

Gelasimus

Classification:

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Malacostraca

Order: Decapoda

Family: Ocypodidae

Genus: Gelasimus



For further details, [Link](#)

Characteristics :

- "Gelasimus" is a genus of fiddler crabs. The genus Gelasimus is part of the subfamily Gelasiminae, and is found across the Indo-Pacific region.
- The name Gelasimus vocans (a species within the genus) references the crab's ability to produce a distinct calling sound to attract mates.
- **Claw Size:** Male Gelasimus crabs have a prominent, enlarged claw, significantly larger than the other claw and the female's claws. This claw is used for attracting mates, fighting off rivals, and making visual displays.
- **Coloration:** Gelasimus crabs exhibit a range of vibrant colors, including blue, purple, yellow, orange, and red, with variations within and between species. Their coloration can also change based on factors like mood, stress, or the presence of predators.
- **Bioturbation:** Their burrowing activities help to aerate the sediment and mix nutrients in their habitat, contributing to the overall health of the ecosystem.
- **Indicators of Environmental Health:** Changes in their populations and behavior can be indicative of environmental changes and pollution.

Habit and Habitat :

- **Burrowing:** Gelasimus crabs are known for their habit of digging and living in burrows within intertidal zones.

- **Feeding :** They primarily feed on detritus, algae, and small invertebrates found in sediment.
- **Display :** The large claw of the male is used for attracting mates and for territorial displays/.
- **Coastal Areas:** Gelasimus crabs are found in a variety of coastal habitats, including:
 - **Sandy and muddy beaches:** These provide suitable substrates for burrowing.
 - **Estuaries:** These areas, where freshwater rivers meet the sea, offer brackish conditions favoured by fiddler crabs.
 - **Mangrove swamps:** These intertidal ecosystems offer shelter and abundant food sources.
- **Intertidal Zone:** They typically inhabit the intertidal zone, meaning they are exposed to air and water during different parts of the day.
- **Burrow Location:** Their burrows are usually found in areas that are regularly submerged by tides, but they may also be found in slightly higher areas.