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# Diversity and distribution of porcelain crabs of Gujarat, India

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Present paper reports four species of porcelain crabs in three genera from the Gujarat coast, India. *Ancylocheles gravelei* (Sankolli, 1963), *Pisidia dehaanii* (Krauss, 1843), *P. gordoni* (Johnson, 1970) and *Polyonyx hendersoni* Southwell, 1909 are reported from the Gujarat coast for the first time. Twelve porcellanid species are known from the Gujarat coast, including four species reported in this paper.

Key words: Crustacea; Anomura; Porcellanidae; distribution; Gujarat

#### INTRODUCTION

Porcelain crabs are cosmopolitan in distribution, found throughout the world's oceans from deep water habitat to intertidal zones and coral reef, they are commonly found clinging to the undersides of intertidal rocks or boulder, in rock crevices, mussel beds and live in association with other invertebrates (Denny & Gaines, 2007). The family porcellanidae includes around 280 species in 30 genera from tropical to temperate waters of the world (e.g., Osawa & McLaughlin, 2010; Osawa & Uyeno, 2013; Dolorosa & Werding, 2014).

Porcelain fauna of the Indian waters have been studied by various authors (e.g. Heller, 1862; 1865; Henderson, 1893; Southwell, 1906, 1909; Gravely, 1927; Sankarankutty, 1961a, b, 1963; Sankolli, 1963a, b; 1966; Mustaquim, 1972; Ahmed & Mustaquim, 1974; Haig, 1981; Siddiqui and Kazmi, 2003; Kazmi & Siddiqui, 2006; Hiller et al., 2010; Prakash et al., 2013a, b; Kumaralingam et al., 2015a, b; Kumaralingam & Raghunathan, 2017). A checklist of 30 porcelain species from India was recently compiled by Prakash et al., (2013a). Subsequently, Kumarlingam et al. (2015a, b) added five species to Indian Ocean porcelain fauna. Thus thirty five species of porcelain fauna are distributed in Indian Ocean. Porcelain fauna of Gujarat coast were studied by few authors like Southwell (1909), Ramanandan (1966), Trivedi and Vachhrajani (2013) and Beleem et al., 2014, 2016.

Previously Southwell (1909), Haig (1964), Ramanandan, (1966) and Trivedi & Vachhrajani (2013) reported six species of porcelain crabs from Gujarat coast, India.

Recently we have reported two species, *Enosteoides ornatus* (Stimpson, 1858) and *Pachycheles tomentosus* (Henderson, 1893), from the Gujarat coast (Beleem et al. 2016). Now, we further add four species of porcelain crabs with their habitat and distribution in the Gujarat coast, India. Thus twelve species of porcelain crabs are given with their distribution status for Gujarat coast, India (Table 1).

#### MATERIAL AND METHODS

Gujarat has the longest coastline of about 1600 km in India. The Intertidal zone of Gujarat has diverse coral reefs and mangrove ecosystem in the Gulf of Kutch and has rocky muddy habitat with mangrove ecosystem in the Gulf of Khambhat. In the present study, intertidal zones of ten different locations of Gujarat coast were surveyed for the diversity of porcellanidae fauna (Fig. 1). These locations are Diu (20°42'16.74"N, 70°58'44.18"E), Veraval, (20° 54' 48.33"N, 70° 20' 55'.48"E), Dhamlej (20°46'49.59"N, 70°35'23.82"E), Chorwad (21°0'5.65"N, 70°13'28.94"E), Mangrol (21°6'54.14"N, 70°5'24.91"E), Dwarka (22°14'32.41"N, 68°57'20.81"E), Mithapur (22°25'11.86"N, 68°59'28.52"E), Shivrajpur (22°19'59.56"N, 68°56'28.07"E) and Okha (22°28'42.60"N, 69° 4'7.55"E) and Sikka (22°27'34"N, 69°48'23"E). Collections were made during lowest tide by hand picking method. Preservation of specimens was done in 90-95% alcohol. Collected voucher specimens are deposited in the Museum of the Department of Life Sciences, Maharaja Krishnakumarsinhji Bhavnagar University, Bhavnagar, under the registration LSAIAA. Taxonomic identification was done through the scientific literatures such as Southwell (1909), Sankoli (1963a), Mustaquim (1972), Kazmi and Siddiqui (2006), Hiller et al., (2010), and personnel communication with experts. Taxonomic characters, habitat and distribution of each species are given. The sizes of specimens mentions in the text pertain to carapace length (CL) and carapace width (CW) in mm. The present checklist is compiled based on the previous published records of porcelain crabs from Gujarat coast (Table 1).



FIGURE 1. Map of the studied area.

Scientific names	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14	References (Gujarat coast)
Ancylocheles gravelei (Sankolli, 1963)	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-		-	Present study
Enosteoides ornatus (Stimpson, 1858) Pachycheles	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-		-	Beleem et al. 2016
tomentosus (Henderson, 1893)	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	Beleem et al. 2016
Petrolisthes boscii (Audouin, 1826)	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-		-	Southwell (1909); Trivedi & Vachhrajani (2013); Beleem et al. 2016
Petrolisthes lamarckii (Leach, 1820)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-		-	Trivedi& Vachhrajani (2013); Beleem et al. 2016
Petrolisthes rufescens (Heller, 1861)	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-		-	Haig (1964); Beleem et al. 2016
P <i>isidia dehaanii</i> (Kraus, 1843)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-		-	Present study
<i>Pisidia gordoni</i> (Johnson, 1970)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-		-	Present study
<i>Pisidia serratifrons</i> (Stimpson, 1858)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-		-	Southwell (1909)
Polyonyx hendersoni Southwell, 1909	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-		-	Present study
Polyonyx obesulus (Miers, 1884)	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-		-	Southwell (1909)
Porcellanella triloba (Stimpson, 1858)	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+		+	Ramanandan (1966)

TABLE 1. Distribution	of Porcelain	crabs in	different coastal	area of Gu	jarat, India.

First rows indicates: 1. Diu, 2. Dhamlej, 3. Veraval, 4. Chorwad, 5. Mangrol, 6. Sikka, 7. Narara, 8. Dwarka, 9. Shivrajpur, 10. Mithapur 11. Okha, 12. Hanuman dandi, Beyt Dwarka 13. Dabdaba Island 14. Pindra reef. \* Indicate the new record in Indian Ocean checklist

#### **RESULTS**

Ancylocheles gravelei (Sankolli, 1963), Pisidia dehaanii (Krauss, 1843), Pisidia gordoni (Johnson, 1970) and Polyonyx hendersoni Southwell, 1909 are reported from the Gujarat coast for the first time. Checklist of porcelain crab species of Gujarat coast with their occurrence sites are shown (Table 1).

#### **Systematics**

Order DECAPODA Latreille, 1802 Infraorder ANOMURA MacLeay, 1838 Family PORCELLANIDAE Haworth, 1825

Genus Ancylocheles Haig, 1978 Ancylocheles gravelei (Sankolli, 1963) (Fig. 2)

#### Material examined

2♂, (1) CL: 5.3 mm, CW: 5.6 mm; (2) CL: 3.4 mm, CW: 3.4mm; 3♀, (1) CL: 4.2mm, CW: 4.3mm; (2) CL: 4.3 mm, CW: 4.0 mm (3) CL: 3.8 mm CW: 3.4 mm, LSAIAA01.

# Description

Carapace as long as broad; front slightly depressed; triangular with shallow median groove; dorsal surface smooth; regions well marked. No epibranchial spine. Eyes moderately large. Chelipeds unequal in size and armature; merus with denticulate lobe on anterodistal margin; carpus granulated on dorsal surface, with two or three blunt teeth on dorso-anterior margin; outer margin convex; chela broad, granular with a broad longitudinal ridges on dorsal surface, outer margin convex, ventral surface smooth, large chela with wide gap when closed, tip of dactylus bent underside tip of immovable finger; dactyl of smaller chela twisted out of plane with manus. Ambulatory legs slender, with scattered setae; meri unarmed; carpi each with one sharp spine at anterodistal end, only carpus of fourth pereopod with one spine at posterodistal end; propodi each with four spines on posterior margin; dactyli each with four movable spines on posterior margin.

# Colour

Carapace entirely reddish, with white spots (Fig. 2a, b) or pale brown (Fig. 2c); brown spots on branchial region. Ambulatory legs with distinct white bands on propodi and dactyli.

#### Habitat

This species was usually observed in lower intertidal zone, under large pebbles and calcareous algae, sometime in crevices of dead corals.

#### Distribution

Indian Ocean, Pakistan, Western Indian coast and West Australia (Sankolli, 1963; Kazmi & Siddiqui, 2006; Hiller et al., 2010). *Ancylocheles gravelei* is reported for the first time from the Gujarat coast (Table 1).

#### Remarks

The specimens examined shows intraspecific variation in shape and coloration of the carapace and carpus, carapace circular (Fig. 2a), carapace as long as broad (Fig. 2b, and 2c), carpus at anterior margin with two (Fig. 2b and 2c) or three blunt teeth (Fig. 2a), variation in gap size and dactylus shape of chela (Fig. 2g1, 2g2, 2g3). *Ancylocheles gravelei* was firstly reported from the Gulf of Mannar as *Pachycheles* sp., by Gravely (1927), and later it was formally described as *Porcellana gravelei*, by Sankoli (1963a). Haig (1978) established the genus *Ancylocheles* for that species. Later it is known as *Ancylocheles gravelei*. It is a very common species occurring in the lower intertidal zone of the Saurashtra and Kutch coasts, Gujarat, India.

#### Genus Pisidia Leach, 1820

Pisidia dehaanii (Kraus, 1843) (Fig. 3a)

## Material examined

1♂, (1) CL: 3.0 mm, CW: 3.1 mm; (2) CL: 3.4 mm, CW: 3.4mm; 2♀, (1) CL: 3.3 mm, CW: 2.9 mm; (2) CL: 3.9 mm, CW: 3.9 mm, LSAIAA07.

## Description

Carapace as long as broad; front with three lobes, median lobe longer than lateral lobes; dorsal surface rough, regions well-marked, protogastric ridges covered with tufts formed by feathered setae; no epibranchial spine, two mesobranchial spines present, external orbital angle terminating into small spine, supra-ocular spine present. Chelipeds nearly identical in size and armature; merus with denticulated trapezoid lobe on anterodistal edge; carpus unarmed with anterior and posterior margin convex; large chela broad, outer margin convex; smaller chela similar with slightly concave outer margin and dactyl twisted out of plane with manus. Ambulatory legs moderately long, slender with scattered setae; meri and carpi unarmed; propodi each with two spines on posterodistal end; dactyli each with four movable spines on posterior margin.



**FIGURE 2.** Morphological forms (a, b, c) of *Ancylocheles gravelei*. Cheliped Carpus of each forms (a1, b1, c1) indicating difference in gap (g1, g2, g3) between dactylus and propodus.

#### Colour

Carapace with light orange stains on cervical groove and white spots on entire carapace in few fresh specimen, in most of the specimen's entire carapace white in colour. Ambulatory legs with distinct orange bands on propodi and dactyli.

## Habitat

This species was usually observed in middle and lower intertidal zone, under large pebbles covered with algae and sometime found in association with zoantharian colonies.

#### Distribution

Pakistan (Mustaquim, 1972; Kazmi & Siddiqui, 2006); Mandapam, Bay of Bengal (Haig, 1981); Goa, South African coast, Persian Gulf (Hiller et al. 2010). *Pisidia dehaanii* reported for the first time from the Gujarat coast (Table 1).

#### Remarks

This species is an Indian Ocean endemic (Hiller et al., 2010), it range from South Africa to Pakistan. It differs from *Pisidia streptocheles* (Stimpson, 1858), (western Indian Ocean) in having naked carapace, longer front with a prominent median tooth, and denticulated superantennary margin (Stebbing, 1910). It is a very common occurring species in the middle and lower intertidal zone of the Gulf of Kutch, Gujarat, India.

## Pisidia gordoni (Johnson, 1970) (Fig. 3b)

#### Material examined

1♀, (1) CL: 5.5 mm, CW: 4.0 mm; 2♂, (1) CL: 5.7 mm, CW: 4.9 mm; (2) CL: 6.8 mm, CW: 5.2 mm, LSAIAA08.

#### Description

Carapace longer than broad; front depressed with three lobe separated by notch; median lobe much broader than lateral ones, outer margin of lobes spine-tipped; dorsal surface rough, regions well marked; epibranchial region fringed with three to four small spinules.

Eyes moderately large, orbits well-defined, outer orbital angle produced into two sharp spines. Chelipeds nearly identical in size and armature; merus with spiny trapezoid lobe on anterodistal edge; carpus serrated with five to seven unequal sized sharp spines on dorso-anterior margin, posterior margin with two unequal sized spines; palm serrated with three longitudinal crest with rows of acute spines; dactyl of smaller chela twisted out of plane with manus. Ambulatory legs long and slender, with scattered long setae; meri unarmed; carpi each with one sharp spine at anterodistal end; propodi each with three spines at posterodistal end; dactyli each with five movable spines on posterior margin.

# Colour

Carapace entirely pale orange or sometimes with white spots on branchial region. Ambulatory legs with distinct orange bands on propodi and dactyli.

## Habitat

This species usually observed in lower intertidal zone, specifically in pools and puddle under large pebbles and under dead corals.

## Distribution

Delagoa Bay, Mozambique, Madagascar, Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Gulf of Iran, West coast of the Indian subcontinent to the Gulf of Mannar, Hong Kong, Singapore, Java, Sri Lanka and tropical Australia (Haig, 1981), Pakistan (Kazmi and Siddiqui, 2006), Goa, India (Hiller et al., 2010). *Pisidia gordoni* reported for the first time from the Gujarat coast (Table 1).

#### Remarks

This species is an Indian Ocean endemic (Hiller et al., 2010). It is a very common occurring species in the middle and lower intertidal zone of the Gulf of Kutch, Gujarat, India.

# Polyonyx hendersoni Southwell, 1909 (Fig. 3c)

#### Material examined

1♀, Ovigerous female (1) CL: 6.4 mm, CW: 6.8 mm; 2♂, (1) CL: 5.1 mm, CW: 6.0 mm; (2) CL: 3.7 mm, CW: 3.7, LSAIAA09.

# Description

Carapace as long as broad; longitudinally convex; dorsal surface smooth, rostrum broad inclined anteriorly; regions well marked; epibranchial edges rounded, no epibranchial spine. Cheliped unequal in size and identical armature, dorsally granulated; merus with granulated lobe at anterodistal edge; carpus with two or three blunt or sharp teeth (young specimen) on dorso-anterior margin, major chela with small gap when closed, tip of dactylus bent upward tip of immovable finger; outer border of larger chela slightly concave, covered with rows of minute teeth, no setae (except in smaller specimens in small cheliped covered with feathery setae); dactyl of smaller chela twisted out of plane with manus. Ambulatory legs covered with dense feathery setae on carpus, propodus and dactylus; meri unarmed; carpi each with a blunt spine on anterodistal end; propodi each with four spines on posterior margin; dactyli each with two spines on posterior margin and two strong bifurcated spines at posterodistal end.

# Colour

Carapace entirely brick red or pale orange.

#### Habitat

This species was usually observed in lower intertidal zone, inhabit exclusively in the cavities of yellow sponges, under dead coral and rock. *P. hendersoni* sometimes found with *P. obesulus*.

## Distribution

Andaman, Sri Lanka, Gulf of Mannar, India (Southwell, 1909; Gravely, 1927), Pakistan (Kazmi & Siddiqui, 2006), Goa (Hiller et al. 2010). *Polyonyx hendersoni* reported for the first time from the Gulf of Kutch, Gujarat India (Table 1).

## Remarks

This species is endemic to Indian Ocean and closely resemble to *Polyonyx splendidus* (Sankolli, 1963), which also seen in the ducts of sponges. *P. splendidus* differs from *P. hendersoni* by smooth meral lobe of cheliped, carpus unarmed, carpi and chelae of both the chelipeds covered with feathery setae (Hiller et al., 2010).

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FIGURE 3. Entire animal dorsal view (a) *Pisidia dehaanii*, male, CL: 3.0 mm, CW: 3.1 mm. (b) *Pisidia gordoni*, male, CL: 5.5 mm, CW: 4.0 mm (c) *Polyonyx hendersoni*, female, CL: 6.4 mm, CW: 6.8 mm

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