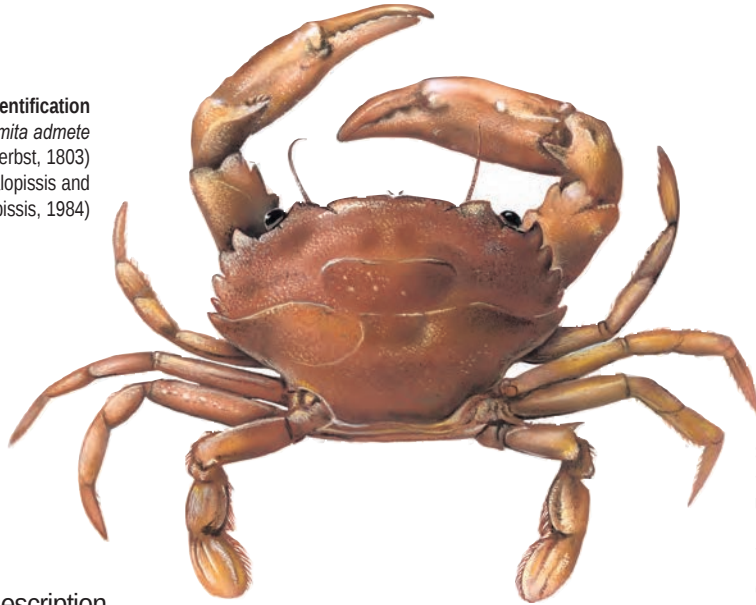


Thalamita poissonii (Audouin, 1826)

Misidentification

Thalamita admete
(Herbst, 1803)
(cf. Kalopissis and
Kalopissis, 1984)



Short description

Carapace broad, hexagonal, pubescent near orbits, antero-lateral margins, transverse granulate lines on frontal, protogastric, mesogastric, branchial regions, clustered on cardiac, post-gastric regions. Front wide, bilobed, well separated from broad supra-orbital angle. Antero-external angle of basal antennal segment greatly produced, filling orbital hiatus. Antero-lateral margins with five teeth, penultimate tooth smallest, posteriormost tooth spiniform, prominent. Chelipeds massive, subequal, glabrous; anterior margin of merus bearing prominent spine subdistally, followed by 2-3 rounded teeth; carpus with strong spine on internal margin, three tubercles on external surface; superior surface of chela with two tubercles interiorly, single tubercle externally. Posterior margin of fifth leg propodus smooth or with up to seven denticles.

color: carapace reddish-brown, legs yellowish, cheliped fingers light brown.

size: CL 1.8 cm, (max.).

Distinguishing characteristics

Front bilobate; antero-lateral margins subparallel, with five teeth, penultimate tooth smallest.

Biology / Ecology

Poorly known.

habitat: 0-80 m. under stones, sandy and sandy-mud bottoms, with *Posidonia*, *Caulerpa*.

Distribution

Worldwide: Indo-West Pacific, Red Sea to Taiwan. **Mediterranean:** recorded first from Israel (Holthuis, 1956; Holthuis and Gottlieb, 1958 [1952]). Successively recorded from southern Turkey (Holthuis, 1961); Lebanon (Shiber, 1981); Cyprus (Por, 1978); Greece, Aegean Sea (Peloponnisos and Gulf of Saronique) as *Th. admete* (Kalopissis and Kalopissis, 1984), Crete (d'Udekem d'Acoz, 1994)

Mode of introduction

Via the Suez Canal (Calman, 1927).

Establishment

Common along the Levantine and southern Turkish coast.

Importance to humans

None.



1st Mediterranean record
Israel, 1956 [1952].

Key references

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- Stephenson W., 1972. An annotated check list and key to the Indo-West-Pacific swimming crabs (Crustacea:Decapoda:Portunidae). *Bulletin of the Royal Society of New Zealand*, 10: 1-64.