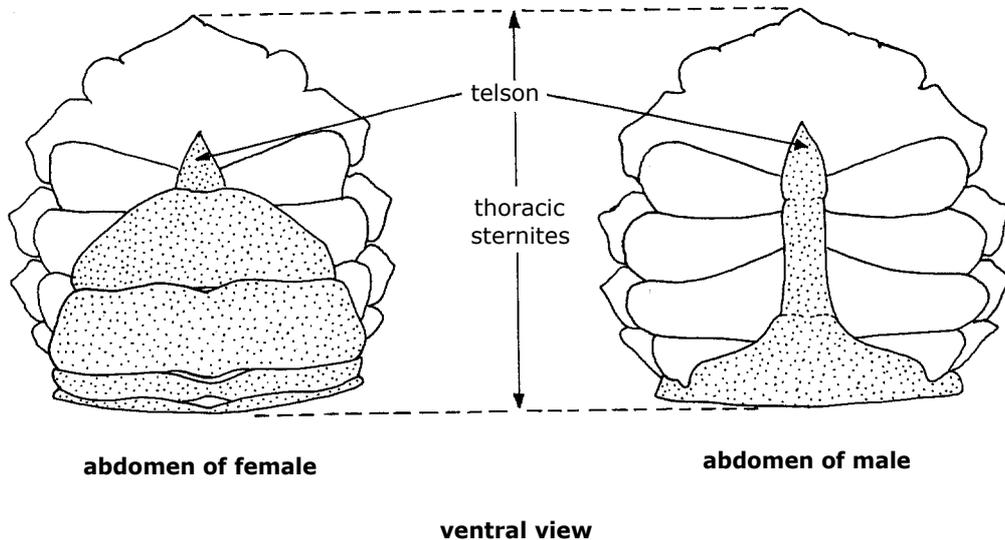
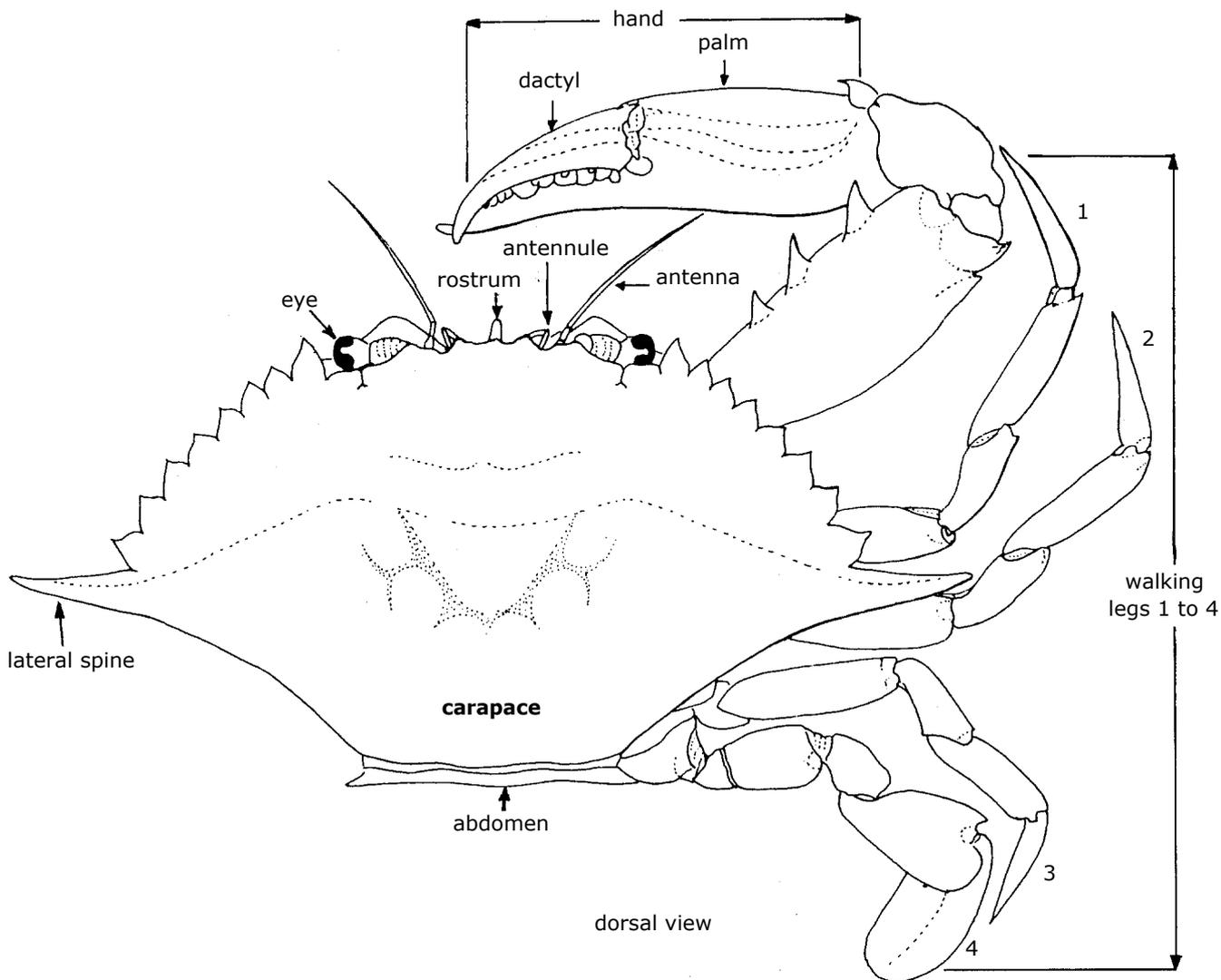


TRUE CRABS

TECHNICAL TERMS



Crabs are not exploited in Pakistan at present because of the low demand. Some species, however, have a high nutritional value and seem to be abundant enough to have a potential commercial value

CRABS

PORTUNIDAE

Charybdis feriata (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms Charybdis cruciata (Herbst, 1794)

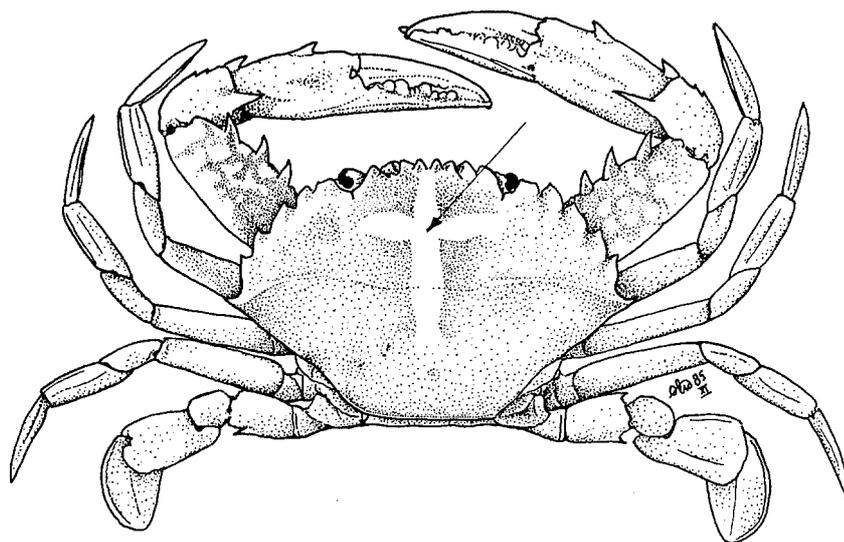
Loc. names : Kekra (Sin); Kukri (Bal)

FAO names : En - Coral crab
Fr - Crabe corail
Sp - Cangrejo de coral

Size : Max.: to 16 cm carapace width

Fishing gear : Caught accidentally in bottom trawls

Habitat and biology : Found in waters from 5 to 15 m depth, over sandy or muddy bottoms, but also in deeper waters, on hard bottoms



Portunus pelagicus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms : Neptunus pelagicus (Linnaeus, 1758)

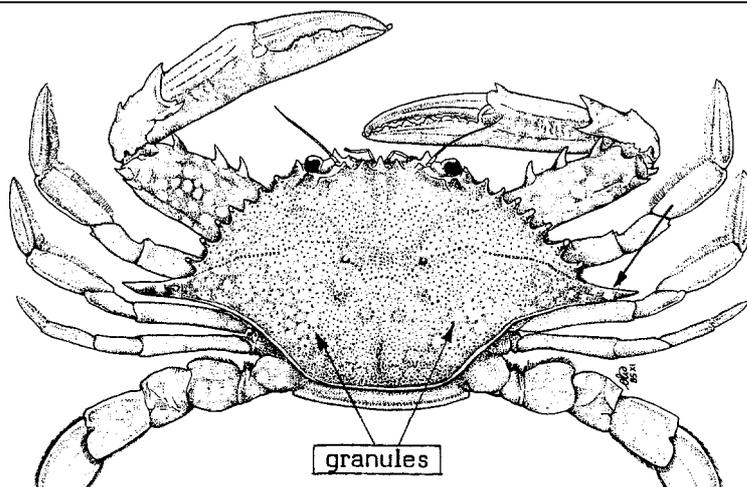
Loc. names : Kekra (Sin); Kukri, Googoo tanga (Bal)

FAO names : En - Blue swimming crab
Fr - Etrille bleue
SP - Jaiba azul

Size : Max.: almost to 20 cm carapace width

Fishing gear : No special fishery, only occasionally caught by hand, in the littoral zone, or by hook and line and nets in deeper waters

Habitat and biology : A coastal marine species (in waters to about 40 m depth) also found in brackish waters, estuaries and lagoons. Mainly pelagic, swims close to the bottom hiding in the sand in case of danger. Usually found on sandy or sandy-mud bottoms. The largest specimens are usually in deeper waters. Sexual maturity is attained at about 11 cm carapace width in females, at 10 cm in males. Males seem to attain a larger size than the females. There is a strong sexual dimorphism, the males having much longer chelipeds and first pair of walking legs, and bright blue carapace and legs, while the females are more drably coloured. Carnivorous, feeds on various fishes and invertebrates.



Portunus sanguinolentus (Herbst, 1796)

Synonyms None

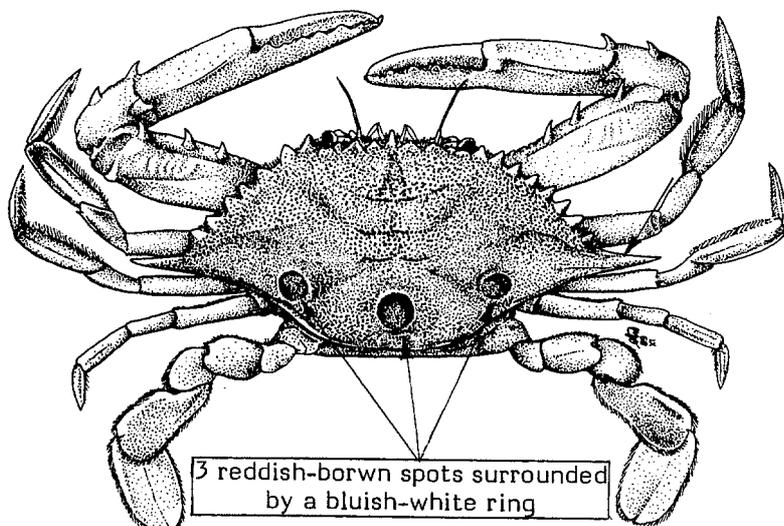
Loc. names : Kekra (Sin);
Kukri, Googoo tanga (Bal)

FAO names : En - Redspot swimming crab
Fr - Etrille tache rouge
SP - Jaiba colorete

Size : Max.: to 18 cm carapace width

Fishing gear : No special fishery, only occasionally caught by hand, in shallow waters, or as bycatch in gillnets and trawls in deeper waters

Habitat and biology : A marine species, inhabiting waters from 3 to 30 m depth, over sandy or sandy-mud bottoms. Also found in brackish waters. Swims to the surface at night. Reproduction seems to take place, quite irregularly, all year long. Feeds on fishes and various invertebrates



CRABS

PORTUNIDAE

Scylla serrata (Forsskål, 1775)

Synonyms : None

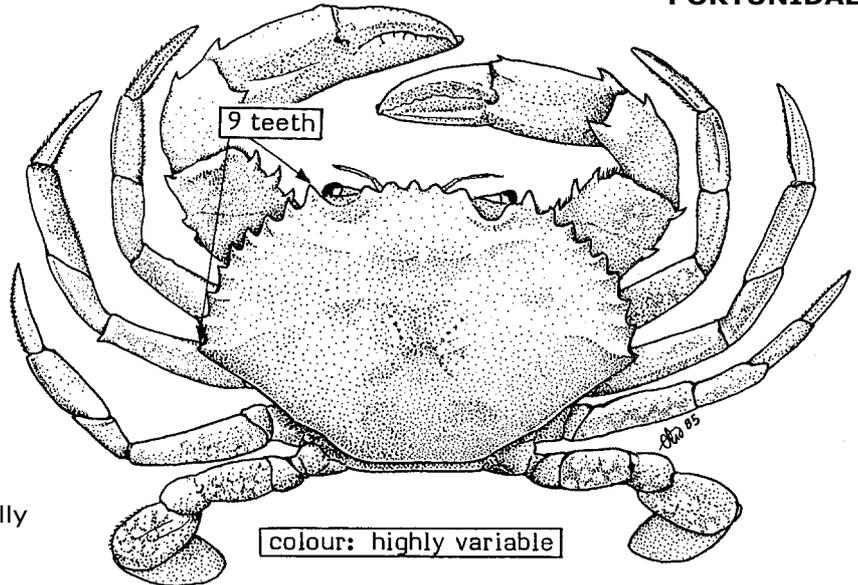
Loc. names : Khakua (Sin); Kukri (Bal)

FAO names : En - Indo-Pacific swamp crab
Fr - Crabe des palétuviers
Sp - Cangrejo de manglares

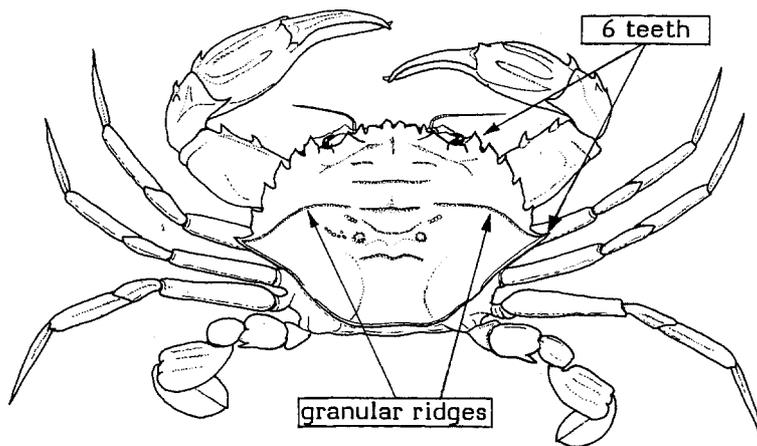
Size : Max.: 20 cm carapace width

Fishing gear : No special fishery, occasionally caught by hand or with hooks

Habitat and biology : A coastal marine species, also living in brackish waters, estuaries, mangrove areas and even in fresh water. Spawning takes place at sea in inshore waters. The females are usually smaller than the males and shed about 2 million eggs. The juveniles migrate into river mouths and swim upstream searching for food and shelter. This species lives in holes excavated in muddy or sandy-mud bottoms. Feeds on shrimp, small fishes, molluscs and small crabs. It has also been observed feeding on carrion, seaweeds and small fragments of wood

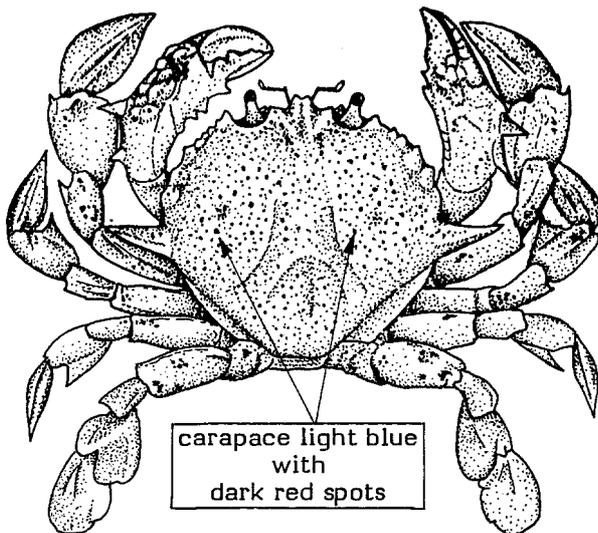


Other species of Crabs
all Kekra (Sin); Kukri (Bal)

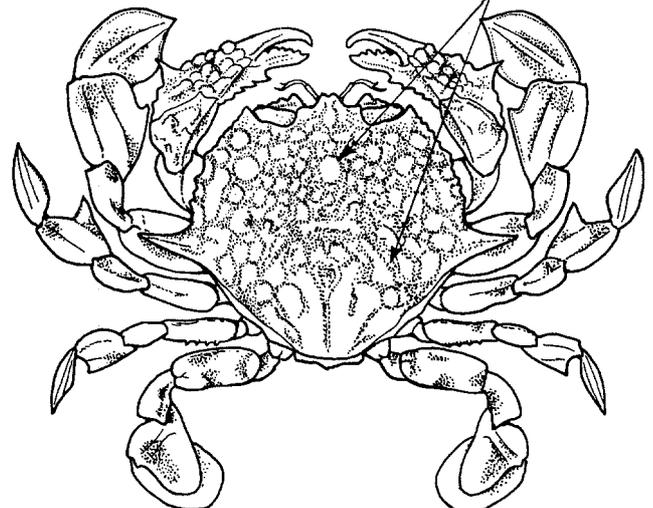


Charybdis callianassa (Herbst, 1789)
(Family: PORTUNIDAE)

carapace light blue
or yellow with
red reticulations



Mutula lunaris (Forsskål, 1775)
Family: CALAPPIDAE



Matuta planipes Fabricius
Family: CALAPPIDAE