

**A note on the names *Aberrothelphusa* Fransen, Holthuis & Adema, 1997, and *Torhusa* Ng, 1997 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Gecarcinucidae)**

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The name of the terrestrial freshwater crab genus *Aberrothelphusa* Fransen, Holthuis & Adema, 1997, from Borneo, is a nomen nudum, and is a synonym of *Torhusa* Ng, 1997 (type species: *Mainitia nieuwenhuisi* Bott, 1970).

In a recent catalogue of the type material in the Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, (formerly Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, RMNH) in Leiden, Fransen et al. (1997: 131) listed a freshwater crab taxon by the name "*Aberrothelphusa nieuwenhuisi* (Bott, 1970)". There is, however, a nomenclatural problem with the genus name "*Aberrothelphusa*".

The species was originally described as *Mainitia nieuwenhuisi* by Bott (1970: 81, pl. 36 figs. 51, 53, 61, 62) on the basis of three specimens from central Borneo. The genus *Mainitia* Bott, 1969, was established for three species, *Para-Liothelphusa mainitensis* Balss, 1937 (Philippines, type species by original designation), *Potamon (Liotelphusa) calmani* Roux, 1927 (New Guinea), and *Mainitia nieuwenhuisi* Bott, 1970. Bott (1974) later established a new genus, *Geelvinkia*, with *P. calmani* as type species. The type material of *M. nieuwenhuisi* was examined by the author in the early 1990s who felt that it should be referred to a new genus. The original intention was to name the new genus "*Aberrothelphusa*" and the specimens were labelled as such. Ng (1997: 106), who eventually published on the new genus, however, established a different genus name, *Torhusa*, for *Mainitia nieuwenhuisi* Bott, 1970 (type species by original designation). By this time, the specimens had been returned to RMNH, and the change of the labels was not effected in time. As such, "*Aberrothelphusa*" was inadvertently captured by the RMNH databases and subsequently in Fransen et al. (1997).

The first use of the name *Aberrothelphusa* was thus by Fransen, Holthuis & Adema (1997), and it is a nomen nudum as it was not explicitly stated that it was a new name, or accompanied by any definition, description or diagnosis (see ICZN, 1999: Articles 13, 16). *Aberrothelphusa* Fransen, Holthuis & Adema, 1997, is thus a synonym of *Torhusa* Ng, 1997.

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