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First record of hairy crabs, *Portunus (Monomia) gracilimanus* along west coast of India.

During May 2003, the multiday trawlers at Mangalore Fisheries Harbour landed around 100 kg of *Portunus (Monomia) gracilimanus* from 50-60 m depth off Mangalore. These

crabs were not reported earlier from west coast of India. Some available reports show that along east coast of India, these crabs were caught sporadically from a depth of 20-

30 m. It was also reported from Malaysia, Hong Kong, New Guinea and Australia. The crabs landed at Mangalore were as big as the other edible species, *Portunus pelagicus* and *P. sanguinolentus* and were sold for domestic consumption along with them.

Entire body of the crab is covered with very short fur and the mud from the substratum is closely attached to the fur which gives a muddy colour to the crab. The short fur makes

it difficult to remove the mud covering the body. Carapace has reddish white patches of granules wherever the fur is not thick. Lateral angle of posterior border of carapace is rounded and not armed with spines. Propodus and dactylus of chelipeds are much slender than merus. The dactylus is distinctly out-curved. The anterior part of the ventral surface of the crab is reddish in colour and well granulated. The ventral side of the chelate legs are also distinctly granulated.

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