

AMPLIACIONES DE AMBITO

**New records of two species of brachyuran crabs (Decapoda: Brachyura)
from tropical coastal lagoons, Pacific coast of Mexico**

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Although the decapod crustacean fauna inhabiting coastal lagoon systems along the tropical Pacific coast of Mexico is relatively well-known as a whole (Findley 1976, Hendrickx 1984, Hendrickx *et al.* 1986, Hernandez-Real & Juarez-Arroyo 1988), many of these coastal lagoons have not been explored in detail. The geographic distribution of the most conspicuous species (in terms of size or commercial importance) is, in general, well-known; however, the northernmost distribution limits of small or difficult to detect tropical species remain undefined.

During exploratory sampling in the Altata-Ensenada del Pabellon system (24°30' N - 107°50' W), one of the largest coastal lagoons of western Mexico, located approximately 50 km southwest of Culiacan, Sinaloa, several samples of species of decapod crustaceans were obtained. Two of these were immediately recognized as new distribution records for the area. Carapace width (c.w.) of collected specimens is provided.

Family Grapsidae

Sesarma magdalenense Rathbun, 1918

Previous records: Estero El Verde, Sinaloa, in the southeastern Gulf of California, Mexico and from Magdalena Bay, Baja California Sur, to Agua Brava, Nayarit (Hendrickx 1984; Hendrickx *et al.* 1986).

New records: 3 males (c.w. 11.2 to 13.4 mm) and 2 females (c.w. 8.9 and 11.3 mm), west side of the Bay of Altata, Sinaloa, 24/X/90, collected by hand under a dead log on

sandy substrate, in the shade of mangrove trees but above the water line.

Remarks: *Sesarma magdalenense* appears to be common in most coastal lagoons occurring from the southern end of the Gulf of California and up to the Bay of Altata, including the systems of Agua Brava, Nayarit, and the estero de Urias, Sinaloa (Hendrickx *et al.* 1986). The maximum size known for this species is 14.2 mm for males and 21.6 mm for females (c.w.) (unpublished data).

Family Ocypodidae

Uca (Minuca) zaca Crane, 1941

Previous records: Estero El Verde, Sinaloa, in the southeastern Gulf of California, Mexico, south to Golfito, Costa Rica (Hendrickx, 1984).

New records: 3 males (c.w. 5.8 to 12.9 mm), 1 female (c.w. 7.3 mm) and 1 juvenile (c.w. less than 4.0 mm), west side of the Bay of Altata, 24/X/90, collected by hand on sandy substrate densely covered by short *Salicornia*, about 20 m from water line.

Remarks: This species of fiddler is generally found close to channels or mangroves, on muddy substrate (Hendrickx 1984). Records from Altata indicate that it also occurs farther away from the water line, in much drier substrates.

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