Note

First record of the Two-striped Box Crab Calappa bilineata Ng, Lai & Aungtonya, 2002 (Brachyura: Calappidae) from St. Martin’s Island, Bangladesh

Muntasir Akash & Mostafa A.R. Hossain

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Crabs in the family Calappidae are heterotrematous, and their ambulatory dactyli are triangular in shape and not paddle-like. The broad, flat claws are held like shields, protecting the body. The crab has a large, broad body, and it is well camouflaged. The carapace is usually broader than long with wavelike extensions. The crab's carapace is typically broader than long. Crabs in the genus Calappa are characterized by the presence of a pair of large claws that are used for feeding and protection. These claws are often brightly colored and can be used to attract mates. The carapace of the crab is usually broader than long, and it is well camouflaged to blend in with its surroundings. The crab is a solitary creature and is known for its territorial behavior. It is a herbivore and feeds on a variety of marine plants and algae. The crab is known for its ability to burrow into the sand or mud to protect itself from predators. It is commonly found in estuaries, bays, and coastal areas, where it can be found feeding on the shore or in the shallow waters off the coast. The crab's carapace is usually broader than long, and it is well camouflaged to blend in with its surroundings. The crab is a solitary creature and is known for its territorial behavior. It is a herbivore and feeds on a variety of marine plants and algae. The crab is known for its ability to burrow into the sand or mud to protect itself from predators. It is commonly found in estuaries, bays, and coastal areas, where it can be found feeding on the shore or in the shallow waters off the coast. The crab's carapace is usually broader than long, and it is well camouflaged to blend in with its surroundings. The crab is a solitary creature and is known for its territorial behavior. It is a herbivore and feeds on a variety of marine plants and algae. The crab is known for its ability to burrow into the sand or mud to protect itself from predators. 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Live and then photographed, as part of the project entitled “Updating Species Red List of Bangladesh” led by IUCN Bangladesh, the first ever attempt considering the crustacean fauna of Bangladesh was made (IUCN Bangladesh 2015). The goal was to evaluate and determine the biodiversity status, national abundance, habitat condition of native crustaceans and depict their threats, to advance related conservation initiatives. The project, in the process, sought after evidence of new records, rediscoveries and quality photographs.

These crab photographs were then submitted to IUCN Bangladesh Team and later were identified as *Calappa bilineata*, turning out to be a new record of box crab species within the geographical area of Bangladesh.

Class: Malacostraca Latreille, 1802
Order: Decapoda Latreille, 1802
Infraorder: Brachyura Linnaeus, 1758
Family: Calappidae Milne-Edwards, 1837
Genus *Calappa* Weber, 1795
*Calappa bilineata* Ng, Lai & Aungtonya, 2002 (Image 1)
Common name: Two-striped Box Crab

Material examined: 07.xii.2012, two individuals (male), Saint Martin’s Island, Bangladesh, 20°38'07.50”N & 92°19'34.68”E, coll. M. Akash.

Diagnosis: Two-striped Box Crabs as carapace with two bold longitudinal stripes locating on median carapace, in addition, the purplish to maroon longitudinally convex dorsal surface, laterally flattened chelae with multidentate dorsal margin. Legs were devoid of any pattern or texture; outer surface of chelae were evenly colored.

Description: Carapace is smooth and arched dorsally aided with small, flat tubercles on the front. Clypeiform structure highly prominent, edges frilled with setae. From the structure, four teeth are projected laterally from posterior margin. As of Ng et al. (2002), anterolateral margin is crested and beaded. Posterior carapace margin with seven well developed granulated, pale yellowish teeth, median tooth sub-equal to adjacent teeth with distinct concavity. Lateral margin of second abdominal segment angular.

Habit and Habitat: During extraction from the seines, specimen showed noticeable aggression relative to the other species, might be a reflection of the species’ highly carnivorous, predatory nature. The beach from which specimens were collected represents sandy flats at low tide, devoid of limestone rock compared to the other parts of the island. The adjoining shallow sea-shelf, however, has submerged coral associations and dead coral colonies (Tomascik 1997). Formation of such sandy inter-tidal layers...
Supports an efficient burrowing habitat for callappid crabs.

Remarks: This new record of a benthic crab from the northern Bay of Bengal indicates the potential of the ecologically critical St. Martin's island ecosystem as well as the largest bay of the world itself. It is believed that in-depth expeditions within the vast marine boundary of Bangladesh will bring out more unique and bewildering species accounts.

References


**Article**

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