

Conclusion

A new species of *Macrobrachium*, has been discovered by using a combination of morphological and DNA-based taxonomy. Although morphological comparisons between the novel species and its nearest congener, *M. latidactylus*, yielded limited differentiating data, COI analysis supported the novel species hypothesis due to large COI sequence divergence values. A 535bp fragment of COI has been shown to be sufficient to resolve individual species groups with high bootstrap support. This fragment could be used to assist in the identification of unknown *Macrobrachium* material particularly in instances whereby using traditional morphology-based taxonomy alone is complicated by the absence of consistent and reliable distinguishing characters. This work indicates that, for *Macrobrachium*, by using morphology alone, new species may go undescribed due to the high similarity or plasticity of key characters.

