

The body colouration of the living animal is pale yellow, flagella of antennule and antennae, merus, carpus and fingers of the third pereiopod are dull brown. Numerous minute black spots are found over the body, more densely on pleopods.

Eggs are fairly large and numerous and those in which the embryos are already visible measure 0.47-0.53 mm. long and 0.38-0.44 mm. broad.

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### ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *CALAPPA PHILARGIUS* (L.) IN INDIAN WATERS

On 20-12-1960, we obtained a specimen of *Calappa philargius* (L.) from the Mangalore market. Although it was clear that the crab had been brought from a neighbouring fishing centre, the exact locality of capture could not be ascertained. Another specimen was collected on 27-2-'61 from the trawl catches on Bassas de Pedro (Pedro Bank). The locality was 12°.37' N. and 72°.42' E. and the depth 33 fathoms.

The occurrence of *Calappa philargius* (L.) in Indian Coastal waters has not so far been recorded, although Ihle (1918) gave the distribution of this species as Persian Gulf to Japan and Samoa. Alcock (1896) noted its occurrence in Andamans, Ceylon, Mergui and Persian Gulf. Along the Indian coast *Calappa lophos* (Herbst) appears to be more common, and has been recorded by Pillai (1951) and Chhapgar (1957) among others. This species is included in our collection also.

The main distinguishing features of *Calappa philargius* (L.) are : (1) There is a spine in the middle line of the posterior border of carapace (absent in *C. lophos*). (2) The endostomial septum is strongly convex (concave in *C. lophos*). (3) Clypei-form expansions are well developed, their free margins being strongly lacinate. (4) Carapace in adult nearly smooth. A figure is attached.

According to Alcock, (1896) the extreme length is only about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the extreme breadth. In our specimens, this proportion was almost  $\frac{3}{4}$ . The measurements are given below (in mm.). (See also Fig. 1).

Sex	Specimen from Mangalore market Female	Specimen from Pedro Bank Female
Length of carapace (including the posterior spine) ..	66	50
Breadth of carapace (including the lateral spines) ..	88	68

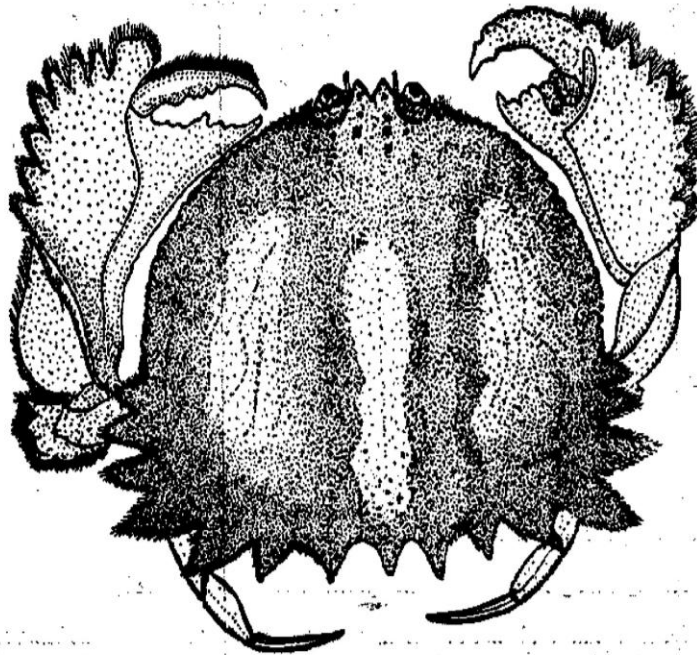


FIG. 1. *Calappa Philargus* (L.)

*Colour.* Pinkish white in the smaller specimen and pink in the other.

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\* Not referred to in original.