

Horn-Eyed Ghost Crab

December 5, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com



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HORN-EYED GHOST CRAB

Horn-Eyed Ghost Crab Latest News

Recently, researchers documented unique predatory behaviour of horn-eyed ghost crab at Rushikonda Beach.

About Horn-Eyed Ghost Crab

- It belongs to the **genus Ocypode**.
- Their pale bodies blend seamlessly with the sand, and combined with their swift movements during dawn and dusk, this has led to their **common name, "ghost crabs"**.
- It is widely regarded as a **keystone species** and indicator of coastal health.
- **Six species** of ghost crabs have been reported **along the Indian coastline**.
- **Habitat:** It is usually found in the **intertidal zones**.
- **Distribution:** It lives in the **Indo-Pacific region** (except the Red Sea); from the coast of East Africa to the Philippines and from Japan to the Great Barrier Reef.
- **Threats:** Pollution, changes in **sediment distribution**, rising sea temperatures and altered tidal patterns may prompt species to explore new microhabitats in search of food.

Characteristics of Horn-Eyed Ghost Crab

- It has traditionally been described as a **scavenger within the intertidal food web**.
- **Diet:** They hunt **clams, snails, worms, isopods**, shrimps and a variety of insects. They also prey on other crabs, including smaller hermit crabs.

Ecological Role of Horn-Eyed Ghost Crab

- It plays a crucial ecological role in **sandy intertidal environments**.
- They influence the **distribution and abundance of smaller organisms** through their feeding habits and the deep burrows they build.

Source: TH

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