

Leiogalathea Samudragiri

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Leiogalathea Samudragiri Latest News

Researchers recently discovered a new species of squat lobster named *Leiogalathea samudragiri* off Lakshadweep's coast.

About *Leiogalathea Samudragiri*

- It is a new species of **squat lobster**.
- It was found living 360 metres **below the surface near Minicoy**, part of the **Lakshadweep archipelago**.
- The discovery was made **during a research cruise** as part of **India's** ambitious **Deep Ocean Mission (Samudrayaan program)**.
- *L. samudragiri* possesses smooth, uninterrupted ridges running across the top of its shell, whereas its closest relatives have ridges that are broken or interrupted.
- It also features exactly six transverse ridges on the back half of its body.
- It lacks a specific spine on its feelers (antennules) that is commonly found in similar species.
- It is **bright orange** in colour.

What are Squat Lobsters?

- They are **marine crustaceans** that **resemble small lobsters** but are **not true lobsters**.
- They are more **closely related to hermit crabs and porcelain crabs**.
- There are well over 900 species of squat lobsters, and they can be found in nearly **every marine environment** across **most latitudes around the world**.
- They have **small, flat bodies**, ranging from 0.7 to 3.5 inches (1.778 to 88.9 mm) in length.
- These **decapods (ten-footed)** have a **front pair of legs** that are much **longer than their bodies that end in a pair of large claws**.
- The lobsters **earned their name by tucking their tails under their thorax**, giving their **bodies a shorter, more “squat” appearance**.
- As with many other crustaceans, squat lobsters can **use their tail as a paddle to escape backwards** very quickly.

Source: RM

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/leiolgalathea-samudragiri/>

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