

Annotation on adult male crab *Ranina ranina* landed at Sakthikulangara Fisheries Harbour



The adult male specimen of *Ranina ranina* (Linnaeus, 1758) landed at Sakthikulangara Fisheries Harbour, Kollam, India, representing an important observation of this species in the region. *R. ranina*, commonly known as the Frog Crab or Spanner Crab, is a species of crab found in tropical and subtropical regions of the Indian and Pacific Oceans, belonging to family Raninae. Its range extends from the eastern coast of Africa, including the Red Sea, to the western coast of Central America and the Galápagos Islands. *R. ranina* is found along the Indian coastline, from the Arabian Sea to the Bay of Bengal. It inhabits sandy or muddy substrates in shallow coastal waters, often near seagrass beds or coral reefs. Studies have documented its presence in areas such as the Lakshadweep Islands, the Gulf of Mannar, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Kerala coast. It rarely appears in the landings in most of the fish landing centres

along the Kerala coast and the present specimen measures a carapace width (CW) of 151 mm; carapace length (CL) of 142 mm and with a total weight (TW) of 800g. The sizes can be varied considerably depending on the sex, age, and habitat. Generally, adult *Ranina ranina* specimens can have CW ranging from around 8 to 15 centimetres (cm) and TW from approximately 200 to 600 g, with larger individuals potentially reaching weights of over 1 kilogram have been reported. The present specimen is intact with all appendages except for the last walking leg of the left side and the dactyls of the first walking legs of both sides. It is characterized by its distinctive bright orange-red coloration and elongated; paddle-shaped claws. This specimen is deposited in the NDR-CMFRI museum and the accession number is ED.4.6.1.1. In some regions, it is commercially harvested for its meat, particularly in Australia, where it is considered

a delicacy. In general, it is primarily valued for its culinary attributes and no special medicinal properties have been reported for the species. This species is primarily harvested from the wild, and there are no reports of successful aquaculture operations for this crab species. At present in India, there is no record of regular fishery of the species and it is landed as a by-catch. Consumer preference for the species is also not good; hence it does not appear in the list of Indian edible crabs. This annotation provides valuable data for understanding the distribution and ecology of *R. ranina* in the coastal waters and adds to the existing knowledge of the species occurrence in the area, contributing to the broader understanding of marine biodiversity and fisheries management in the region.

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