

DECAPOD CRUSTACEA OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND

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A total of 204 decapod crustacean species is listed in Table 10. The list includes species recorded by the previous workers noted below. The species names are those currently used in the scientific literature and not necessarily the names cited by historical workers. The historical collections have not been examined and hence the accuracy of early identifications cannot be ascertained.

In comparison with other invertebrate groups, the crustacean fauna of Christmas Island, especially the order Decapoda, has been well documented. Species of Crustacea have been recorded by Pocock (1887), Andrews (1900), De Man (1905), Calman (1909), Balss (1934), Ward (1934), Gordon (1935), Gibson-Hill (1947a; b), Tweedie (1947), George (1978) and Hicks *et al.* (1984). Most workers have concentrated on the true crabs (Brachyura), with particular emphasis on the terrestrial species, although Morgan (1992) describes the hermit crabs.

The present survey was orientated towards the marine crustacean fauna, particularly of subtidal depths accessible only by SCUBA and hence poorly sampled by previous workers. The marine hermit crabs (families Diogenidae and Paguridae) and xanthoid crabs (families Xanthidae, Trapeziidae, Pilumnidae, Menippidae) were preferentially collected as these are dominant components of the crustacean faunas of tropical intertidal and subtidal waters, especially when associated with rocky and coral reefs. Dominant groups are xanthoid (80 species or subspecies), grapsid (20 species), and majid crabs (17 species), and hermit crabs (31 species). Seventy-five species are new records for Christmas Island.

The general composition of the decapod crustacean fauna of Christmas Island is essentially that expected for a tropical, oceanic Indo-West Pacific island environment. The crustacean fauna reflects the dominance of coral and coral rubble habitats with relatively small areas of sand substrate and the complete absence of mud and fine silts.

Hermit crabs are the most diverse of the anomuran fauna. The genera *Calcinus* and *Dardanus* are dominant in the Diogenidae both in terms of numbers of species and individuals. Both are characteristic genera of coral reef areas.

In particular *C. gaimardii*, *C. guamensis*, *C. minutus*, *C. sp. nov.* 1 and *D. lagopodes* are very common in

shallow subtidal habitats of Christmas Island. The genus *Clibanarius* appears to be absent, contrasting with a previous report (Gibson-Hill, 1947a) of populations of three species of *Clibanarius* in Flying Fish Cove, a site well sampled for the present survey (station 1). The extent of live coral appears to have diminished since the early studies of Christmas Island, and this may have affected the faunal composition of many areas.

The hermit crab family Paguridae is usually regarded as relatively poorly represented in tropical seas and far less diverse or abundant than the Diogenidae. While less speciose on Christmas Island, the Paguridae comprised numerous individuals of several small, cryptic species, often aggregating under loose coral debris. Recent studies by the author indicate that Christmas Island is not unique in this condition but rather that small pagurids have been poorly collected from tropical areas in the past. The definite identification of several species will require further study and will be the subject of a future paper. *Orthopagurus harmsi* is a small commensal of serpulid worm tubes in coral heads and was originally described from Christmas Island (Gordon, 1935).

Two species of rock lobster, *Panulirus penicillatus* and *P. versicolor* were collected, both having widespread distributions across the Indo-West Pacific. A third species, *P. longipes*, is recorded for Christmas Island by Calman (1909) and George (1968).

In the Brachyura, the families Majidae (decorator crabs), Grapsidae (rock crabs) and superfamily Xanthoidea (black-clawed crabs) are dominant in terms of species diversity. Of the majids, *Tylocarcinus dumerilii* and *Schizophrys aspera* appeared quite common. Diversity of xanthoids is very high, as in most tropical reef areas of the Indo-Pacific. Dominant genera are *Pilodius*, *Liomera*, *Trapezia* and *Tetralia*, the latter two comprising obligate symbionts of corals.

Grapsid crabs are a very obvious component of Christmas Island intertidal and supratidal habitats and are quite well documented (eg. Hicks *et al.*, 1984). The present survey confirmed the presence of a second species of *Grapsus*, *G. albolineatus*, previously recorded (as *G. strigosus*) by Calman (1909).

Two species of Ocypodidae were collected during

this study, *Ocypode ceratophthalma* and *O. cordimana*, both recorded from Christmas Island by several previous workers. An additional species, *O. kuhlii*, has been reported by Tweedie (1947) and Gibson-Hill (1947a) but was not found in this survey, nor is it recorded by Hicks *et al.* (1984).

Although no intensive effort was made during the present study to collect land crabs, a specimen of a previously unrecorded terrestrial gecarcinid species, *Epigrapsus politus*, was collected from West White Beach, together with an additional specimen, presented to the museum party, from Flying Fish Cove. This species is a relatively small gecarcinid, somewhat resembling a juvenile *Cardisoma hirtipes*, and was found amongst rocks of the supralittoral zone.

Several decapod groups, notably the caridean shrimps, are still poorly documented for Christmas Island and require further specialist attention. The non-decapod crustacean fauna is almost unknown.

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Table 10 List of Decapod Crustacea

Key to symbols

* Not collected during this survey

+ New record for Christmas Island

Numbers = sampling stations (see Table 4.)

	Station numbers
PENAEOIDEA	
PENAEIDAE	
* <i>Penaeus</i> sp.	
STENOPODIDEA	
STENOPODIDAE	
<i>Stenopus hispidus</i> (Olivier, 1811)	1
CARIDEA	
PALAEEMONIDAE	
PONTONIINAE	
* <i>Coralliocaris graminea</i> (Dana, 1852)	
* <i>Coralliocaris superba</i> (Dana, 1852)	
PALAEEMONINAE	
<i>Macrobrachium lar</i> (Fabricius, 1798)	Waterfall stream, Hewans Spring,
* <i>Palaemon carcinus</i> Fabricius, 1798	Dales
ALPHEIDAE	
* <i>Alpheus</i> aff. <i>collumianus</i> Stimpson, 1861	
* <i>Alpheus malleodigitus</i> (Bate, 1888)	

Table 10 (cont.)

	Station numbers
* <i>Athanas djiboutensis</i> Coutiere, 1897	
* <i>Athanas dorsalis</i> (Stimpson, 1861)	
* <i>Synalpheus biunguiculatus</i> (Stimpson, 1861)	
GNATHOPHYLLIDAE	
+ <i>Hymenocera picta</i> Dana, 1852	1
HIPPOLYTIDAE	
* <i>Lysmata seticaudata</i> (Risso, 1816)	
THALASSOCARIDIDAE	
* <i>Thalassocaris lucida</i> (Dana, 1852)	
PALINURA	
PALINURIDAE	
* <i>Panulirus longipes</i> (A. Milne Edwards, 1868)	
<i>Panulirus penicillatus</i> (Olivier, 1791)	3
<i>Panulirus versicolor</i> (Latreille, 1804)	1,9
SCYLLARIDAE	
+ <i>Parribacus antarcticus</i> (Lund, 1793)	1,2
* <i>Thenus orientalis</i> (Lund, 1793)	
ANOMURA	
DIOGENIDAE	
+ <i>Aniculus retipes</i> Lewinsohn, 1982	3,11
+ <i>Aniculus ursus</i> (Olivier, 1811)	1,3
<i>Calcinus elegans</i> (H. Milne Edwards, 1836)	1,2,3,4,5
+ <i>Calcinus gaimardii</i> (H. Milne Edwards, 1848)	1,2,3,4,5,6,8,10,14,15
+ <i>Calcinus guamensis</i> Wooster, 1984	1,3,5,6,8,11,14,15
<i>Calcinus laevimanus</i> (Randall, 1839)	3,4
+ <i>Calcinus latens</i> (Randall, 1839)	1,2,10,15
+ <i>Calcinus minutus</i> Buitendijk, 1937	1,2,3,5,8,9,11,14,15
+ <i>Calcinus seurati</i> Forest, 1951	4
+ <i>Calcinus lineapropodus</i> Morgan & Forest, 1991	1,2
* <i>Clibanarius corallinus</i> (H. Milne Edwards, 1848)	
* <i>Clibanarius</i> sp. 1	
* <i>Clibanarius</i> sp. 2	
+ <i>Dardanus crassimanus</i> (H. Milne Edwards, 1848)	8,9,14
<i>Dardanus gemmatus</i> (H. Milne Edwards, 1848)	1,3
+ <i>Dardanus guttatus</i> (Olivier, 1811)	1
+ <i>Dardanus lagopodes</i> (Forsk., 1775)	1,2,5,9,10,11,12
+ <i>Paguristes jalur</i> Morgan, 1992	3
+ <i>Trizopagurus strigatus</i> (Herbst, 1804)	1,2,5,8,14,15
PAGURIDAE	
<i>Paguritta harmsi</i> (Gordon, 1935)	12
+ <i>Pylopaguroopsis keijii</i> McLaughlin & Haig, 1989	1,3,5,7,8,9,11
+ <i>Pagurid</i> sp. 1	1,11
+ <i>Pagurid</i> sp. 2	1,3,9,14,15
+ <i>Pagurid</i> sp. 3	6
+ <i>Pagurid</i> sp. 4	5,6
+ <i>Pagurid</i> sp. 5	1,3,5,6,10,11,14,15
COENOBITIDAE	
<i>Birgus latro</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)	Hosnies Spring
<i>Coenobita brevimanus</i> Dana, 1852	11
<i>Coenobita perlatus</i> H. Milne Edwards, 1837	3,11
<i>Coenobita rugosus</i> H. Milne Edwards, 1837	3,11
PORCELLANIDAE	
* <i>Pachycheles sculptus</i> (H. Milne Edwards, 1837)	
<i>Petrolisthes boscii</i> (Audouin, 1826)	1,3,15
+ <i>Petrolisthes coccineus</i> (Owen, 1839)	10,14
<i>Petrolisthes fimbriatus</i> Borradaile, 1898	1
* <i>Petrolisthes lamarckii</i> (Leach, 1820)	
+ <i>Petrolisthes</i> cf. <i>militaris</i> (Heller, 1862)	15

Table 10 (cont.)

	Station numbers
+ <i>Petrolisthes scabriculus</i> (Dana, 1852)	7,15
+ <i>Petrolisthes</i> aff. <i>moluccensis</i> (De Man, 1888)	5
+ <i>Polyonyx</i> sp.	11
GALATHEIDAE	
+ <i>Galathea affinis</i> Ortmann, 1892	
<i>Galathea</i> sp.	6,12
THALASSINIDEA	
CALLIANIDEIDAE	
* <i>Callianidea typha</i> H. Milne Edwards, 1837	
BRACHYURA	
Dromiacea	
DROMIIDAE	
* <i>Cryptodromia canaliculata</i> Stimpson, 1858	
+ <i>Cryptodromia coronata</i> Stimpson, 1858	10
* <i>Cryptodromiopsis tridens</i> Borradaile, 1903	
DYNOMENIDAE	
+ <i>Dynomene pilumnoides</i> Alcock, 1899	7,14
* <i>Dynomene praedator</i> A. Milne Edwards, 1879	
+ <i>Dynomene</i> sp.	6,15
<i>Oxyrhyncha</i>	
MAJIDAE	
INACHINAE	
+ <i>Achaeus lacertosus</i> Stimpson, 1907	15
* <i>Achaeus spinosus</i> Miers, 1879	
<i>Camposcia retusa</i> Latreille, 1829	1,3
+ <i>Chalaroachaeus curvipes</i> De Man, 1902	3,12
* <i>Oncinopus araneus</i> De Haan, 1839	
EPIALTINAE	
+ <i>Huenia</i> aff. <i>brevimanus</i> Ward, 1941	Daniel Roux Cave mouth
+ <i>Huenia proteus</i> De Haan, 1839	15
+ <i>Menaethius orientalis</i> (Sakai, 1969)	1,7
<i>Perinia tumida</i> Dana, 1852	1
PISINAE	
+ <i>Acanthophrys paucispina</i> (Miers, 1879)	10
+ <i>Acanthophrys</i> sp.	15
<i>Hyastenus uncifer</i> Calman, 1909	1,3,5
* <i>Micippoides angustifrons</i> A. Milne Edwards, 1873	
<i>Tylocarcinus dumerilii</i> H. Milne Edwards, 1834	1,3,6,14,15
MAJINAE	
+ <i>Cyclax suborbicularis</i> (Stimpson, 1907)	1,3
<i>Schizophrys aspera</i> (H. Milne Edwards, 1834)	1,8,10
MITHRACINAE	
* <i>Micippa platipes</i> Rüppell, 1830	
PARTHENOPIDAE	
PARTHENOPINAE	
+ <i>Daldorfia investigatoris</i> (Alcock, 1895)	
AETHRINAE	
+ <i>Aethra scruposa</i> (Linnaeus, 1764)	11
EUMEDONINAE	
+ <i>Ceratocarcinus spinosus</i> Miers, 1879	3,12
* <i>Proechinoecus sculptus</i> Ward, 1934	
<i>Cancriidea</i>	
ATELECYCLIDAE	
* <i>Kraussia rugulosa</i> (Krauss, 1843)	
<i>Brachyrhyncha</i>	

Table 10 (cont.)

	Station numbers
PORTUNIDAE	
CAPHYRINAE	
+ <i>Lissocarcinus orbicularis</i> Dana, 1852	1
PORTUNINAE	
+ <i>Charybdis</i> sp. (juv.)	8
+ <i>Lupocyclus quinquedentatus</i> Rathbun, 1906	1
* <i>Thalamita picta</i> Stimpson, 1858	
* <i>Thalamita</i> sp.	
XANTHIDAE	
POLYDECTINAE	
<i>Lybia tessellata</i> (Latreille, 1812)	1
CYMOINAE	
* <i>Cymo melanodactylus</i> De Haan, 1833	
LIOMERINAE	
<i>Liomera bella</i> (Dana, 1852)	1,15
* <i>Liomera cinctimana</i> (White, 1847)	
<i>Liomera monticulosa</i> (A. Milne Edwards, 1873) 1	
+ <i>Liomera pallida</i> (Borradaile, 1900)	15
* <i>Liomera rugata</i> (H. Milne Edwards, 1834)	
+ <i>Liomera</i> cf. <i>pediger</i> (Alcock, 1898)	2
+ <i>Liomera</i> sp.	1,3
+ <i>Neoliomera richtersoides</i> Sakai, 1969	6
EUXANTHINAE	
<i>Paramedaeus noelensis</i> (Ward, 1934)	1
ACTAEINAE	
* <i>Actaeodes consobrinus</i> (A. Milne Edwards, 1873)	
+ <i>Actaeodes</i> cf. <i>hirsutissimus</i> (Rüppell, 1830, 1830)	12
<i>Actaeodes tomentosus</i> Milne Edwards, 1834)	3
* <i>Epiactaea nodulosa</i> (White, 1847)	
* <i>Paractaea rufopunctata rufopunctata</i> (H. Milne Edwards, 1834)	
<i>Psaumis cavipes</i> (Dana, 1852)	1
* <i>Pseudoliomera granosimana</i> (H. Milne Edwards, 1865)	
* <i>Pseudoliomera lata</i> (Borradaile, 1902)	
* <i>Pseudoliomera speciosa</i> (Dana, 1852)	
+ <i>Pseudoliomera variolosa</i> (Borradaile, 1902)	1
ZOSIMINAE	
* <i>Atergatis latissimus</i> (H. Milne Edwards, 1834)	
* <i>Atergatis tweediei</i> Ward, 1934 (? = <i>Atergatopsis tweediei</i> Balss, 1938)	
<i>Atergatopsis signatus</i> (Adams and White, 1848)	4
* <i>Lophozozymus dodone</i> (Herbst, 1801)	
+ <i>Zozimus actaeoides</i> (A. Milne Edwards, 1867)	3
* <i>Zosimus aeneus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	
XANTHINAE	
* <i>Lachnopodus ponapensis</i> (Rathbun, 1907)	
* <i>Lachnopodus subacutus</i> (Stimpson, 1858)	
* <i>Leptodius gracilis</i> (Dana, 1852)	
* <i>Leptodius nudipes</i> (Dana, 1852)	
<i>Leptodius sanguineus</i> (H. Milne Edwards, 1834)	3,8
* <i>Lioxanthodes alcocki</i> Calman, 1909	
* <i>Macromedaeus nudipes</i> (A. Milne Edwards, 1867)	
+ <i>Nanocassiope alcocki</i> (Rathbun, 1902)	14
* <i>Paraxanthias notatus</i> (Dana, 1852)	
<i>Xanthias lamarcki</i> (H. Milne Edwards, 1834)	15
+ <i>Xanthias</i> cf. <i>latifrons</i> (De Man, 1888)	9
* <i>Zozymodes cavipes</i> (Dana, 1852)	
ETISINAE	
* <i>Etisus albus</i> (Ward, 1934)	

Table 10 (cont.)

	Station numbers
+ <i>Etisus anaglyptus</i> H. Milne Edwards, 1834	3,5,9
<i>Etisus demani</i> Odhner, 1925	1,15
+ <i>Etisus</i> aff. <i>deflexus</i> Dana, 1852	4
CHLORODIINAE	
* <i>Chlorodiella laevis</i> (Dana, 1852)	
* <i>Chlorodiella nigra</i> (Forsk., 1775)	
* <i>Liocarpilodes harmsi</i> (Balss, 1934)	
+ <i>Liocarpilodes integerrimus</i> (Dana, 1852)	3
* <i>Phymodius nitidus</i> (Dana, 1852)	
* <i>Phymodius unguatus</i> (H. Milne Edwards, 1834)	
<i>Pilodius areolatus</i> (H. Milne Edwards, 1834)	1,15
<i>Pilodius scabriculus</i> Dana, 1852	1
* <i>Pilodius</i> aff. <i>spinipes</i> Heller, 1861	1,2
<i>Tweedieia odhneri</i> (Gordon, 1934)	11,14
TRAPEZIIDAE	
TRAPEZIINAE	
+ <i>Tetralia cinctipes</i> Paulson, 1875	15
<i>Tetralia glaberrima</i> (Herbst, 1790)	
+ <i>Tetralia glaberrima</i> cf. <i>fulva</i> Patton, 1966	Merial Beach
+ <i>Tetralia glaberrima laevis</i> Stimpson, 1858	12
+ <i>Tetralia glaberrima</i> cf. <i>nigrifrons</i> Dana, 1852	11
<i>Trapezia areolata</i> Dana, 1852	1
+ <i>Trapezia bella</i> Dana, 1852	1
<i>Trapezia cymodoce</i> (Herbst, 1799)	1,3
* <i>Trapezia digitalis</i> Latreille, 1825	
<i>Trapezia ferruginea</i> Latreille, 1825	3
<i>Trapezia guttata</i> Ruppell, 1830	15
<i>Trapezia rufopunctata</i> (Herbst, 1799)	12
+ <i>Trapezia septata</i> Dana, 1852	1
DOMECIINAE	
* <i>Domecia hispida</i> Eydoux and Souleyet, 1842	
+ <i>Maldivia palmyrensis</i> Rathbun, 1923	3
PILUMNIDAE	
PILUMNINAE	
+ <i>Pilumnus</i> aff. <i>barbatus</i> A. Milne Edwards, 1873	1
+ <i>Pilumnus orbitospinus</i> Rathbun, 1911	1,11,12
+ <i>Pilumnus scabriusculus</i> Adams and White, 1848	Merial Beach
<i>Pilumnus</i> sp.	3
MENIPPIDAE	
OZIINAE	
+ <i>Ozius tuberculosus</i> H. Milne Edwards, 1834	1,3,8
ERIPHIINAE	
* <i>Eriphia scabricula</i> Dana, 1852	
<i>Eriphia sebana</i> (Shaw and Nodder, 1803)	3
* <i>Eriphia smithi</i> MacLeay, 1838	
DACRYOPILUMNINAE	
* <i>Dacryopilumnus eremita</i> Nobili, 1906	
* <i>Dacryopilumnus rathbunae</i> Balss, 1932	
INCERTAE SEDIS	
<i>Daira perlata</i> (Herbst, 1790)	1,5,10
* <i>Pseudozius caystrus</i> (Adams and White, 1848)	
GONEPLACIDAE	
+ <i>Carcinoplax</i> cf. <i>vestita</i> (De Haan, 1835)	11
OCYPODIDAE	
OCYPODINAE	
<i>Ocypode ceratophthalma</i> (Pallas, 1772)	1,3,8
<i>Ocypode cordimana</i> Desmarest, 1825	3
* <i>Ocypode kuhlii</i> De Haan, 1835	

Table 10 (cont.)

	Station numbers
MACROPHTHALMINAE	
* <i>Macrophthalmus</i> sp.	
GRAPSIDAE	
GRAPSINAE	
* <i>Geograpsus crinipes</i> (Dana, 1851)	
<i>Geograpsus grayi</i> (H. Milne Edwards, 1853)	3, Hospital
* <i>Geograpsus stormi</i> De Man, 1895	
* <i>Grapsus albolineatus</i> Lamarck, 1818	4
<i>Grapsus intermedius</i> De Man, 1887	
(? = <i>Sesarmops intermedium</i> De Haan, 1835)	
<i>Grapsus tenuicrustatus</i> (Herbst, 1783)	2,3,4
* <i>Pachygrapsus minutus</i> A. Milne Edwards, 1873	
* <i>Pachygrapsus planifrons</i> De Man, 1888	
* <i>Pachygrapsus plicatus</i> (H. Milne Edwards, 1837)	
VARUNINAE	
* <i>Pseudograpsus albus</i> Stimpson, 1858	
<i>Ptychognathus pusillus</i> Heller, 1865	Waterfall stream
* <i>Varuna litterata</i> (Fabricius, 1798)	
SESARMINAE	
+ <i>Cyclograpsus integer</i> H. Milne Edwards, 1837	3
* <i>Cyclograpsus longipes</i> Stimpson, 1858	
<i>Metasesarma rousseauxi</i> H. Milne Edwards, 1853	3
<i>Sesarma jacksoni</i> Balss, 1934	Lost Lake Cave
* <i>Sesarma obtusifrons</i> Dana, 1851	
PLAGUSIINAE	
+ <i>Percnon abbreviatum</i> (Dana, 1851)	1
<i>Percnon planissimum</i> (Herbst, 1804)	3,4
* <i>Plagusia depressa tuberculata</i> Lamarck, 1818	
GECARCINIDAE	
<i>Cardisoma hirtipes</i> Dana, 1851	Hewans Spring
<i>Gecarcoidea natalis</i> Pocock, 1888	Hosnies Spring
+ <i>Epigrapsus politus</i> Heller, 1862	1,11
CRYPTOCHIRIDAE	
+ <i>Hapalocarcinus marsupialis</i> Stimpson, 1859	3