

Scientific note

First record of *Pinnotheres bicristatus* García Raso & Cuesta, 2019 from the Adriatic Sea

(Decapoda, Pinnotheridae)

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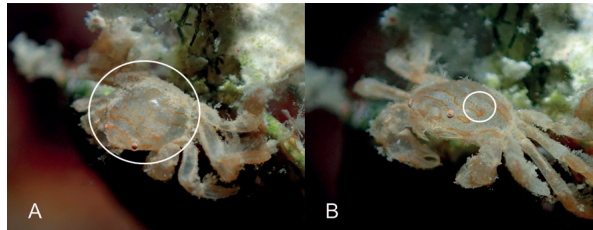


Fig. 1. Specimen of *Pinnotheres bicristatus* found in Fiesa (Gulf of Trieste) showing two specific morphological features marked with white circles: **A.** the colour pattern on the carapax; **B.** tufts of short, curved setae positioned on dorsoanterior lateral carapace region (photo: Irena Frkovič).

Pinnotheres bicristatus García Raso & Cuesta in Cuesta, García Raso, Abelló, Marco-Herrero, Silva & Drake, 2019 is a species of a pea crab belonging to the genus *Pinnotheres* Bosc, 1801. The genus contains around 30 valid species of pea crabs according to WoRMS, of which 3 are recorded in European waters. Only two species were so far confirmed for the Mediterranean Sea, *P. pisum* and *P. bicristatus*, the first being a well-known and widespread species and the second newly described (Becker & Türkay 2010, Cuesta et al. 2019).

Pinnotheres bicristatus' first known record comes from 1994 offshore the Barbate coast, with additional findings in the following years in catches of various research cruises and surveys from the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts of Andalusia (South of Iberian Peninsula). The species was collected in larval stages and in adult form. The adults were found to mainly occur in the common saddle oyster, *Anomia ephippium*, but few were found also in the flat oyster, *Ostrea edulis*, which were collected between 11 and 71 m depth (Cuesta et al. 2019, Marco-Herrero et al. 2020).

On 5th September 2021 a specimen of *Pinnotheres bicristatus* was photographed at approximately 9 m depth by a scuba diver at Fiesa (Piran, Slovenia) (45°31'33.70" N, 13°34'49.97" E). The specimen was determined based on the distinct external morphological features seen from the photographs and described by Cuesta et al. (2019), namely the colour pattern on the carapax and tufts of short, curved setae on dorsoanterior lateral carapace region

(Fig. 1). The crab was found on sandy bottom, on top of a hollow concrete cube, overgrown with several algal species. The finding represents the first finding in the Mediterranean Sea, except for Alboran Sea, suggesting that the crab could be more widespread in the Mediterranean as is known until now.

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References

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