

# First report of Spotted reef crab off Vizhinjam coast

B. Raju, P. K. Raheem, M. K. Anil and K. N. Saleela

*Vizhinjam Research Centre of ICAR- Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Vizhinjam*

*Carpilius maculatus* (Linnaeus, 1758), commonly known as 'Seven-eleven crab', 'Spotted reef crab', 'Dark finger coral crab', or 'Large spotted crab' is a member of the family Carpiliidae. One male specimen of the spotted reef crab *C. maculatus* measuring 130 mm in carapace width was caught by a bottom set gill net along with *Portunus sanguinolentus* from the rocky area in Vizhinjam coastal waters.

This species is reported as an active, nocturnal scavenger and known to be distributed in the Indo-west Pacific region, east coast of Africa, Hawaiian



Dorsal view of *C. maculatus*

Islands and Red sea. These crabs are not very common on the Indian coast except in certain areas such as Gulf of Mannar, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands . This is the first report of this species from Vizhinjam coast. The species is known to inhabit rocky beaches or coral reefs to a maximum depth of 30 m and mostly found in 3 to 6 m depth in coral reefs.

#### Classification

Phylum : Arthropoda  
Subphylum : Crustacea  
Class : Malacostraca  
Order : Decapoda

Infraorder : Brachyura  
Family : Carpiliidae  
Genus : *Carpilius*  
Species : *Carpilius maculatus*

This crab is characterized by a beautiful creamy ground color with symmetrically disposed 11 large red spots; four in a row along posterior border, three across middle area and two behind each orbit on carapace. The carapace is smooth, convex and front with a lobate process divided into two lobules by a depression in the median. Anterolateral border entire, chelipeds very stout, unequal and smooth. It has four blunt spines between the eyes.