

A Note on Portunid Crabs of Odisha Coast, India



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Opinion

Portunid crabs belonging to the genera, viz., *Scylla*, *Portunus* and *Charybdis* species mostly represent edible shellfishes with high quality meat content. These crabs are widely valued in domestic and export markets Nandi & Pramanik [1]. They are mostly marine species; estuarine forms are also not uncommon. In the eastern maritime States of India, Odisha coast is 480 km long with a continental shelf area of 32,000 sq km. In this coastal region there are a number of estuaries (Mahanadi, Rhushikulya, Bahuda, Brahmani-Baitarini) and a large brackish water lagoon, known as Chilka Lake, an important Ramsar site in India. All these coastal habitats support important fish and shell fish resources of the country. A perusal of literature as well as investigation undertaken by the authors reveals a total of 29 portunid crabs species belonging to three subfamilies and six genera (Table 1) from this coast including five new records, (Table 2, Figure 1)

viz., *Portunus (Xiphonectes) hastatooides (Fabricius)*, *Charybdis (Charybdis) lucifera (Fabricius)*, *Charybdis (Charybdis) variegata (Fabricius)* and *Charybdis (Goniohellenus) truncata (Fabricius)*. It is mentioned that literature studies have revealed that in India, Andaman and Nicobar Islands support maximum number of 55 portunid species Dev Roy & Nandi [2], followed by 53 species from Tamil Nadu coast Dev Roy & Nandi [3] 23 species from West Bengal coast Dev Roy & Nandi [4] and 22 species from Andhra Pradesh coast Dev Roy & Nandi [5]. Among the species listed, *Scylla serrata*, *S. olivacea*, *S. tranquebarica*, *Portunus pelagicus* and *P. sanguinolentus* are highly exploited from this coast. Thus, it is necessary to encourage culture of crabs, especially mud crab fattening and farming segregating mud crab species towards cost effective production of crabs Nandi, et al. [6], Pramanik & Nandi [7] and to meet the local demand as well as export market.

Table 1: List of Portunid crabs of Odisha coast.

Family Portunidae Rafinesque, 1815	
Subfamily Caphyrinae Paul'son, 1875	
1	<i>Lissocarcinus polybioides</i> Adams and White, 1848
Subfamily Podophthalminae Dana, 1851	
2	<i>Podophthalmus vigil</i> (Fabricius, 1798)
Subfamily Portuninae Rafinesque, 1815	
3	<i>Portunus (Monomia) argentatus</i> (White, 1847)
4	<i>Portunus (Monomia) gladiator</i> Fabricius, 1798
5	<i>Portunus (Monomia) gracilimanus</i> (Stimpson, 1858)
6	<i>Portunus (Portunus) pelagicus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
7	<i>Portunus (Portunus) sanguinolentus</i> (Herbst, 1803)
8	* <i>Portunus (Xiphonectes) hastatooides</i> (Fabricius, 1798)
9	<i>Scylla serrata</i> (Forskål, 1775)
10	<i>Scylla olivacea</i> (Herbst, 1796)

11	<i>Scylla tranquebarica</i> (Fabricius, 1798)
	Subfamily Thalamininae Paul'son, 1875
12	<i>Charybdis (Charybdis) affinis</i> Dana, 1852
13	* <i>Charybdis (Charybdis) annulata</i> (Fabricius, 1798)
14	<i>Charybdis (Charybdis) amboinensis</i> Leene and Buitendijk, 1938
15	<i>Charybdis (Charybdis) callianassa</i> (Herbst, 1801)
16	<i>Charybdis (Charybdis) feriata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
17	<i>Charybdis (Charybdis) helleri</i> (A. Milne Edwards, 1861)
18	* <i>Charybdis (Charybdis) lucifera</i> (Fabricius, 1798)
19	<i>Charybdis (Charybdis) miles</i> (De Haan, 1835)
20	<i>Charybdis (Charybdis) natator</i> (Herbst, 1794)
21	<i>Charybdis (Charybdis) rivers andersoni</i> Alcock, 1899
22	<i>Charybdis (Charybdis) rostrata</i> A Milne Edwards, 1861
23	* <i>Charybdis (Charybdis) variegata</i> (Fabricius, 1798)
24	<i>Charybdis (Goniohellenus) hoplites</i> (Wood-Mason, 1877)
25	* <i>Charybdis (Goniohellenus) truncata</i> (Fabricius, 1798)
26	<i>Charybdis (Goniohellenus) vadorum</i> Alcock, 1899
27	<i>Charybdis (Gonioneptunus) bimaculata</i> (Miers, 1886)
28	<i>Thalamita crenata</i> (Latreille, 1829)
29	<i>Thalamita imparimana</i> Alcock, 1899

Table 2: New records of portunid crab species with locations and geographical coordinates.

Name of Species	Lat./Long.	Name of Place
Charybdis(Charybdis) lucifera (Fabricius,1798)	20.3166°N, 86.9640°E 19.2647°N, 84.8620°E	Dhamra Gopalpur
Charybdis(Charybdis) variegata (Fabricius,1798)	20.3166°N, 86.6114°E	Paradeep
Charybdis(Goniohellenus) truncata (Fabricius,1798)	20.3166°N, 86.9640°E 19.2647°N, 84.8620°E	Dhamra Gopalpur
Portunus(Xiphonectes) hastoides(Fabricius, 1798)	20.3166°N, 86.9640°E	Dhamra

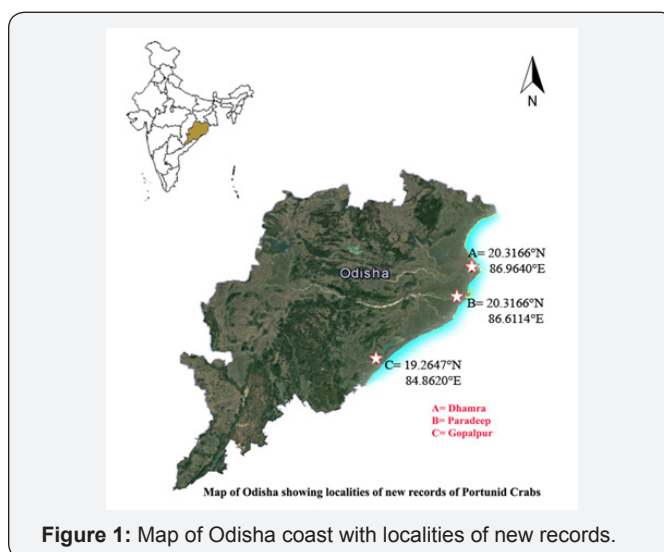


Figure 1: Map of Odisha coast with localities of new records.

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