

Crustaceans of Japan: Part 1

The Japanese Archipelago extends north to south for more than 3000 km, covering the cold to subtropical zones. It provides extremely diverse habitats, which enable to harbor very rich marine fauna. The crustacean fauna of Japan is relatively well documented compared with other regions in East Asia. About 5420 described species are known from our country at the time of 2002, according to the database of the Japanese Biota Species Number Survey, compiled by the senior editor with generous help from many colleagues (<http://research2.kahaku.go.jp/ujssb/search?KINGDOM=Animalia&PHYLUM=Arthropoda&SUBPHYLUM=Mandibulata>). Nevertheless, the presence of about 1850 undescribed or unrecorded species in Japan was also estimated for Maxillopoda (57 species) and Malacostraca (about 1800 species). Particularly, publication of new taxa is in urgent need for precise inventory of biodiversity, although discovery of new crustacean species is continuous.

In this volume, 16 papers report 27 new eumalacostracan species from Japanese waters, belonging to four orders, 15 families and 24 genera, including two new asellote genera. In addition, two species are recorded for the first time from the area. Of the 27 new species, 22 species are described from the Nansei Islands or Ogasawara Islands, suggesting that many undescribed species still await discovery in these subtropical islands. The papers of this volume were submitted by Japanese carcinologists, but also include those by colleagues from Singapore.

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