

Biodiversity Record: First Singapore record of the swimming crab, *Charybdis lucifera*

Abel Meng Wei Yeo* & Ivan Wei Ming Kwan

Email: abelyeomengwei@gmail.com (*corresponding author)

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Subject: Yellowish-brown swimming crab, *Charybdis lucifera* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Portunidae).

Subject identified by: Ivan Wei Ming Kwan and Abel Meng Wei Yeo.

Location, date and time: Singapore Strait along East Coast Park; 14 August 2022; around 0600–0700 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Intertidal shore, among seagrass.

Observer: Abel Meng Wei Yeo.

Observation: A single example with carapace of around 8–10 cm width and 4–5 cm length, was spotted swimming from a sparse seagrass bed, in-between floating seaweed, and along the sand-silt bed. No other individuals were seen.



Fig 1. Dorsal view of subject among seagrass, insitu. (Photograph by Abel Meng Wei Yeo)



Fig. 2. Dorsal view of subject. Note that its fourth right leg is missing. (Photograph by: Abel Meng Wei Yeo)

Remarks: This seems to be the first record of *Charybdis lucifera* in Singapore (see Wee & Ng, 1995). However, its occurrence there is not surprising as the species has been recorded from sandy, muddy and rocky habitats in the Indo-West Pacific, from India and Sri Lanka, to Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, north to Taiwan and Japan and south to Australia (Wee & Ng, 1995; Hamli et al., 2022). Along the coasts of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore, *Charybdis lucifera* had hitherto been recorded only from Penang (Balss, 1922). The present record appears to be the second from the area.

Literature cited:

- Balss H (1922) Ostasiatische Decapoden. IV. Die Brachyrhynchen (Cancridae). Archiv Für Naturgeschichte, 88(11): 94–166.
- Hamli H, Al-Asif A, Ismail J, Gerusu GJ & Nerurkar S (2022) First record of yellowish-brown crab *Charybdis* (*Charybdis*) *lucifera* (Fabricius, 1798) (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Portunidae) from Malaysian waters after 127 years, with morphological and ecological notes. Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society, 119: 1–5
- Wee DPC & Ng PKL (1995) Swimming crabs of the genera *Charybdis* De Haan, 1833, and *Thalamita* Latreille, 1829 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Portunidae) from Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore. Raffles Bulletin of Zoology, Supplement No. 1: 1–128.