

Scientific note

First record of the swimming crab, *Bathynectes longipes* (Risso, 1816) in the Northern Adriatic biogeographic sector

(Decapoda, Brachyura, Portunidae)

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The two *Bathynectes* species occurring in the Mediterranean, *B. longipes* (Risso, 1816) and *B. maravigna* (Prestandrea, 1839), are seldom found inhabitants of deeper waters; the first species ranging from 20 to 226 m depth, the second from 60 to 800 m (Abello et al. 2001, Garcia Raso 1984, Števcic 1990). In the past, the northernmost records of *B. longipes* were from the Kvarner Gulf (e.g.

Lorenz 1863) and a few other locations in the middle Adriatic (e.g. Adensamer 1898), and those of *B. maravigna* in the southern Adriatic Sea (Pesta 1918, Števcic 1990, Froglija 2010). Occurrence and ecological data have been summarized recently by Milišic (2008) who also published a colour photo. In the northern Adriatic sector, representing a distinct biogeographic region with its

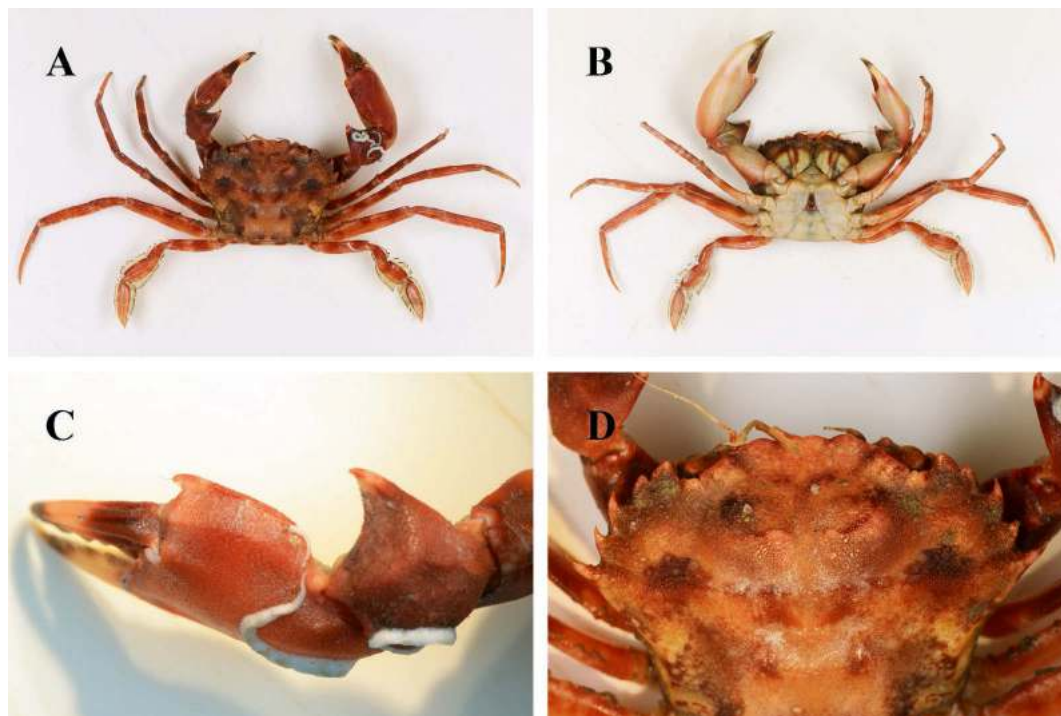


Fig. 1. *Bathynectes longipes* male (ZSMA 20140001): **A.** dorsal view, **B.** ventral view, **C.** cheliped with strong spine at distal end of carpus, **D.** dorsal view of carapace with four-lobed front; distinct line between posteriormost anterolateral spines clearly visible.

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*** R. M. and R. R. M. dedicate this short note to their coauthor and great carcinologist Michael Türkay (1948–2015), who passed away during the preparation of the manuscript.

approximate south-eastern limit on the line Pula–Ancona (Bianchi 2004, Relini 2010), records of species of *Bathynectes* were missing to date.

During one of our field-courses in marine biology hosted by the Ruder-Bošković-Institute in Rovinj (Croatia) we collected two *Bathynectes longipes* in dredged material from off the old town of Rovinj on a “*Microcosmus* ground” caught by the institute’s research vessel Burin at a depth of 23 m at N45°4’40.429” E13°36’37.379”. None of us had observed this species during earlier carcinological surveys in the area (MT since 40 years, RRM since 20 years, RM since 10 years). Both specimens were deposited in the collection of the Zoologische Staatssammlung München (ZSM), collection numbers ZSMA 20140001 and ZSMA 20140002.

ZSMA 20140001 was a male with a carapace width (CW) of 32.30 mm (incl. lateral spine), and a carapace length (CL) of 21.30 mm, ZSMA 20140002 a female with CW of 26.75 mm (incl. lateral spine) and CL of 18.25 mm. The specimens exhibit the species specific features documented here using extended depth of field colour photography, e.g. four-lobed front, strong spine at distal end of cheliped carpus and distinct line between posteriormost (longest) anterolateral carapace spines. Coloration of cephalothorax is reddish, with a few darker spots (Fig. 1).

Both, the occurrence of *B. longipes* in the northernmost part of the Adriatic, and at only 23 m of depth, are interesting complements to the biogeography of this species. The geographically closest published records of this species in the middle Adriatic are the Kvarner Gulf and the surroundings of Lošinj (Pesta 1918) which both date back to nearly one hundred fifty years.

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