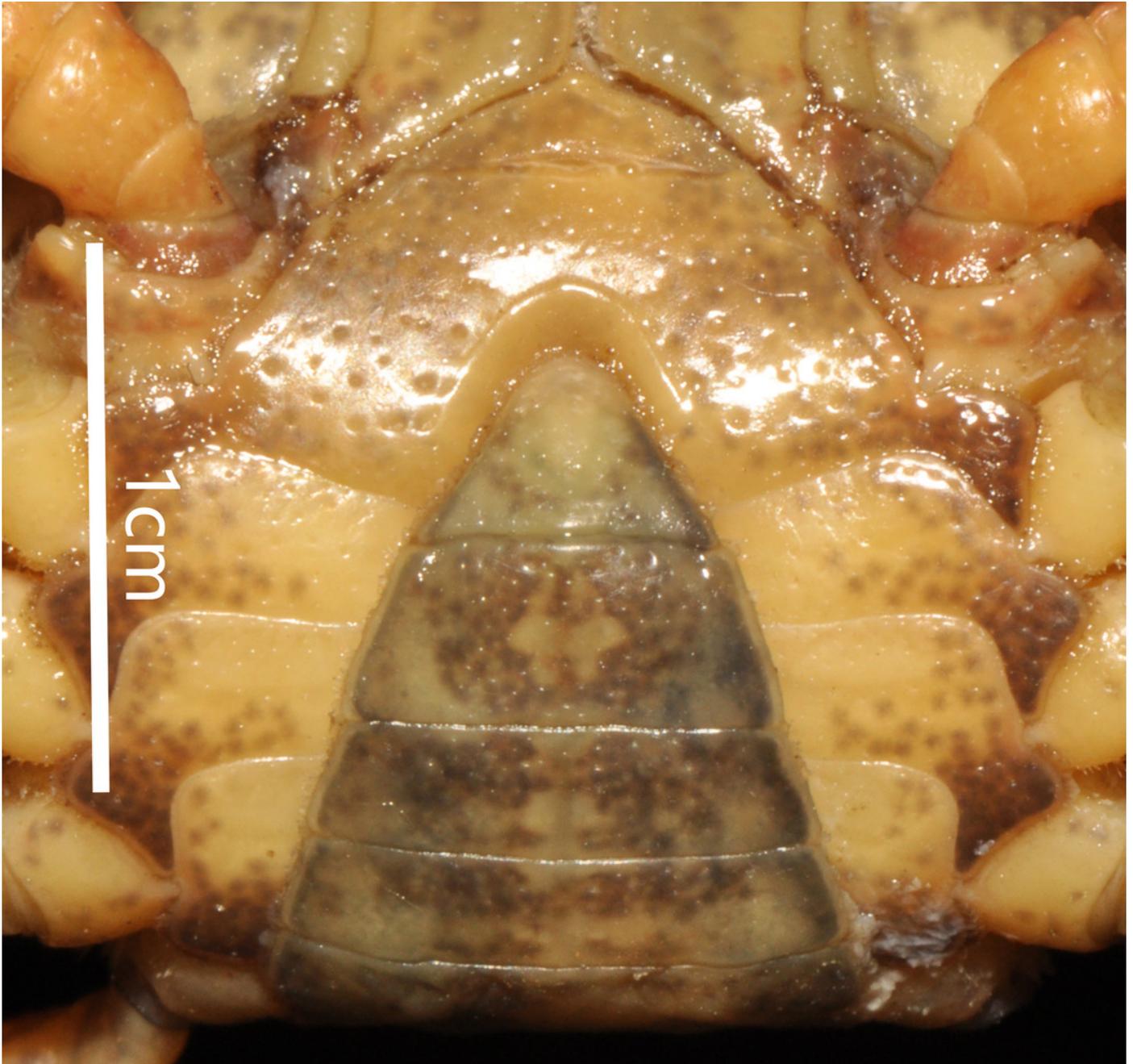


Figure 9

B.luxiense sp.n. Holotype male (18.72x15.69 mm) (NCU MCP 4200-Blx1).

Natural position of male G1 and median longitudinal suture of sternites 7,8. Photograph courtesy of Jie-Xin Zou, May 2019.



Figure 10

B.luxiense sp.n. Holotype male (18.72x15.69 mm) (NCU MCP 4200-Blx1).

(A) ventral view of left G1; (B) ventral view of distal part of left G1; (C) dorsal view of distal part of left G1; (D) left G2. Scales: A, D = 1.0mm ; B, C = 0.5mm.

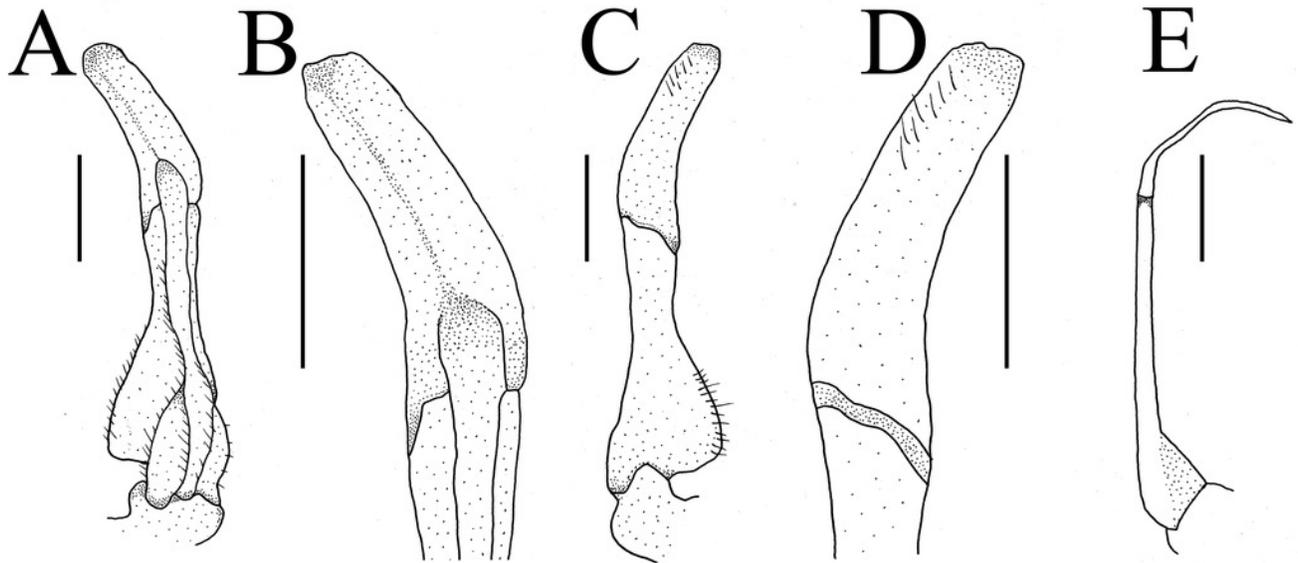


Figure 11

A limestone hill stream at the type locality.

Photo taken by Jie-Xin Zou, May 2019



Figure 12

Typical terrain of Luoxiao mountains.

Photo taken by Jie-Xin Zou, May 2019.



Figure 13

Phylogenetic tree of *Bottapotamon*

A maximum likelihood (ML) tree of the genus *Bottapotamon* from the Chinese coastal provinces, and outgroups, based on the combined mtDNA COI, 16S rRNA and nuclear histone H3 genes (length=1404bp). Support values ($P \geq 50\%$) for ML, BI is represented at the nodes. Locality names in Table 1 are parenthesized behind specimens.

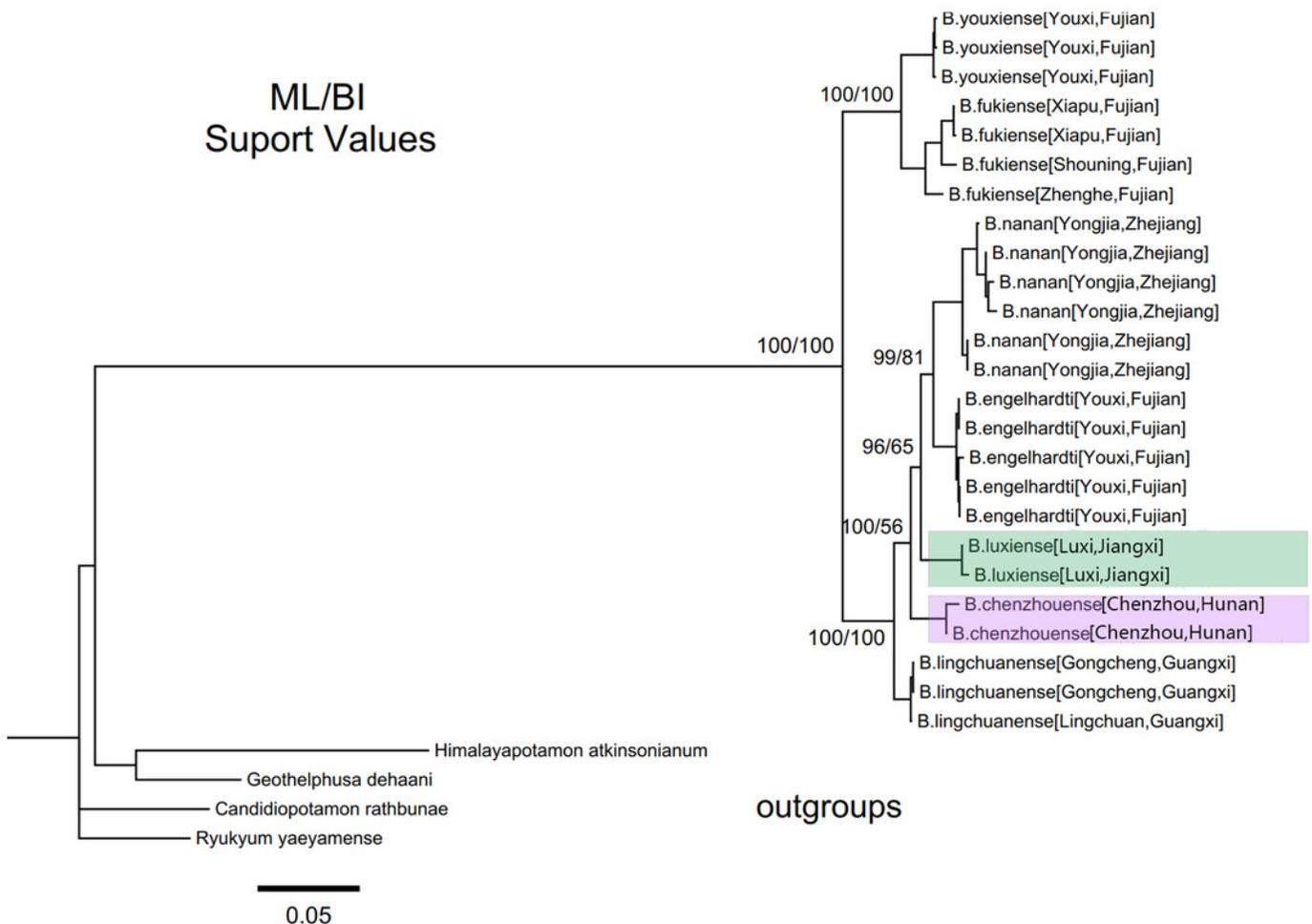


Figure 14

A chronogram of the genus *Bottapotamon* from the Chinese coastal provinces.

Based on the mtDNA COI, 16S rRNA genes. Calibration point 1 was set for the divergence time between subfamily Potamiscinae and subfamily Potaminae; Calibration point 2 was set for the glacial periods in Taiwan Strait; Formation time of Wuyi mountains was set for Calibration point 2. The divergence times estimated are shown in the main nodes. Locality names in Table 1 are parenthesized behind specimen.

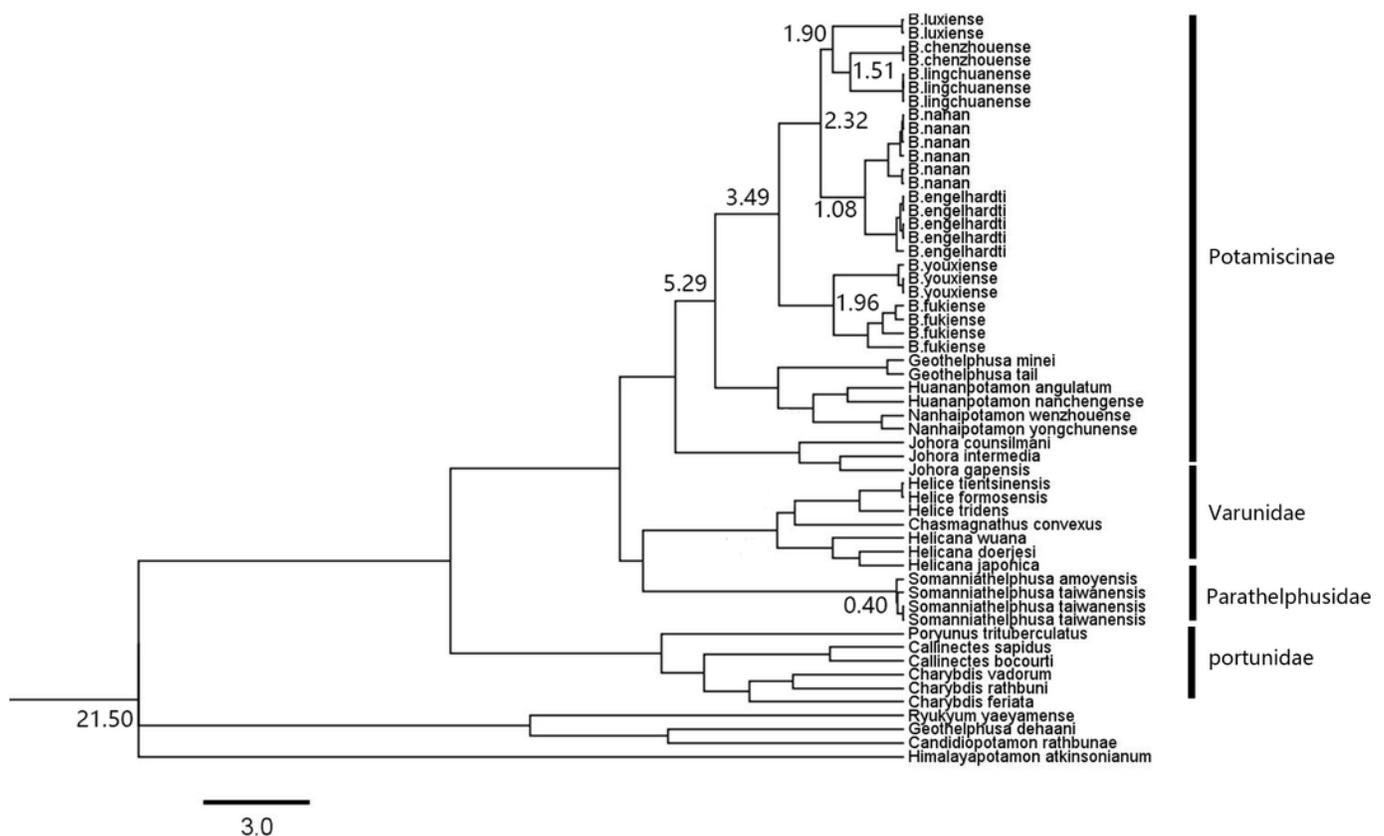


Figure 15

Collection sites for the genus *Bottapotamon* from the Chinese coastal provinces used in this study.

Mark the the main mountain. Natural geographical area of freshwater crab: II A (Central China region - Western mountain plateau subregion), II B (Central China region - Eastern hilly plains subregion), III B (South China region - Guangxi&Guangdong subregion). III C (South China region - Fujian&Guangdong&Jiangxi subregion), III E (South China region - TAIWAN subregion). The regional map comes from

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Atlas_of_the_world and <http://landsatlook.usgs.gov/the> map was edited with Adobe Photoshop CS6.

