

Eupagurus (Hermit crab)

Classification :

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Arthropoda

Subphylum: Crustacea

Class : Malacostraca

Order : Decapoda

Family : Paguridae

Genus : Eupagurus



For further details, [link](#)

"Eupagurus" is a genus of hermit crabs, specifically referring to the group commonly known as hermit crabs. They are marine crustaceans known for inhabiting empty gastropod shells for protection.

- They are called "hermit" crabs because they live in the empty shells of gastropod molluscs (snails).
- The soft, coiled, and asymmetrical abdomen is adapted to fit inside the spiral shape of the shell.
- They regularly switch to larger shells as they grow.
- Competition for shells is common among hermit crabs.

Characteristics :

- The body is divided into two main parts: a cephalothorax (fused head and thorax) and an abdomen.
- The cephalothorax is covered by a hard carapace.
- They have five pairs of walking legs, with the first pair modified into chelipeds (claws).
- The right cheliped is usually larger than the left.
- The abdomen is soft, unsegmented, and asymmetrical.

- They have stalked compound eyes and antennae.

Habit and Habitat :

- **Shelter Seeking:** Hermit crabs primarily inhabit discarded snail shells (like whelk or periwinkle) or other suitable hollow objects.
- **Vulnerability Without Shells:** They are highly vulnerable to predators without the protection of a shell, as their abdomen is soft and not shielded by a hard carapace.
- **Shell Switching:** Hermit crabs regularly search for and move into larger shells as they grow.
- **Symbiotic Relationships:** Some hermit crabs engage in symbiotic relationships with other marine organisms like sea anemones. The anemones offer camouflage and protection, while the crab provides transportation and food particles.
- **Marine Environment:** Hermit crabs are primarily found in marine environments, including oceans, seas, and intertidal zones.
- **Substrate Preference:** They inhabit various substrates, including sandy and muddy bottoms, and sometimes rocky areas.
- **Depth Range:** While some species are found in shallow intertidal zones, others can be found at considerable depths, even in deep-sea environments.
- **Adaptability:** Hermit crabs have adapted to live in a wide range of habitats, from cold to tropical waters, and from shallow to deep ocean environments.
- **Land and Tree Habitats:** Certain species, like those in the family Coenobitidae, have adapted to live on land and even in trees, particularly in tropical regions.