



# Observation and Description of *Demanina spp.* Crab from Mithbav Creek, South Konkan, Maharashtra, India.

**Yeragi S. G. & Yeragi S. S.**

K. J. Somaiya College of Science, Vidyavihar, Mumbai - 400 077  
Email : dryeragi@rediffmail.com

## Introduction

Crabs constitute an important crustacean resource in Mithbav Creek due to important ecological entity in their habitat. The coastal native totally dependent on the crustacean fishery throughout the year. The crabs are the major source of income for the poor people. The present investigation is concentrating on one crab newly reported for the first time in Mithbav. This crab is locally known as stone crab because of its rough stony appearance and also because of their colour. The coastal people are not accepting this crab as food because of their toxic nature. The bright and distinctive colour of this crab is characteristics of native known poisonous species and is indirect confirmation of their toxicity.

## Material and Methods

This species of crab was collected from the cast net fishing done at the bank of the creek in the month of May - June, 2011. The crab was identified following the description and keys given by Alcock (1898), Deb (1986), S. Lakshmi Pillai (2008). The size of crab mentioned in the text pertains to carapase width (CW) in mm.

## Results and Discussion

Family	- Xanthidae Mac Leay, 1838
Sub family	- Xanthinae Mac Leay, 1838
Genus	- Demania Laurie, 1906
Material	- 1 male (45mm CW), 1 female (42 mm CW)
Depth of occurrence	- 3 to 4 m

The carapace and chelipeds covered with large number of tubercles, anterolateral teeth well defined and marked large tubercles. The dorsal surface of the carapace is showing numerous granules. The inner angle of the wrist of the chelipeds is with a sharp acute tooth. The surface of the palm of the chelipeds is lined with numerous large rounded granules. The dorsal margin of the merus of the ambulatory legs is crested. The crab is brownish in colour. This crab is reported for the first time in Mithbav Creek; though this creek is popular for crustacean fishery. Abdomen of male gradually tapering and consists of 7 segments in which distal segment is more or less triangular showing horny projections



Ventral view of *Demania* spp.



*Demania* spp. Showing powerful jaws with tubercles



*Demania* spp. Dorsal view showing pressure bearing tubercles on Carapase

laterally. The legs are covered with a row of berry - like teeth. Fingers of chelipeds are dark brown in their basal half, white at the tips. The characteristic tubercles have everywhere a worn appearance, especially in the middle of the carapace and on the chelipeds. The carpopodites and propodites of the legs have become merely low rough elevations.

## References

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3. Garth, J. S. and P. K. L. Ng. 1985. Notes on the genus *Demania* Laurie. 1906. (Crustacea. Decapoda. Brachyura. Xanthidae). Indo. Malay. Zool. 2(2) 293 - 308.