

Occurrence of box crab *Calappa bilineata* (Ng, Lai & Aungtonya, 2002) from Gulf of Mannar, Southeast coast of India

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The members of the genus *Calappa* are distributed in the tropical and subtropical ocean in the shallow coral reef areas and are commonly called box crabs or Shame-faced crabs. *Calappa*, are important crab species landed by the industrial trawl fleet in Venezuela with an annual average landing of 69 tonnes. There are nearly 41 extinct species under

this genus. Fossils of *Calappa protopustulosa* have been recorded at Mizoram, Northeastern India. This group of crabs can completely bury under the soft substrata in the sea. During the routine observation trips to study 'singhi valai' catches, along Mandapam large quantity of box crabs were observed as catch discards.

At Mandapam waters two species under *Calappa* genus were reported earlier and this collection differ from the two known species. On 17th October 1966 Dr. Sivalingam, former Scientist of this centre had deposited a specimen at Mandapam Marine Museum identified upto genus level as *Calappa* sp. and has been presently identified as *Calappa bilineata*. The collection made in the Gulf of Mannar region 46 years before the species description, which was based on the collection from Andaman Sea in 2002 by Peter NG, indicate the distributional range of this species.

Table 1. *Calappa* species list

Species	Presence / absence
<i>Calappa acutispina</i> Lai, Chan & Ng, 2006	
<i>Calappa africana</i> Lai & Ng, 2006	
<i>Calappa bicornis</i> Miers, 1884	*
<i>Calappa bilineata</i> Ng, Lai & Aungtonya, 2002	Present study
<i>Calappa calappa</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	
<i>Calappa capellonis</i> Laurie, 1906	
<i>Calappa cinerea</i> Holthuis, 1958	
<i>Calappa clypeata</i> Borradaile, 1903	
<i>Calappa conifera</i> Galil, 1997	
<i>Calappa convexa</i> Saussure, 1853	
<i>Calappa dumortieri</i> Guinot, 1962	
<i>Calappa flammea</i> (Herbst, 1794)	
<i>Calappa galloides</i> Stimpson, 1859	
<i>Calappa gallus</i> (Herbst, 1803)	*
<i>Calappa granulata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	
<i>Calappa guerini</i> Brito Capello, 1871	
<i>Calappa hepatica</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	*
<i>Calappa japonica</i> Ortmann, 1892	
<i>Calappa liaoi</i> Ng, 2002	
<i>Calappa lophos</i> (Herbst, 1782)	*
<i>Calappa monilicanthus</i> Galil, 1997	
<i>Calappa nitida</i> Holthuis, 1958	
<i>Calappa ocellata</i> Holthuis, 1958	
<i>Calappa ocellaria</i> Ng, 2002	
<i>Calappa pelii</i> Herklots, 1851	
<i>Calappa philargius</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	*
<i>Calappa pokipoki</i> Ng, 2000	
<i>Calappa pustulosa</i> Alcock, 1896	*
<i>Calappa quadrimaculata</i> Takeda & Shikatani, 1990	
<i>Calappa rosea</i> Jarocki, 1825	
<i>Calappa rubroguttata</i> Herklots, 1851	
<i>Calappa sebastieni</i> Galil, 1997	
<i>Calappa springeri</i> Rathbun, 1931	
<i>Calappa sulcata</i> Rathbun, 1898	
<i>Calappa tortugae</i> Rathbun, 1933	
<i>Calappa torulosa</i> Galil, 1997	
<i>Calappa tuberculata</i> (Fabricius, 1793)	
<i>Calappa tuerkayana</i> Pastore, 1995	
<i>Calappa undulata</i> Dai & Yang, 1991	
<i>Calappa woodmasoni</i> Alcock, 1896	
<i>Calappa yamasitae</i> Sakai, 1980	

*indicated the species presence