

Metapenaeus monoceros (Fabricius, 1798)



Photo : Bella Galli

Relevant synonyms
Penaeopsis monoceros
Balss, 1927

Short description

Body pubescent. Rostrum with 9-12 teeth on upper margin. Post-rostral crest rounded, reaching posterior margin of carapace; crest bordered by shallow grooves. Telson medially grooved, bordered distally by movable spinules. Basial spine on three anterior walking legs, small ischial spine on first walking leg. Merus of fifth walking leg, in males, bearing proximally a notch followed by curved, prominent spine and row of tubercles. Petasma symmetrical, semi-closed, depressed. Thelycum closed, with anterior plate elongate, deeply grooved, lateral plates with prominently raised lateral margins.

color: body pale grey with dark brown pin-point chromatophores. Margins of rostrum, rostral crests, antennal scales, lateral margins of carapace, posterior margins of abdominal segments, setae on swimmeret gold. Dorsal crests of last three abdominal segments reddish-brown. Antennal flagella, lateral margins of uropods orange-red.

size: TL 15 cm males, 20 cm females.

Distinguishing characteristics

Merus of fifth walking leg, in males, bearing proximally a notch followed by curved, prominent spine and row of tubercles. Walking legs 1-3 with basial spine.

Biology / Ecology

Euryhaline. Juveniles are found in estuaries, lagoons or coastal areas, the adults further offshore. Omnivore.

habitat: sandy or sandy-mud bottoms.

Distribution

Worldwide: Indo-West Pacific, Red Sea to Malaysia. **Mediterranean:** recorded first as *Penaeopsis monoceros* in Egypt (Balss, 1927 [1924]). Successively recorded in Israel (Gottlieb, 1953); southern Turkey (Holthuis, 1961); Cyprus (Demetropoulos and Neocleous, 1969); Lebanon (Shiber, 1976); Syria (Holthuis, 1980); southern Tunisia (Missaoui and Zaouali, 1995).

Mode of introduction

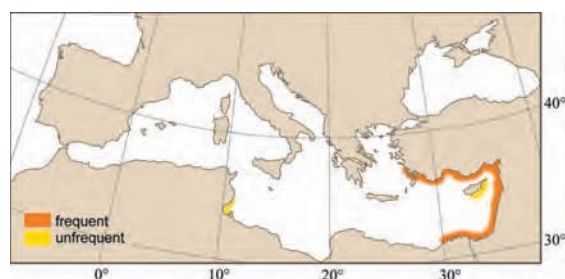
Via the Suez Canal (Balss, 1927).

Establishment

Abundant along the Levant coast since the 1970s.

Importance to humans

Commercially important in Egypt, Israel and Turkey.



1st Mediterranean record
Egypt, 1927 [1924]

Key references

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