

**First record of *Pinnotheres bicristatus* García Raso & Cuesta in Cuesta, García Raso, Abelló,  
Marco-Herrero, Silva & Drake, 2019 from the Adriatic Sea**

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*Pinnotheres bicristatus* García Raso & Cuesta 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 wide-spread species and the second newly described (Becker & Türkay, 2010; Cuesta *et al.*, 2019).

*Pinnotheres bicristatus* García Raso & Cuesta was described as new species in 2019 by Cuesta *et al.*. The first known record comes from 1994 from offshore the Barbate coast, with additional findings appearing in 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 5. September 2021 a specimen of *Pinnotheres bicristatus* García Raso & Cuesta was photographed at approximately 9 m depth by recreative 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 positioned on dorsoanterolateral carapace region (Figure 1). The crab was found on a sandy bottom, on top of a hollowed concrete cube, overgrown with several algal species. The finding represents the first finding in the Mediterranean Sea, out of the Alboran Sea, suggesting that the crab could be more widespread in the Mediterranean as is known until now.

References:

Becker, C., Türkay, M. 2010. Taxonomy and morphology of European pea crabs (Crustacea: Brachyura: Pinnotheridae). *Journal of Natural History*, 44(25-28):1555-1575.

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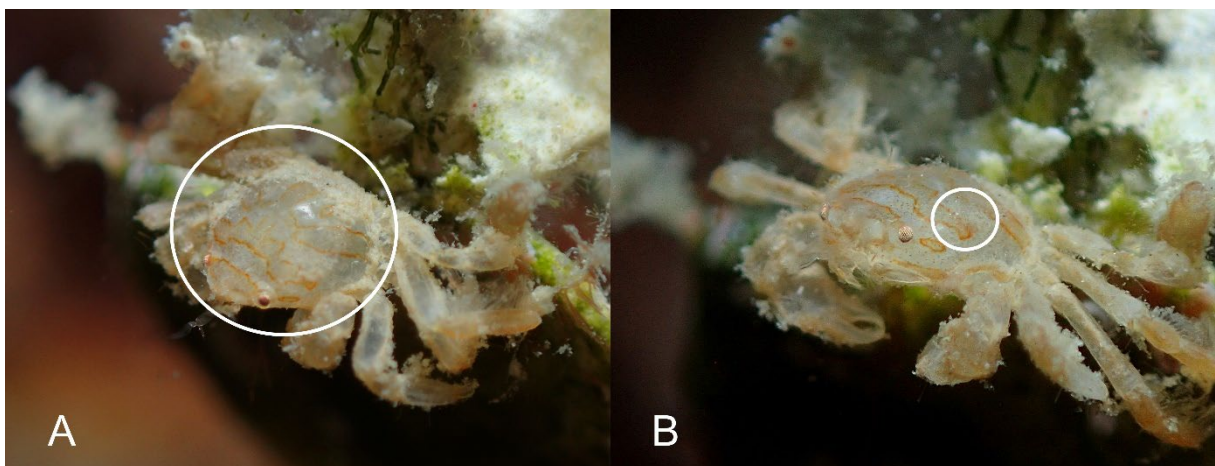


Figure 1: Specimen of *Pinnotheres bicristatus*, found in Fiesa, the Gulf of Trieste showing two distinct external morphological features marked with white circles (A – a distinct colour pattern on the carapax; B – tufts of short, curved setae positioned on dorsoanterolateral carapace region) (Photo: Irena Frkovič).