

Cloak Anemone Hermit Crab (*Pagurus prideaux*)

Malacostraca (Arthropoda:Decapoda)



Taxonomy: Crustacea->Malacostraca->Decapoda

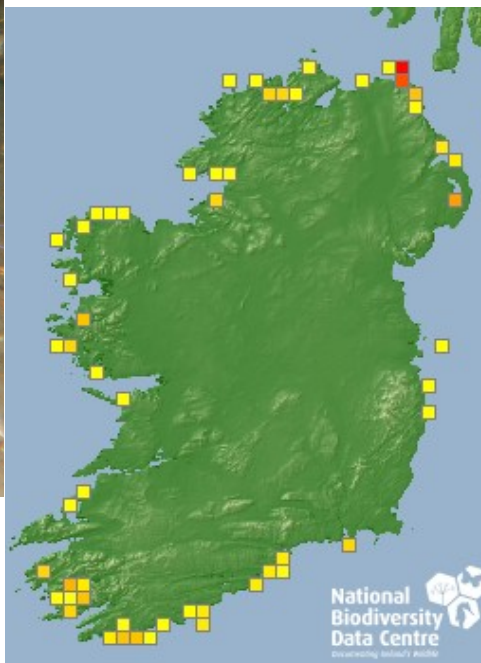
IUCN Red List Categorisation: Not Assessed

Recorded on all British and Irish coasts, globally distributed from Norway to the Mediterranean, though may extend as far south as the Azores. Typically found in association with the cloak anemone (*Adamsia palliata*) (formerly *Adamsia carciniopados*) in what may be an obligatory symbiotic relationship for *P. prideaux* as the anemone allows the crab to grow without changing its shell.

Very similar in appearance to the common hermit crab (*Pagurus bernhardus*) and they can be difficult to distinguish. The key feature to identifying *P. prideaux* is the presence of the cloak anemone. This anemone is typically a cream or white colour with bright pink spots, with the tentacles of the anemone facing downwards to drag on the substrate. Long pink threads are released from the anemone when disturbed (below).



Killary Harbour is a hot spot for this species though this is likely to be an artefact of recording effort. Found on all coasts this species is likely to be significantly under recorded.



Top photo Maja Stankovski

Middle photo Phil Wilkinson

Bottom photo Tony O'Callaghan

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