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Source: Zoological Science, 12(5) : 649-654

Published By: Zoological Society of Japan

URL: <https://doi.org/10.2108/zsj.12.649>

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Zoeas of *Calappa* Species with Special Reference to Larval Characters of the Family Calappidae (Crustacea, Brachyura)

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ABSTRACT—The first stage zoeas of two box crabs, *Calappa japonica* Ortmann, 1892 and *Calappa gallus* (Herbst, 1803), are described and illustrated from laboratory-hatched material. The main morphological characters are compared with those of previously described species within the Calappidae. The first stage zoeas of all *Calappa* species so far described are very similar except in overall size and the number of spinules on rostral spine. However, there are conspicuous differences among the early zoeal stages of the calappid genera.

INTRODUCTION

Box crabs of the genus *Calappa* of the family Calappidae are remarkable because of their unique cheliped shape and their predatory behavior against gastropods and hermit crabs [18, 20, 22]. It is of interest as to at which point in their life history the calappid crabs attain their specialized form and behavior. Knowledge of larvae of the box crab larvae is, however, fragmentary [15]. The first larval description in the family was made by Smith [19] for *Calappa flammea* (Herbst), under the name of *C. marmorata*, but no figures were given. Gurney [7] provided a complete morphological description for *C. lophos* (Herbst) larva, while Lebour [12] described the planktonic megalopa stages of *C. flammea* and *Cycloes bairdii* Stimpson from Bermuda. Several authors have studied calappid zoeas: *C. lophos* [1, 14, 22], *C. philargius* (L.) [21], *Hepatus chilensis* (H. Milne Edwards) [3], *Matuta lunaris* (Forskål) [8, 14, 21], and *Orithya sinica* (L.) [9]. Recently, Seridji [17] gave a description of planktonic zoeas which were assigned to this family from the western Mediterranean. The complete larval development within the Calappidae is known only for *Hepatus epheliticus* (L.) of the subfamily Matutinae [2].

The larval morphology has been documented in 3 species found in Japanese water [1, 21]. Nevertheless, information on calappid larvae is still poor since this family includes 22 species [13], and it is difficult to identify calappid larvae in plankton samples.

In this paper we describe the first stage zoeas of *C. japonica* Ortmann and *C. gallus* (Herbst), compare larval characters within the Calappidae, and provide a tentative key to zoeas of the calappid subfamilies.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Ovigerous females of *C. japonica* and *C. gallus* were obtained from Shima, Mie Prefecture in April and October 1993, respectively. Collected females were kept in aquaria at 17–21°C. A female of *C. japonica* laid eggs on September 1 and released the first stage zoeas on September 25. In *C. gallus*, the crab also carried eggs on October 25 and shed the first stage zoeas on November 23. Newly hatched zoeas were fixed in 5% formalin and preserved in 70% ethanol for morphological observation. The larvae were fed with *Brachionus plicatilis* Müller, but all of them died. Total carapace length (TL) was measured between the tips of rostral and dorsal spines. Total width of zoea (TW) was indicated as the distance between the tips of lateral spines. Most of the terminology for setae follows that of Ingle [10]. Setation counts are from proximal to distal. Techniques for dissection, observation and drawings were almost the same as previous work [11]. Differences of size and spinule number of the zoeas were analyzed statistically using Duncan's multiple range test. The specimens used in this study have been deposited at the Zoological Institute, Faculty of Science, Hokkaido University under accession numbers ZIHU 1000 and 1001.

DESCRIPTION OF FIRST ZOEAS

Calappa japonica Ortmann, 1892

Dimensions: TL and TW range 1.48–1.78 mm (mean 1.68 mm) and 1.02–1.18 mm (mean 1.11 mm), respectively.

Carapace (Fig. 1A): A ventrally-curved rostral spine, dorsal spine, and a pair of short lateral spines. Rostral spine with 4–6 pointed spinules along its anterior half.

Antennule (Fig. 2A): Conical with 3 aesthetascs and a short simple seta.

Antenna (Fig. 2B): Biramous, spinous process. Exopod pointed.

Mandible (Fig. 2C): Stout incisor process, molar processes developed.

Maxillule (Fig. 2D): Coxal endite with 6 serrated setae and a simple seta. Basal endite with 2 cuspidate setae, 2

Accepted July 13, 1995

Received April 24, 1995

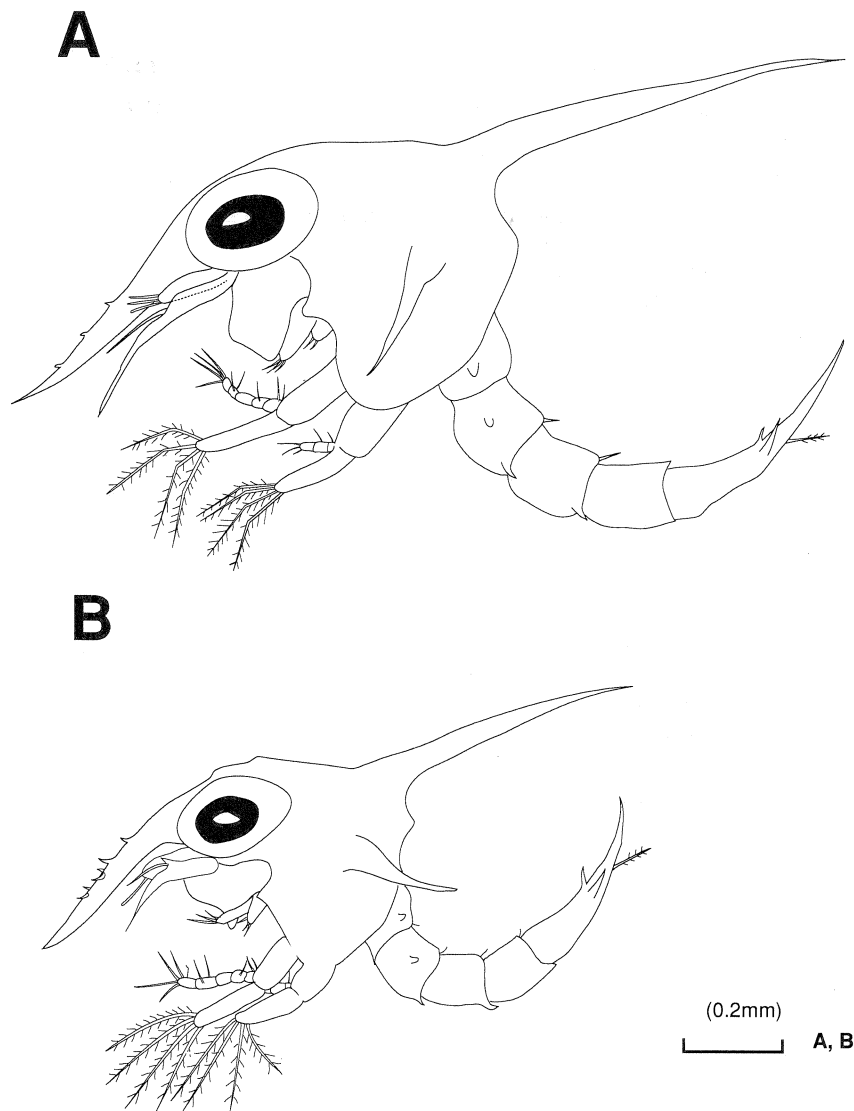


FIG. 1. Whole animals of two *Calappa* zoeas in lateral view. A: *Calappa japonica* Ortmann, 1892, B: *Calappa gallus* (Herbst, 1803). Scale bar=0.2 mm.

plumodenticulate setae, and a short serrated seta. Two-segmented endopod, with 2+4 setae on the distal segment.

Maxilla (Fig. 2E): Coxal and basial endites bilobed, with 5+3 and 4+4 plumodenticulate setae, respectively. Unsegmented endopod with 2+5 setae. Scaphognathite with 4 marginal setulate plumose setae and a long plumose projection.

Maxilliped 1 (Fig. 2F): Coxa with a short seta. Basis with 2+2+2+2 simple setae. Endopod five-segmented, with 2,1,0,2,4+I setae (Roman numeral indicates a dorsal seta). Exopod unsegmented, with 4 long plumose natatory setae distally.

Maxilliped 2 (Fig. 2G): No coxal seta. Basis with 1+1+1+1 setae. Three-segmented endopod with 1,1,3 setae. Exopod as in maxilliped 1.

Maxilliped 3 and pereopods: Rudimentary bud.

Abdomen: Five somites plus a forked telson. Abdominal somites 2–5 each with a pair of dorsoposterior setules, and somites 2 and 3 with lateral knobs. No pleopods on abdominal somites.

Telson (Fig. 2H): Forked, each furca with 2 outer spines and a dorsal spine, and 3 long posterior setae: posterior outer spine thin and short.

Calappa gallus (Herbst, 1803)

The morphology of this congener species is almost identical with that of *C. japonica* except for its overall size and the morphology of the rostral spine (cf. Fig. 1). TL and TW range 1.28–1.46 mm (mean 1.35 mm) and 0.84–0.98 mm (mean 0.88 mm), respectively. The number of spinules on the anterior half of the rostral spine is 5–10, and these are longer than those of *C. japonica*. In one specimen, the

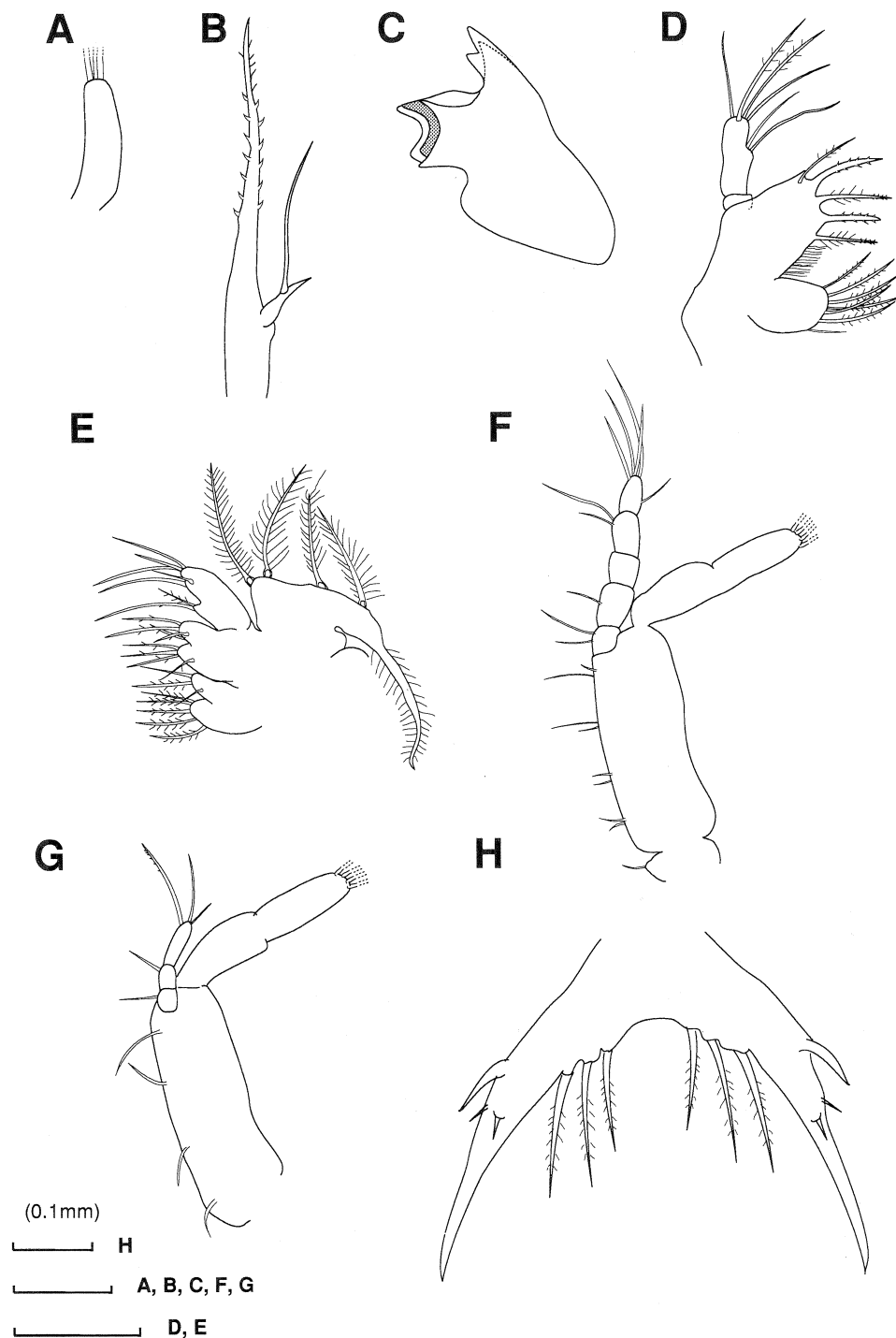


FIG. 2. Appendages and telson of zoea 1 of *Calappa japonica* Ortmann, 1892. A: antennule, B: antenna, C: mandible, D: maxillule, E: maxilla, F: maxilliped 1, G: maxilliped 2, H: telson. Whole aesthetascs or exopod setae are not shown in A, F, and G. Scale bars=0.1 mm.

basal endite of the maxillule had a short distal spinule instead of a seta (Fig. 3D'). The whole animal and the appendages are illustrated in Figure 1B and Figure 3, respectively.

DISCUSSION

Table 1 summarizes the morphology of the known zoeas

of the Calappidae. All Indo-Pacific *Calappa* species are almost identical except for the overall size of *C. japonica* and the rostral spines. The TL and the number of spinules on the rostral spine are significantly different between the two species described here ($p < 0.01$), and the larvae of both species are larger than those of *C. lophos* and *C. philargius*. *Calappa japonica* and *C. gallus* also appear to differ from *C.*

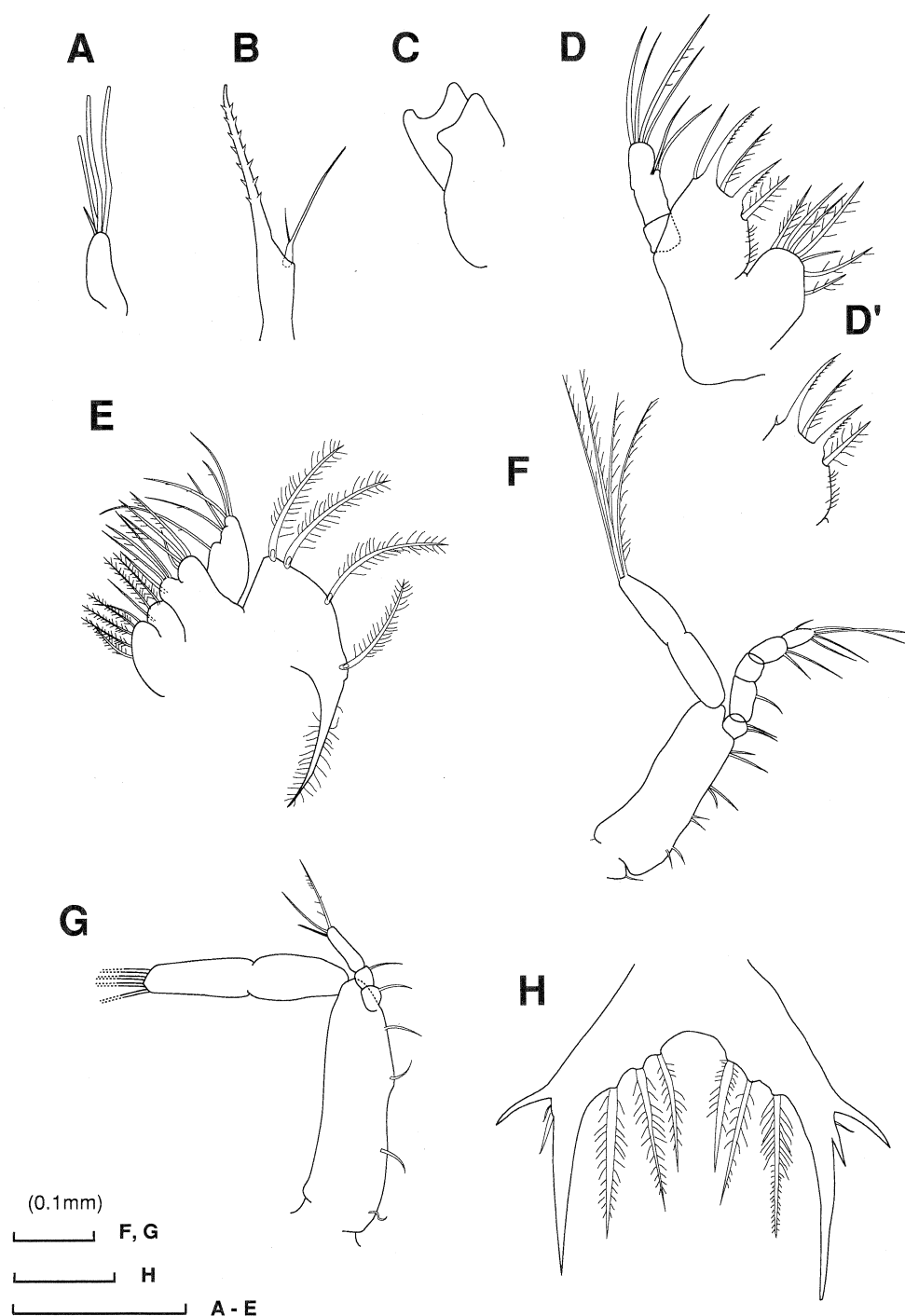


FIG. 3. Appendages and telson of zoea 1 of *Calappa gallus* (Herbst, 1803). A: antennule, B: antenna, C: mandible, D: maxillule, D': maxillular basal endite with short distal seta, E: maxilla, F: maxilliped 1, G: maxilliped 2, H: telson. Whole exopod setae are not shown in G. Scale bars=0.1 mm.

lophos and *C. philargius* in possessing a third outer spine on the telsonal furca, though it is possible that earlier authors overlooked this minute spine. The first zoea of *C. granulata* (L.), which was described from planktonic material from the western Mediterranean, is considerably different from the other known *Calappa* species both in its remarkable body size and the setation of the maxillule and maxillipeds.

On the other hand, there are remarkable differences between the zoeas of different subfamilies within the Calappidae. We herewith give a tentative key to the early zoeas of the calappid subfamilies based on laboratory-reared materials.

1. Rostral and dorsal spines of carapace remarkably longer

TABLE 1. Comparison of main larval characters of the first stage zoeas of Calappidae

Subfamily	Calappinae					Matutinae				Orithyiinae
Species	<i>C. japonica</i>	<i>C. gallus</i>	<i>C. lophos</i>	<i>C. granulata</i>	<i>C. philargius</i>	<i>M. lunaris</i>	<i>M. planipes</i>	<i>H. epheliticus</i>	<i>H. chilensis</i>	<i>O. sinica</i>
References	This study	This study	[21]	[17]	[21]	[21]	[8]	[2]	[3]	[9]
CARAPACE										
TL(mm)	1.68	1.35	0.95	2.2	0.93	0.66	0.76*	0.95*	1.5	8.50(1.28)**
rostral spine	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
dorsal spine	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
lateral spine	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
ANTENNULE										
aesthetascs	3	3	3	?	3(?)	3	3	4	(2)	3
ANTENNA										
endopod	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	+
exopod	+(r)	+(r)	+	+	+	—	—	+	+	+
MAXILLULE										
coxal endite	7	7	7	7	7	6	6	7	7	5
basal endite	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
endopod	0,2+4	0,2+4	0,2+4	1,2+4	0,2+4	1,4	1,3	1,6	1,6	1,5
MAXILLA										
coxal endite	5+3	5+3	5+3	5+4	5+3	4+3	4+2	6+4	3+4	6+3
basal endite	4+4	4+4	4+4	4+4	4+4	4+4	2+2	5+4	5+4	8+8
endopod	2+5	2+5	2+5	2+5	2+5	2+2	2+2	3+5	3+5	3+5
scaphognathite	4+a	4+a	4+a	?	4+a	4+a	4+a	4+a	4+a	8+a
MASILLIPED 1										
basis	2+2+2+2	2+2+2+2	2+2+2+2	1+1+2+3	2+2+2+2	2+2+3+3	?	2+2+3+2	2+2+3+2	2+2+3+3
endopod	2,1,0,2,4+I	2,1,0,2,4+I	2,1,0,2,4+I	3,2,1,2,4+I	2,1,0,2,4+I	3,2,1,2,4+I	3,2,1,2,4+I	3,2,1,2,4+I	3,2,1,2,4+I	2,2,1,2,4+I
MASILLIPED 2										
basis	1+1+1+1	1+1+1+1	1+1+1+1	1+1+1+1	1+1+1+1	1+1+1+1	?	1+1+1	1+1+1+1	1+1+1
endopod	1,1,3	1,1,3	1,1,3	1,1,5	1,1,3	1,1,6	1,1,5	1,1,5	1,1,4	0,1,4
ABDOMEN										
lateral expansion in somite 4	—	—	—	—	—	+	+	—	—	—
TELSON										
outer spine	2+r	2+r	2	2(r)	2	3	3	?	3	2(1+r)
inner spine	3+3	3+3	3+3	3+3	3+3	3+3	3+3	3+3	3+3	4+4

* measured from figure, ** number in parenthesis shows carapace length (CL), r: reduced or vestigial form, TL: total carapace length.
C.: *Calappa*, *H.*: *Hepatus*, *M.*: *Matuta*, *O.*: *Orithyia*

than lateral spines; maxillular scaphognathite with 8 plumose setae in the first stage.

.....Orithyiinae

— Rostral, dorsal and lateral spines of carapace approximately equal length; scaphognathite with 4 plumose setae and a plumose apical projection at the first stage.

.....2

2. Proximal segment of maxillular endopod without seta; endopod of maxilliped 1 with setation of 2,1,0,2,4+I.

.....Calappinae

— Proximal segment of maxillular endopod with a seta; endopod of maxilliped 1 with setation of 3,2,1,2,4+I.

.....3

3. Carapace without lateral spines; abdominal somite 4 with prominent lateral expansion.

.....Matutinae (*Matuta*)

— Carapace with lateral spines; abdominal somite 4 without lateral expansion.

.....Matutinae (*Hepatus*)

The matutininid genera, *Hepatus* and *Matuta*, differ from each other in the main larval characters. This supports Guinot's conclusion [4, 5] which united the genera *Hepatus*, *Aethra*, *Osachila*, *Hepatella* and *Actaeomorpha* in Hepatinae, distinguishing it from the Matutinae.

The zoeas of the subfamily Calappinae closely resemble those of the families Portunidae and Xanthidae in general morphology, having telsonal furca with outer spines, the antenna with an exopod, and lateral knobs on abdominal somites 2 and 3. The *Calappa* zoeas are distinguished from the xanthid zoeas by setal number of proximal endopod

segment in maxilliped 1:2 in the former and 3 in the latter. The portunid zoeas also differ from *Calappa* zoeas in having a single seta on the proximal segment of the maxillular endopod and only a seta on the second endopod segment of maxilliped 1. The Calappidae, Leucosiidae, Dorippidae, and Raninidae have been grouped into the higher taxon Oxystomata in the classification of adult crabs, whereas their larvae show great morphological diversity. In recent trends in adult brachyuran taxonomy, however, this taxon is no longer valid [6]. On the basis of larval morphology, a similar conclusion was proposed by Rice [16]. Seridji [17] also adopted it from the view point of larval morphology, suggesting that the Oxystomata seemed more likely to be an assemblage of diverse taxa adapted to a similar mode of life.

All zoeas of the present two species died without feeding on the marine rotifers provided. Terada [21, 22] had the same experience with *C. lophos* and *C. philargius*. It is not clear at present whether calappid zoeas feed on zooplankton or not, although Terada [*op. cit.*] suggested that they might feed on phytoplankton. Yatsuzuka and Iwasaki [23] succeeded in rearing small pinnotherid larvae with specialized morphology using a combination of *Chlorella* and bivalve trochophore larvae as diets. Further calappid larval nutritional studies are required, since no complete larval development has been described in the subfamily Calappinae.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are grateful to Dr. S.F. Mawatari of Hokkaido University for his support in this study. Special thanks are also due to Ms. M. Kurihara for her help during the preparation of the figures.

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