

UGC Minor Research Project Zoology

Title of Project: "*Study of diversity community structure and habitat characteristics of brachyuran crabs along the Kachchh coast, Gujarat*"

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Summary

Kachchh coast covers large area and forms the northern lip of the Gulf of Kutch. The area is ecologically as well as economically sensitive. Crustaceans forms one of the dominant groups on the coastal diversity. The present study aimed to document the crab diversity along the Kachchh coast by taking several sites. The time span of the study and accessibility to all areas were in fact the limitations. Although, the present study has recorded 19 species of brachyuran crabs from the selected Kachchh coast and two unidentified species. The specimens were collected from different kinds of habitats such as a open Muddy shore, Sandy shore and small patches of Rocky shore. The morphology, areas and habitat of the species are given in the report.

It was seen that the coastline dominates with the sandy coast and many species inhabits the area. The coastal development along the coastline may have its effects on these species and requires good efforts to sustain balance between healthy ecosystem and development. The data will form the baseline for the diversity of crustaceans in Kachchh and may serve the researchers and policy makers in future.