

Study of Distribution and Morphology of Leucosiidae and Xanthidae Crabs in the Subtidal Waters of the Khuzestan Province (Persian Gulf)

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to identify the biodiversity and morphology of the Xanthidae and Leucosiidae crabs in the subtidal waters of the Persian Gulf in Khuzestan Province. The specimens were collected from 7 stations during 2014-2015 by four times sampling using bottom trawl. In the laboratory, the morphological traits of samples were investigated and their carapace length and width were measured. Then, the samples were studied to identify the species using valid identification keys. In this study, 7 species of crab were identified that four species of them belonged to the family Leucosiidae (*Myra pernix*, *Hiplyra sagitta*, *Lyphira perplexa*, *Arcania erinacea*) and 3 species belonged to the family Xanthidae (*Gaillardius rueppelli*, *Liagore erythematica*, *Atergatis integerrimus*). This study showed that the Persian Gulf waters in the vicinity of Khuzestan Province provide a suitable habitat for the mentioned crabs.

Keywords: *Brachyuran Crab*, *Xanthidae*, *Leucosiidae*, *Khuzestan Province*, *Persian Gulf*.
