

CHAPTER TWELVE

CRUSTACEA

12.1. The crustacean fauna of south central Seram

The macro-crustacean fauna of the central Moluccas (particularly marine fauna) is rich, and has been well-documented since Rumphius first described the main forms. Some indication of the diversity can be obtained by referring to Holthuis van Bentham [Holthuis van Bentham, 1959]. My own field collection and list of certain identifications is slight by comparison. A checklist of crustacea recorded in the Nuauulu region of south central Seram is set out in table 21.

12.2. Nuauulu categories applied to crustacea

Barnacles (THORACIDA) are related in Nuauulu thought with molluscs rather than with crustacea, and are therefore considered elsewhere. Wood lice (**utu wesie**, **imarua**) seem not to be incorporated into a more inclusive folk category, and certainly show no affinities with other crustacea. The term **utu** suggests some perceived resemblance to body lice (chapter 10.2.8), though no informant articulated this connection. The remaining macro-crustacea are grouped into two large categories: **mitane** (prawns) and **katanopune** (most crabs), with three related forms: **pepeuro** (flat lobsters), **suto** (the rajungan crab, *Portunus pelagicus*) and **kumake** (hermit crabs).

12.2.1 mitane, okote

These terms, which are not further reducible semantically, are applied to prawns, lobsters, shrimps and crayfish, forms generically glossed in AM as 'udang'. **Mitane** is a term which may be used among members of the same sex, but is prohibited in the company of members of the opposite sex, as a short extract from my fieldnotes indicates:

12.6.70 I was taking down details on a diet sheet this evening with Napwai who chuckled when he came to the term **mitane**. The reason for this is apparently that **mitane** also refers to the female genitalia. Among members of the same sex use of this term is permitted. However, in large groups and in the company of members of the opposite sex it is prohibited. Instead, **okote** is used. **Okote** appears to be an archaic Nuauulu term for prawn.

A similar restriction is placed on the term **mara kokowe** (chapter 2.2.1).

Mitane are divided into two basic intermediate categories: **mita nuae** ('sea prawns') and **mita waene** ('freshwater prawns').

12.2.1.2 mita sanane

Sanane = 'waterfall'. This black freshwater prawn is found underneath waterfalls in small streams.

12.2.1.3 mita hanapakue

Hana- = 'hand, arm'; **paku** = 'pin, peg'. The name for this small freshwater prawn may be synonymous with 'finger'.

12.2.1.4 mita sepa

Sepa is the Muslim domain and 'desa' of the same name, prominent in Nuaulu thought, history and political relations. This small freshwater prawn has short (second) antennae.

12.2.1.5 mita uoane, mita pina

Uoane = 'rain'; **pina** = 'female'. These terms are applied to the male and female forms respectively. The (second) antennae are robust, but shorter in the female. Applied to specimens of the genus *Macrobrachium*.

12.2.1.6 mita hahu

Hahu = 'pig'. Very small prawn, with a striped black and yellow body.

12.2.1.7 mita putie

Putie = 'white'. Small freshwater prawn of the genus *Macrobrachium*, possibly *esculentum*, *javanicum* or *lar*.

12.2.1.1 mita waene

Waene = 'freshwater'. As well as designating a broad general category, **waene** is also applied terminally to a number of species of freshwater prawn, particularly those found in the larger rivers. This term is not used residually; rather it is used systematically for prawns which are fished. It is possible that terms 12.2.1.2 to 12.2.1.6 are regarded as particularly salient, in a sense other than being economically important or widely distributed. The category **mita waene** includes the giant freshwater prawn *Macrobrachium australe* and *Caridina nilotica*.

TABLE 21 Checklist of Crustacea recorded in the Nuauulu region of south central Seram, 1970-1975.

Species	Ecological zones			Nuauulu gloss
	1	2	3	
THORACIDA -barnacles	+	-	-	[chapter 11.2.32]
DECAPODIDA				
NATANTIA -shrimps and prawns ¹				mitane
Generic term for freshwater prawns e.g. <i>Caridina nilotica</i>	-	+	-	mita waene
Various freshwater prawns of the families Palaemonidae, Atyidae and Parastacidae	-	+	-	mita sanane
	-	+	-	mita hanapakue
<i>Macrobrachium australe</i>	-	+	-	mita sepa
<i>Macrobrachium australe</i>	-	+	-	mita oane
<i>Macrobrachium australe</i>	-	+	-	mita pina
<i>Macrobrachium</i> sp. poss. <i>esculentum</i> , <i>lar</i> or <i>javanicum</i>	-	+	-	mita putie
Penaeidae				
<i>Penaeus monodon</i> ,				
<i>Metapenaeus</i> sp.	+	-	-	mita hahu
	+	-	-	mita nuae
NEPHROPSIDEA -lobsters ²				
-flat lobster				
Scyllaridae				
<i>Thenus orientalis</i>	+	-	-	pepeuro
Nephropidae -spiny lobster				
<i>Panulirus versicolor</i>				
PAGURIDEA -hermit crabs ³	+	-	-	kumake
	+	-	-	kuma kinihane,
				kuma moti,
				kuma hihikuro
				etc.
BRACHYURA -true crabs ⁴				katanopune
-rajungan				
Portunidae -swimming crabs				
<i>Portunus pelagicus</i>	+	-	-	suto
<i>Portunus sanguinolentus</i>				
Ocypodidae				
<i>Ocypode cordimana</i>	+	-	-	katanopu nuae
<i>Ocypode cordimana</i>	+	-	-	katanopu kakante

Grapsidae -rock crabs				
<i>Sesarma</i> sp.	-	-	+	katanopu ai ukune
<i>Sesarmops impressum</i>	-	+	-	katanopu nahine
<i>Ptychognathus riedelii</i>	-	+	-	katanopu huse
<i>Metasesarma aubryi</i>				
	-	+	+	katanopu tanane
				katanopu kukurisa
	-	-	+	katanopu uri
				katanopu sirisa
Potamidae -freshwater crabs				
	-	+	-	katanopu tonate unte
	-	+	-	katanopu putie
	-	-	+	katanopu makapotae iane
Gecarcinidae -land crabs				
Poss. <i>Cardiosoma</i> sp.				katanopu manapesi
<i>Birgus latro</i> -the coconut crab	-	-	+	katanopu sipu-sipu katanopu nosue
ISOPODA -wood lice				
<i>Thrombium</i> sp.	-	-	+	utu wesie, imarua

Key. Zone 1 = marine; zone 2 = freshwater; zone 3 = terrestrial. Notes. 1. Suborder. 2. Superfamily. 3-4. Section.

12.2.1.8 mita nuae

Nuae = 'sea'. As well as designating a broad general category, this term is applied terminally to many species of marine prawn.

12.2.2 pepeuro

This term, which is not further reducible semantically, is applied to the flat lobster *Thenus orientalis* and possibly also *Panulirus versicolor*.

12.2.3 kumake

Not further reducible semantically. The term is applied to hermit crabs. Rumphius notes that on Ambon 'there are people who pretend that certain kinds of hermit crabs, having grown so large that they can no longer find suitable shells, stroll about nude, finally metamorphizing into coconut crabs (*Birgus latro*)' [quoted in Holthuis 1959: 189]. He thought this improbable. The same belief is held by the Nuaulu, and discussed in chapter 6.3 of *The*

Cultural Relations of Classification.

Most hermit crabs are binomialised by adding the name of the shell which they inhabit. Thus we have **kuma kinihane**, **kuma hihikuro**, **kuma mata putie**, **kuma tapako** and so on; and chapter 11 should be consulted for the identification and meaning of these terms. Obviously, such categories bear little resemblance to phylogenetic taxa as one hermit crab may occupy numerous, successively larger, shells in the course of its life. One term, however, does not follow this pattern:

12.2.3.1 kuma moti

Moti = 'rocks and pools exposed at low tide'. A small hermit crab. The term may be employed loosely to cut across categories defined in terms of shell type.

12.2.4 suto

A term applied to the large edible rajungan crab, *Portunus pelagicus* (and perhaps also *P. sanguinolentus*), sometimes described in AM as 'koli-koli', meaning also a large dugout canoe. This is the only term for a crab never prefixed by **katanopu**, and appears to be regarded as a quite distinct category.

12.2.5 katanopune

The term is applied to most true crabs.

12.2.5.1 katanopu tanane

Tanane = 'land'. The term is applied to a large red freshwater crab, about 5 cm by 10 cm. Prob. = **tanæ** (R.B.).

12.2.5.2 katanopu kukurisa

The meaning of **kukurisa** is unclear. This crab is related to **katanopu tanane** although the carapace is slightly different.

12.2.5.3 katanopu uri

Uri = 'banana'. Found on banana and plantain leaves.

12.2.5.4 katanopu sirisa

The meaning of **sirisa** is unclear. This naturally red crab turns a much brighter hue on cooking, and has a width of about 5 cm.

12.2.5.5 katanopu makapotae iane

Lit. 'unripe kenari eating crab'; **iane** ('kenari' in AM) = nut of *Canarium commune*. Red and brown freshwater species; 5 cm wide.

12.2.5.6 katanopu nahine

White freshwater crab living on river banks; certainly includes *Sesarmops impressum*.

12.2.5.7 katanopu huse

Huse may be a contraction of **husue**, **husui**, 'boil, inflamed tumour'. Freshwater; 5 cm wide; certainly includes *Ptychognathus riedelii*.

12.2.5.8 katanopu manapesi

Lit. 'bearded crab', referring to 'hair' on the legs and 'breast' of this 5 cm wide crab. Poss. *Cardiosoma* sp.

12.2.5.9 katanopu sipu-sipu

Meaning unclear. Small edible crab; found on coconut palms to landward side of village of Rohua. Possibly coconut crab, *Birgus latro*.

12.2.5.10 katanopu ai ukune

Ai ukune = 'treetop', far forest.

12.2.5.11 katanopu tonate unte

Onate = 'large', **unte** = 'skin'. Large black, edible crab; yellow and black underside. Found on bed of larger rivers, such as the Upa. Poss. *Cardiosoma* sp.

12.2.5.12 katanopu putie

Putie = 'white'. Largish white crab found in rivers. Regarded as quite inedible.

12.2.5.13 katanopu nosue

Nosue or **nosui** means 'in an unwrapped state, naked'. The term may refer to crabs which have just shed an old carapace. Applied to a soft black crab, about 5 cm in width.

12.2.5.14 katanopu nuae

Nuae = 'sea'. Residual term applied to all marine crabs not otherwise distinguished.

12.2.5.15 katanopu manante, katanopu kakante

I have heard both terms on different occasions, and they are probably free variants. Refers to a crab with large orange claws, orange carapace and pink legs. On **kakante** see chapter 11.2.28. Applied to *Ocypode cordimana*.

12.2.6 utu wesie, imarua

All woodlice, including *Thrombium*.

12.3 The social and economic uses of crustaceans

None of the prawns are used for the making of 'terasi', the fermented fish paste important in Javanese, and also in some Ambonese, cooking. The species used for this purpose include *Penaeus monodon*, *P. indicus* and *Heterpenaeus* spp. Larger edible freshwater prawns are regularly collected from along the banks of streams and larger rivers [Ellen 1993: plate 1.5]; marine crustacea, especially crabs, are rarely eaten.