

Charybdis (Goniohellenus) longicollis Leene, 1938

Photo: Beira Galil

Relevant synonyms

Charybdis (Goniohellenus)
hoplites var. *longicollis*
Leene, 1938

Short description

Carapace hexagonal, convex, densely tomentose. Granulate transverse ridges on frontal, protogastric, mesogastric and branchial regions. Front cut into six teeth, outermost tooth the most acuminate. Antero-lateral margin bearing six teeth, four anterior teeth square cut, with outer margins serrate, separated by deep notches, posteriormost tooth lanceolate, twice as large as others. Basal antennal article expanded, bearing 5-8 granules, excluding antennal flagellum from orbit. Chelipeds massive, subequal, pubescent, granulate; anterior margin of merus with 2-3 teeth; carpus, prominently granulate, with single spine on internal margin, three small spines on external surface; internal ridge on superior surface of chela bearing two spines, external ridge with single spine, single spine near carpal articulation. Merus of fifth leg with strong subdistal spine on posterior margin, posterior margin of propodus denticulate, dactyl ovate.

color: carapace dull brownish-grey save for cream-coloured margins and raised granules. Inner margins of cheliped fingers mustard-yellow. Pereopods brownish-grey with violet-blue margins.

size: males CL 3 cm, females CL 2.5 cm.

Distinguishing characteristics

Distinguished from *Ch. hellerii* by carpus of fifth leg lacking posterior spine and squamiform granules on lower surface of chela.

Biology / Ecology

Since the early 1990s the Israeli population has been heavily infested by the rhizocephalan parasite *Heterosaccus dollfusi* Boschma, itself an Erythrean exotic (Galil and Lützen, 1995).

habitat: sandy, sandy-mud bottoms, 10-80 m.

Distribution

Worldwide: Red Sea, East Africa, Persian Gulf. **Mediterranean:** recorded first from Turkey (Holthuis, 1961 [1959]). Successively recorded from Israel (Lewinsohn and Holthuis, 1964); Egypt (Ramadan and Dowidar, 1976); Lebanon (Shiber, 1981); Cyprus (Lewinsohn and Holthuis, 1986); Greece, Rhodes Isl. (Galil and Kevrekidis, 2002).

Mode of introduction

Via the Suez Canal (Monod, 1937).

Establishment

Abundant since the 1960s.

Importance to humans

Considered a pest by trawl fishermen.



1st Mediterranean record
Turkey, 1961 [1959]

Key references

- Holthuis L.B., 1961. Report on a collection of Crustacea Decapoda and Stomatopoda from Turkey and the Balkans. *Zoologische Verhandelingen*, Leiden, 47: 1-67.
- Stephenson W., 1972. An annotated check list and key to the Indo-West-Pacific swimming crabs (Crustacea:Decapoda:Portunidae). *Bulletin of the Royal Society of New Zealand*, 10: 1-64.