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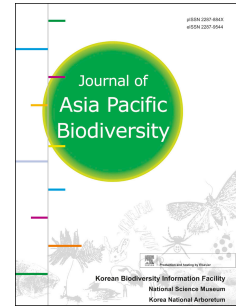
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An annotated checklist of hermit crabs (Crustacea, Decapoda, Anomura) of Indian waters with three new records

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Short title: Hermit crabs of Indian waters

Abstract: The annotated checklist of hermit crab occurring in the Indian waters has been compiled based on published literature and specimens collected by us along the Indian coastline from 2010-2016. The checklist records 112 species belonging to 26 genera and 5 families. The east coast of India, with 81 species is more diverse than the west coast of India (73 species). Maximum species diversity was recorded from coastal areas of Tamil Nadu state (50 species) while least number of species were reported from coastal areas of Maharashtra state (7 species). Distribution of three species belonging to family Diogenidae namely *Areopaguristes perspicax* (Nobili, 1906), *Clibanarius virescens* (Krauss, 1843) and *Diogenes lophochir* Morgan, 1989 are first time recorded in Indian waters.

Key words: Hermit crabs, Indian waters, Checklist, New records, Anomurans

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