

## The warty-armed crab, *Halimede ohtodes*, at Changi Beach

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**Subject:** Warty-armed crab, *Halimede ohtodes* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Galenidae).

**Subject identified by:** Ondřej Radosta.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Changi Beach; 3 August 2019; 0650 hrs.

**Habitat:** Estuarine shore. Sea-grass bed at intertidal zone during morning low tide. Sea-grasses consist mainly of *Halophila ovalis* and *Cymodocea* sp.

**Observer:** Marcus F. C. Ng.

**Observation:** One example of about 5 cm carapace width was found in a small tide-pool next to a carpet anemone (*Stichodactyla haddoni*) of about 25 cm diameter. Although it came into contact with the tentacles of the anemone, it did not seem affected by the stinging tentacles. The crab was moved to a nearby tide-pool for photography where it was active (Fig. 1 & 2).

**Remarks:** *Halimede ohtodes* is distributed in the Indo-west Pacific, and known from Pakistan, India, Thailand, Australia, Hong Kong, the Philippines and the Malay Archipelago, including Singapore (Galil, 2000:328). This species appears to be rarely seen in Singapore, and its image apparently has not yet been documented in publications on Singapore wildlife. It is readily distinguished from other local shore crabs by the distinct knobs on the surface of its chelipeds (see Fig. 1 & 2).

**Reference:** Galil, B. S., 2000. *Halimede tyche* (Herbst, 1801) (Decapoda; Xanthoidea; Halimedinae) from the Mediterranean coast of Israel, with a review of the genus. *Journal of Crustacean Biology*. 20 (special number 2): 325-331.



Fig. 1. Dorsal view.



Fig. 2. Dorso-frontal view.

Photographs by Marcus F. C. Ng