

RECORD OF THE FROG CRAB, *RANNINOIDES PERSONATUS* HENDERSON, 1888 (CRUSTACEA: DECAPODA: RANINIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

The frog crab, Ranninoides personatus Henderson, 1888, were caught in the trawl net operated off Thoothukudi at a depth of around 305-310 m during April 2013. One female specimen of the said species was collected as an incidental by-catch in the trawl fisheries off Thoothukudi coast of Gulf of Mannar, from India, between 08° 35' 22.5" N lat. 78° 27' 40.9" E long and 08° 31' 91.2" N lat. 78° 25' 32.7" E long at a depth of 305-310 m. Ranninoides personatus Henderson, 1888, reported in India during (Alcock, 1896) from coast of Bay of Bengal and further there are no published reports on occurrence of this species along the Thoothukudi coast of Gulf of Mannar.

Key words: *Ranninoides personatus* - Raninidae – First record from Thoothukudi coast of Gulf of Mannar

INTRODUCTION

This genus was first described by Henderson (1888) on the basis of material collected by H.M.S. "Challenger" from the Kei Islands, in the Banda Sea off Indonesia. Brachyuran crabs of the families Dromiidae (Sponge crabs), Raninidae (frog crabs) and Corystidae (mole crabs) are poorly studied in Gulf of Mannar, Southeast coast of India. The present volume of 990 Species of marine brachyuran crabs belonging to 281 genera and

36 families are reported from Indian waters (Kathirvel, 2009). A total of 254 brachyuran crab (248 species), 45 species of anomuran crabs, and 20 species of stomatopods are recorded by Kathirvel (2008) from Gulf of Mannar, Southeast coast of India. Presently, a specimen of the frog crab, *Ranninoides personatus* was collected for the first time from Thoothukudi coast of Gulf of Mannar, south-east coast of India.

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Superfamily: Raninoidea De Haan, 1839

REMARKS

Family: Raninidae De Haan, 1839

Genus: Raninoides

Ranninoides personatus Henderson, 1888,

Alcock, 1896: 293;

Ihle, 1918: 317;

Bourne, 1922: 73;

Chopra, 1933: 84;

Serene and Umali, 1972: 37;

The specimens examined agree quite well with the original description and figures provided by Ng *et. al.*, (2000). Lateral border of carapace (Fig 1A) without spine near mid-length. Cheliped carpus with 1 dorsal spine (Fig 1B). *Lyreidus stenops* is easily distinguished *L. tridentatus* by the absence of a spine on the lateral margins of the carapace.

COLOUR

Over all pink-tan with some red marks of anterior half of carapace by Ng *et.al.*, (2000).

MATERIALS EXAMINED:

One female specimen (total length 69 mm; carapace length 17 mm; weighing about 10 gm) collected from Thoothukudi beach between 08° 35' 22.5" N lat. 78° 27' 40.9" E long and 08° 31' 91.2"N lat. 78° 25' 32.7"E long at a depth of 305-310 m, Thoothukudi district, TamilNadu, India (Fig.1A and 1B). The reference materials are deposited in the museum collections of the P.G. Research Department of Zoology, Jamal Mohamed College, Bharathidasan University, Trichy, Tamil Nadu, India.

DISTRIBUTION

The present species now record between 08° 35' 22.5" N lat. 78° 27' 40.9" E long and 08° 31' 91.2"N lat. 78° 25' 32.7"E long at a depth of 305-310 m, Thoothukudi coast of Gulf of Mannar. The distribution range of the species extends to Australia, Philippines, China, Japan and Taiwan by (Chang, 1963; Ng *et. al.*, 2000).

Fig. 1A. *Ranninoides personatus*– Dorsal view



Fig. 1B - *Ranninoides personatus* - Sternum



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