

# Record of rare lithodid crab *Paralomis investigatoris* off Chennai coast

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Deepsea crustacean sample collected from the Kasimedu Fisheries Harbour on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2011 consisted of penaeids (*Aristeus alcocki* and *Solenocera hextii*), pandalid (*Heterocarpus gibbosus*), galatheid (*Munida scobina*), palinurid (*Puerulus sewelli*), nephropid (*Nephropsis carpenteri*) and a single specimen of a lithodid crab. The lithodid crab, which is commonly known as king crab, stone crab or box crab, was identified as *Paralomis investigatoris*. Alcock & Anderson (1899), described two species of *Paralomis*, namely, *P. investigatoris* and *P. indica* from specimens collected off Thiruvananthapuram coast at a depth of 790 m. *P. investigatoris* is having small and uniform sized tubercles on carapace and abdomen, while *P. indica*

is possessing assorted sized tubercles on carapace and no tubercles on abdomen.

The present male specimen which measured 86 mm in carapace width, 65 mm in carapace length, 45 g in weight belong to the superfamily Lithodoidea and family Lithodidae. It is characterised by carapace with uniform and small tubercles (Fig. 1) and abdomen with tubercles (Fig. 2) which well agreed with the description given by Alcock & Anderson (1899) and Alcock (1901). The present record from Chennai coast is the first report outside its type locality, extending its distribution to Bay of Bengal. According to McLaughlin *et al.* (2010), there are 66 species recorded in the genus *Paralomis* from the world oceans and both *P. investigatoris* and *P. indica* are listed as valid species.



Fig. 1. *P. investigatoris* – dorsal view



Fig. 2. *P. investigatoris* – ventral view