

A new record of the mantis shrimp *Oratosquillina interrupta* (Kemp, 1911) from the Iraqi coast

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(Received 10 May, 2021; Accepted 28 June, 2021)

ABSTRACT

The current study is part of an ongoing project in Iraq to investigate the richness, distribution, and abundance of intertidal macrofauna. On July 20, 2020, at 29°56'57.47"N, 48°34'7.38"E, samples of the mantis shrimp *Oratosquillina interrupta* (Kemp, 1911) were taken from the northwest of the Persian-Arabian Gulf, Iraq. Using standard literature, the species was identified up to the species level.

Key words : Biodiversity, Distribution, Persian-Arabian Gulf

Introduction

Stomatopoda, or mantis shrimps, are predatory malacostracan crustaceans (Ahyong, 2012). Stomatopods are benthic, marine carnivores that are widely distributed in tropical and subtropical environment (Schram *et al.*, 2013). They can be differentiated from other malacostracans by their triflagellate antennules and second maxilliped modified as raptorial claws (Ahyong, 2012). By using raptorial claws, stomatopods capture their prey. Stomatopod diversity is currently represented by about 500 species belonging to over 120 genera, 18 families, and 7 superfamilies, the largest of which is Squilloidea (Van Der Wal *et al.*, 2017, 2019).

Manning (1990) reviewed the stomatopod fauna of the Persian-Arabian Gulf, listed 23 species, including eight new records for the Gulf, particularly from Iran and Saudi Arabia. Al-Kandari *et al.*, (2020) raised the number of stomatopods recorded from the Gulf to 24 species. So far two stomatopods species were listed from Kuwait *Gonodactylus demanii* Henderson, (1893) and *Oratosquillina interrupta* (Kemp, 1911) by Jones (1986) in his field guide to the seashore fauna of Kuwait, later Al-Kandari listed

another 5 species namely : *Manningia amabilis* Holthuis, (1967) (as the first record for the Gulf), *Gonodactylus smithii* Pocock, (1890), *Gonodactylus botti* Manning, (1975), *Bigelowina phalangium* (Fabricius, 1798) and *Cloridina ichneumon* (Fabricius, 1798).

As part of the biodiversity, distribution and abundance of macrofauna in Iraq, more species were listed or identified recently from the Iraqi coast (e.g. crustaceans: Ng *et al.*, 2009; Naser *et al.*, 2010; Naser, 2011; Naser *et al.*, 2012; Ng *et al.*, 2012; Naser *et al.*, 2013; Naser, 2018; Naser, 2019; Yasser and Naser, 2019; Yasser and Naser, 2019b; Yasser *et al.*, 2021).

The aim of the present paper is to list another further species from the Iraqi coast.

Material and Methods

Two specimens of mantis shrimp *Oratosquillina interrupta* were collected by the first author from the north west of the Persian-Arabian Gulf, Iraqi coast at 29°56'57.47"N, 48°34'7.38"E (Fig. 1), on 20 July 2020. The specimens are preserved in 70% ethanol and deposited in the Marine Science Centre (MSC), with collection voucher number (102), University of

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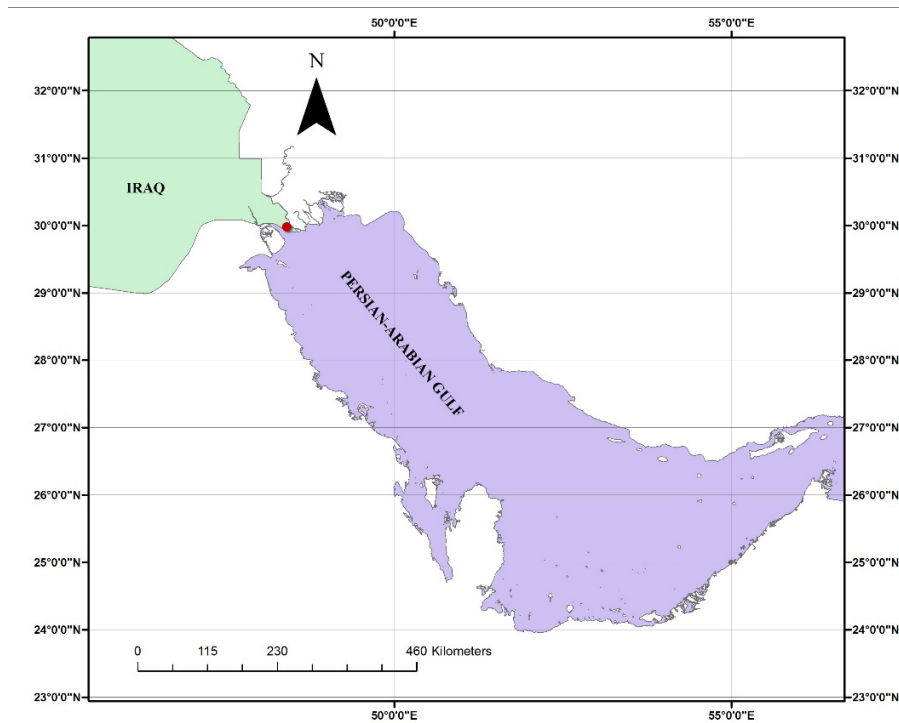


Fig. 1. Sampling site (red dot)

Basrah, Iraq. Classification of the species was adopted from Manning (1990). Measurements of the species were taken with an electronic calliper and are given to the nearest mm.

Results and Discussion

Materials examined: two specimens: 2 males total

length 140mm and 85mm.

Oratosquillina interrupta (Kemp, 1911)
(Fig.2 A,B,C & D)

Diagnosis: Carapace grooves and posterior edge of body somites dark green, overall dorsal color pale olive green in living samples (Fig.2A). The carapace has different branches of the anterior bifurcation of the median carina. (Fig.2B). Six-toothed

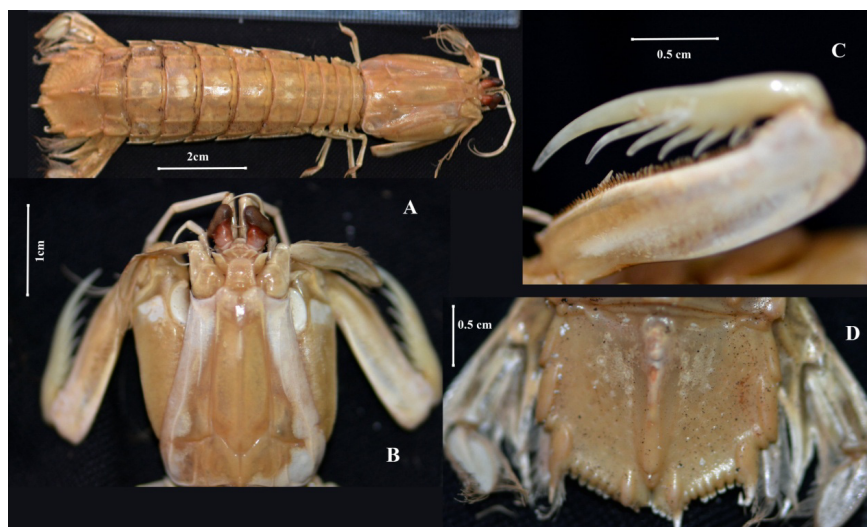


Fig. 2. A. *Oratosquillina interrupta* (Kemp, 1911), male (TL 140 mm); B, Anterior cephalothorax; C, right raptorial claw; D, telson and uropod

raptorial claw dactylus; dorsal carina split into two triangular lobes on the carpus (Fig. 2C). There is a mandibular palp present. The dorsolateral surface of the telson is devoid of supplemental longitudinal carinae. Telson with dark green primary tooth carinae and scarlet apices; middle carina with single proximal dark maroon patch (Fig. 2D).

Habitat: *Oratosquillina interrupta* lives in sheltered coastal waters on sand and muddy substrates.

Distribution: The species can be found from the Persian Gulf to Taiwan, Hong Kong, Vietnam, and Australia.

Remarks: The divided dorsal carina on the carpus of the raptorial claw and the straight or convex margin of the lobe on the outer margin of the inner spine of the uropodal protopod distinguish *Oratosquillina interrupta* from other species in the genus *Oratosquillina*. *O. interrupta* is the only species known of the genus *Oratosquillina* from the Persian Gulf.

Conflict of interests: There is no conflict between authors.

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