

Species Identification of Thai Rice-field Crab using Stereomicroscope and Scanning Electron Microscope

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Summary

Stereomicroscope and scanning electron microscope (SEM) were used to classify Thai rice-field crabs from the lower north-eastern region of Thailand. Morphological aspects based on the dorsal surface of carapace, and the male first gonopod were investigated by stereomicroscopy. Six species (sp.I, sp.II, sp.III, sp.VII, sp.XII, and sp.XIII) belonging to the genus *Esanthelphusa* could be recorded. Although, the same crab species were found using both stereomicroscope and SEM, however, the difficulty of identification was found using stereomicroscope. SEM could be helped to clarify uncertain crab species.

Keyword: rice-field crab, *Esanthelphusa*, identification, SEM