Article

New records of xanthid crabs *Atergatis roseus* (Rüppell, 1830) (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura) from Iraqi coast, south of Basrah city, Iraq

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Abstracts
Specimens of the The Brachyuran crab *Atergatis roseus* (Rüppell, 1830), were collected for first times from Iraqi coast, south Al-Faw, Basrah city, Iraq, in coast of northwest of Arabian Gulf. Morphological features and distribution pattern of this species are highlighted and a figure is provided. The material was mostly collected from the shallow subtidal and intertidal areas using trawl net and hand.

Keywords xanthid crab; *Atergatis roseus*; Brachyura; Iraqi coast.

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1 Introduction

The intertidal brachyuran fauna of Iraq is not well known, although that of the surrounding areas of the Arabian Gulf (=Persian Gulf) has generally been better studied (Jones, 1986; Al-Ghais and Cooper, 1996; Apel and Türkay, 1999; Apel, 2001; Naderloo and Schubart, 2009; Naderloo and Türkay, 2009).

In comparison to other crustacean groups, brachyuran crabs have been well studied in the Arabian Gulf (=Persian Gulf) (Stephensen, 1946; Apel, 2001; Titgen, 1982; Naderloo and Sari, 2007; Naderloo and Türkay, 2012). Brachyuran crab species of family Xanthidae are common inhabitant of tropical rocky shore (Ng et al., 2008). The family Xanthidae is one of the most common families in the region. Apel (2001) listed 22 Xanthid species from the Gulf, of which five were new records to the region. Naderloo and Türkay (2012) added *Macromedaeus voeltzkowi* (Lenz, 1905) and two new species of *Palapedia* Ng, 1993, were recently described by Naderloo (2015).

The aim of the present paper deals with new record for Iraq of *A.roseus* from fresh specimens collected from NW of the Arabian Gulf at Faw region and to add *A. roseus*to the brachyura list of Iraqi waters.

2 Methods

The samples were collected from intertidal and shallow subtidal habitats around the Iraqi coast south Al-Faw, Basrah, Iraq, by hand and trawl net (figure 1.). Some physico-chemical parameters recorded from the study area during the collections made in January 2016 are: water temperature, 13.5°C; pH, 7.68; salinity, 36.7 psu; dissolved oxygen, 7.82 mg/L. The specimens were preserved in 70% alcohol and shipped to the laboratory of Marine biology, Marine science Center, University of Basrah (MSC).

The specimen was identified and described following Sere`ne (1984), Galil et al. (2002), Foka and Papadopoulou (2010), and Naderloo et al. (2016).

Abbreviations used: CL. = Carapace length; CB. = Carapace breadth.

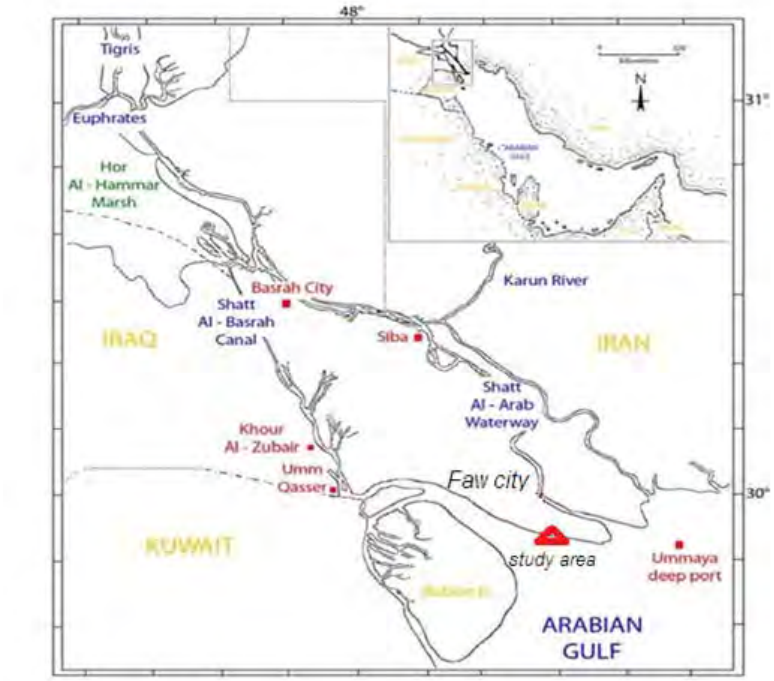

Fig. 1 Map of study area at Al-Faw city.

3 Results and Discussion

Order: Decapoda Latreille, 1802

Superfamily: Xanthoidea MacLeay, 1838

Family: Xanthidae MacLeay, 1838

Atergatis roseus (Rüppell, 1830), Fig. 2.

Synonyms

Carpilius roseus Rüppell, 1830.

Cancer roseus – H. MilneEdwards, 1834.

Atergatis roseus – De Haan, 1835.

Material examined

Carapace measurements are length × breadth respectively.

1 male (MSC), CL = 78 mm, CB = 120 mm, collected by second author Aqeel Abdulsahib Al-Waeli (Marine Science Centre) January 2017 from the intertidal and subtidal shallow, taken by trawl net and hand 14/1/ 2017.

Ditribution

The natural range of *A. roseu*s is from Hong Kong, India, Sri Lanka to Pakistan, the Red Sea and also South Africa (Sere`ne, 1984; Jeyabaskaran et al., 2002; Galil et al., 2002; Branch et al., 2007).

Remarks

*A. roseus*is only species of the genus *Atergatis* recoded from the NW of the Arabian Gulf. Unfortunately, the other species of genus *Atergatis* has never been collected from our region, however, three species of genus *Atergatis* have been recorded from the Arabian Gulf, *A. laevigatus* A. Milne-Edwards 1865, *A. integerrimus*, and *A. ocyroe* (Herbst, 1801).

Diagnosis

The specimens having Carapace transversely 1.52 times broader than long; dorsal surface shining, seemingly smooth, only with minute punctures of various sizes, frontal region weekly bilobed with a hint of a medial fissure. Anterolateral margins convex without teeth, but with a crest, epibranchial angle without lobe. Flagellum of antennal can be pushed into the orbit via a small gap. Chelipeds strong and nearly equal in size, propodus with a crest on dorsal margin. Walking legs short with a crest on the dorsal margin of the merus, carpus and propodus plus the ventral margin of the propodus.

They have uniform reddish brown carapaces. The carapace with minute punctures distributed all over its surface. Punctuations occur also on chelipeds, walking legs, abdomen, sternum. The front is narrow and undetectably convex; it is divided into two lobes by a small notch.

A B

C

Fig. 2 *A. roseus* (Rüppell, 1830).male (CL: 78 mm, CW: 120 mm) (MCS), Basra, Iraq. Overall habitus, color freshly aftercollection. A, B: Dorsal view; C: Ventral view (Scale = 20mm).

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