

Crabs

- Phylum : Arthropoda (Jointed legs)
- Subphylum : Mandibulata (Having Mandibles)
- Class : Crustacea (Hard exoskeleton)
- Subclass : Malacostraca (Branched appendages)
- Order : Decapoda (Ten legs)
- Infraorder : 1) Brachyura (Abdomen gently reduced)
2) Anomura (Elongated Abdomen False Crabs)



Anomuran Crabs
(False crabs)



Brachyuran Crabs
(True crabs)

Diversity

- World : The brachyuran crabs in the world ranges approximately from 5000 to 6000 species.
- India : There are 600 species of crabs recorded from Indian waters.
- West Coast of India : There are 254 species, belonging to 120 genera under 24 families.
- Karnataka : There are 112 species, which includes estuary, inshore and offshore waters.
- Aghanashini Estuary : Present study recorded 30 species of Brachyuran crabs.

Habitat

- Fresh water
- Marine Water
- Deep Sea
- Estuary
- Mangrove
- Sandy shore
- Rocky shore

Ventral View



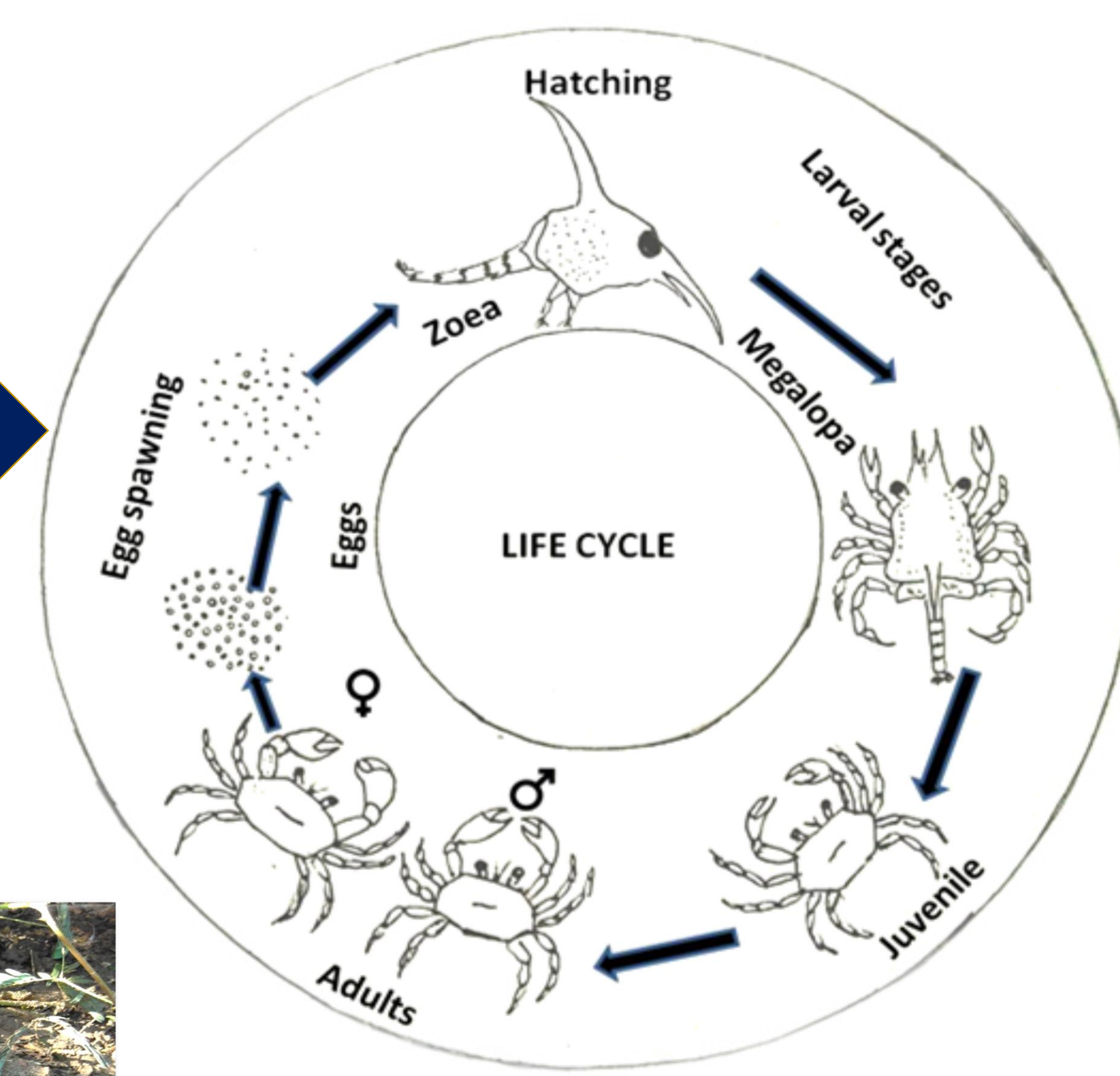
Male Crab

Female Crab

Eggs



Crab burrows



Ecological role of Crabs

- Most of the crabs feed on either detritus or the organic matter thereby influencing the ecological functioning of the system.
- Crabs play important role in the maintenance of ecosystem and also in the marine food web demonstrating prey-predator relationship.

Economical importance of Brachyuran Crabs

- Important source of food resource.
- Live mud crabs have huge demands
 1. 500gm and above exported outside markets (Goa).
 2. 1 kg *Scylla serrata* cost about 800 rupee.



Local crab collection in Aghanashini Estuary



Mud Crabs
Scylla serrata

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Commercially Important Crabs



Scylla serrata



Scylla olivacea



Portunus pelagicus



Portunus sanguinolentus



Charybdis lucifera



Thalamita crenata



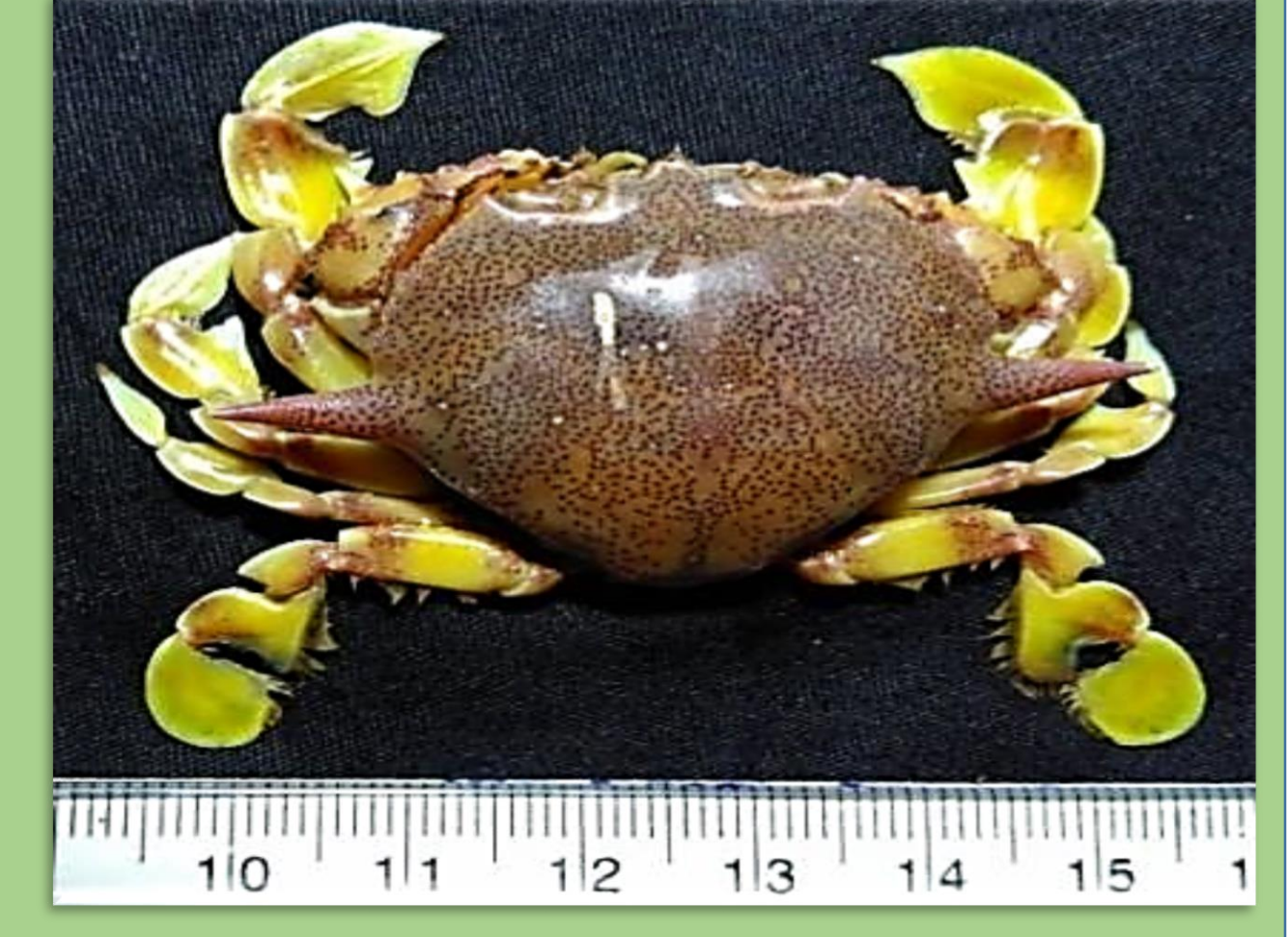
Ozius tuberculatus



Menippe rumphii



Myomenippe hardwickii



Ashtoret lunaris

Non Commercial Crabs



Neosarmatium malabaricum



Perisesarma bidens



Perasesarma plicatum



Sesarmops intermedius



Pseudosesarma edwardsii



Clistocoeloma lanatum



Clistocoeloma tectum



Grapsus albolineatus



Metopograpsus messor



Metopograpsus latifrons



Parapyxidognathus deianira



Ocypode cordimanus



Uca annulipes



Uca vocans



Uca dussumieri



Dotilla malabarica



Dotilla myctiroides



Macrophthalmus pacificus



Scopimera proxima



Heteropanope glabra