

Spanner crab *Ranina ranina* recorded off Puducherry coast



The Spanner crab or Red Frog crab *Ranina ranina* (Linnaeus, 1758) a true brachyuran crab is the only extant species of its genus in the Family Raninidae. The species characteristically has an elongated, anteriorly broad, reddish brown carapace covered by low rounded scale like spines. Geographically they are distributed in the Indo Pacific region in sandy substrata at depths between 10 and 70 m and are commercially exploited in Hawaii, Japan, Seychelles and parts of Australia mainly using baited traps. The present specimen occurred among the catch by bottom set gillnets operated at a depth of 25-30 m at a distance of 13 km from

the shore and landed at Nallavadu Landing Centre, Puducherry on 23.01.2021. Though the species is said to be available in sandy substrata, in the present case the gear was operated in rocky area and ten numbers each weighing around 300 g were recorded. The length of the carapace varied from 8.5 cm to 9.2 cm and length of abdomen from 5 cm to 5.6 cm. The females were berried. Since the species was seen for the first time here, the fishermen were doubtful of its edible status.

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