

# *Percnon gibbesi*



Taxon	Family / Order / Class / Phylum
<i>Percnon gibbesi</i> (H. Milne Edwards, 1853)	Grapsidae / Decapoda / Crustacea / Arthropoda

## COMMON NAMES (English only)

Sally lightfoot crab

## SYNONYMS

## SHORT DESCRIPTION

An agile, aposomatic mimetic crab. The carapace is 3 cm in diameter and brownish, it has golden yellow rings on joints of walking legs. Carapace disc-like, with tridentate front and antero-lateral margins with four acute teeth. All walking legs have a row of spines on anterior margin of merus. Chelipeds have spinose merus and carpus. The palm has a small pilose area proximally on inner surface and the groove is also pilose proximally on upper surface. It is active during daytime with feeding peaks at sunset. It is strictly herbivorous, using its small claws to pick off the fine film of algal growth.



*Percnon gibbesi*

Photo: Baki Yokes

## BIOLOGY/ECOLOGY

### Dispersal mechanisms

Long-living planktonic larvae.

### Reproduction

Off West Africa, ovigerous females have been collected in February-April and August.

### Known predators/herbivores

It is vulnerable to predation by fish and invertebrates.

### Resistant stages (seeds, spores etc.)

None.

## HABITAT

### Native (EUNIS code)

A1: Littoral rock and other hard substrata, A3: Sublittoral rock and other hard substrata. Rocky infralittoral to 30 m depth.

### Habitat occupied in invaded range (EUNIS code)

A1: Littoral rock and other hard substrata, A3: Sublittoral rock and other hard substrata. Intertidal and subtidal rocky bottoms to 8 m.

### Habitat requirements

It lives under boulders, or in narrow crevices, where it seeks shelter when threatened.

## DISTRIBUTION

### Native range

West coast of America (California to Chile); East coast of America (Florida to Brazil); East Atlantic (Madeira to Gulf of Guinea).

### Known Introduced Range

Mediterranean, from the Balearic Is. to Turkey.

### Trend

First collected in the Mediterranean from Linosa I. (1999). Subsequently spread from the Balearic Is., to Greece and Turkey. It forms thriving high-density populations in an amazingly short space of time.

### MAP (European distribution)



#### Legend

	Known in country		Known in CGRS square		Known in sea
	Key distribution area		Infrequent		Unestablished

### INTRODUCTION PATHWAY

Vessel-mediated transport (in ballast or fouling), and/or larval transport by currents.

### IMPACT

#### Ecosystem Impact

Its habitat overlaps with the native grapsid *Pachygrapsus marmoratus* and the pebble crab *Eriphia verrucosa*. Exclusion of native crabs may occur in some areas.

#### Health and Social Impact

#### Economic Impact

### MANAGEMENT

#### Prevention

Controlling vessel fouling.

#### Mechanical

Unknown.

#### Chemical

Unknown.

#### Biological

Unknown.

### REFERENCES

Deudero S, Frau A, Cerda M, Hampel H (2005) Distribution and densities of the decapod crab *Percnon gibbesi*, an invasive Grapsidae, in western Mediterranean waters. Marine Ecology Progress Series 85:151-156

Pipitone C, Badalamenti F, Sparrow A (2001) Contribution to the knowledge of *Percnon gibbesi* (Decapoda, Grapsidae), an exotic species spreading rapidly in Sicilian waters. *Crustaceana* 74(10):1009-1017  
[www.ciesm.org/atlas/](http://www.ciesm.org/atlas/)

#### OTHER REFERENCES

- Cannicci S, Badalamenti F, Milazzo M, Gomei M, Baccarella A, Vannini M (2004) Unveiling the secrets of a successful invader: preliminary data on the biology and the ecology of the crab *Percnon gibbesi* (H. Milne Edwards, 1853). *Rapports et Proces-Verbaux des Reunions Commission Internationale pour l'Exploration de la Mer Méditerranée* 37: 326
- Cannicci S, Garcia L, Galil BS (2006) Racing across the Mediterranean - first record of *Percnon gibbesi* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Grapsidae) in Greece. *JMBA2*
- Garcia L, Reviriego B (2000) Presència del cranc subtropical *Percnon gibbesi* (H. Milne Edwards, 1853), (Crustacea, Decapoda, Grapsidae) a les Illes Balears. Primera cita a la Mediterrània occidental. *Butlletí de la Societat d'Història Natural de les Balears* 43:81-89
- Manning RB, Holthuis LB (1981) West African Brachyuran Crabs (Crustacea, Decapoda). *Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology* 306:1- 379
- Mori M, Vacchi M (2002) On a new occurrence of the alien flat crab, *Percnon gibbesi* (H. Milne Edwards), in the southern Sicily (Central Mediterranean Sea) (Crustacea, Brachyura, Grapsidae). *Annali del Museo Civico di Storia Naturale "Giacomo Doria"* 114: 295-302
- Mueller C (2001) First record of *Percnon gibbesi* (Crustacea: Brachyura: Grapsidae) for the Balearic Islands. *Senckenbergiana Maritima* 31(1):83-89
- Paula J, Hartnoll RG (1989) The larval and post larval development of *Percnon gibbesi* (Crustacea, Brachyura, Grapsidae) and the identity of the larval genus *Pluteocaris*. *Journal of zoology* 218(1):17-37
- Puccio V, Relini M, Azzurro E, Orsi Relini L (2006) Feeding habits of *Percnon gibbesi* (H. Milne Edwards, 1853) in the Sicily Straits. *Hydrobiologia* 557(1):79-84
- Rathbun MJ (1918) The Grapsoid Crabs of America. *United States National Museum Bulletin* 97, xxii+461, 172 figs, 161 pls
- Relini M, Orsi L, Puccio V, Azzurro E (2000) The exotic crab *Percnon gibbesi* (H. Milne Edwards, 1853) (Decapoda, Grapsidae) in the central Mediterranean. *Scientia Marina* 64(3):337-340

Author: B. S. Galil

Date Last Modified: November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006