

## Report on *Charybdis (Charybdis) riversandersoni* from southwest coast of India

The Portunid crab *Charybdis (Charybdis) riversandersoni* was recorded in multiday trawl landings at Munambam during January 2025, and at Neendakara and Sakthikulangara during February-March 2025. This edible crab is not a commercially targeted species in Indian marine fisheries and is very rarely encountered in fish landing centers. It is occasionally landed as by-catch, in the trawl fisheries of India. Notably, this species was earlier recorded in the regular landings from the Cochin Fisheries Harbour in 2013, but, there have been no reports of its commercial exploitation till now.

In its external characters, the carapace is very smooth and polished, a mix of orange and light lilac gives an attractive colour to the crab. The epibranchial region is very prominently swollen bordered with small white spots in a specific



pattern. On either branchial region is with a big creamish white spot near the middle of the postero-lateral border. More than half of the distal portion of propodus

and dactylus of chelipeds are in blood-red colour with the extreme tips milk-white. Other pereiopods are light violet except the dactylia, which are pale brown.



Ventral view of the male and female *Charybdis (Charybdis) riversandersoni*.

The size of the male crabs recorded in the landings ranged from 43 to 82 mm in carapace width (CW), 29 to 59 mm in carapace length (CL) and 10.64 to 63.0 g in total weight (TW). The size of the female crabs ranged from 44 to 87 mm in CW, 30 to 63 mm in CL and 11.2 to 88.0 g in TW. Among the females, three were ovigerous (CW -73/ 76/ 80 mm;

CL - 52/ 47/ 47mm and TW- 46/ 52/ 63g). The smallest male and female crabs were procured from the Munambam Landing Centre and all the rest from Sakthikulangara Landing Centre. A female specimen of the species has been deposited in the Designated National Repository (DNR) of ICAR- CMFRI, Kochi (ED: 5.5.1.10.2). The recent landings

highlight the continued presence of *Charybdis (C.) riversandersoni* in the region and a growing understanding of its distribution along the Indian coast.

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