



New Species of Estuarine Crab

Why in News?

Recently, researchers have discovered a new species of **Estuarine Crab** at the [Mangroves of Parangipettai](#) near the **Vellar River estuary** (an area where river meets the ocean) in **Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu**.

- The species has been named '**Pseudohelice Annamalai**' in recognition of **Annamalai University's 100 years** of service in education and research.

What are the Key Facts about Pseudohelice Annamalai?



- **About:**
 - This is the first ever record of this genus, **Pseudohelice**, collected from high intertidal areas in front of the **Centre of Advanced Study (CAS)**.
 - Till date, **only two species**, namely "**Pseudohelice Subquadrata**" and "**Pseudohelice Latreilli**" have been confirmed within this genus.
- **Geography:**
 - The species discovered is distributed around the **Indian subcontinent and the eastern Indian Ocean**.
- **Features:**
 - **Pseudohelice annamalai** is distinguished by **dark purple to dark grey colouring**, with irregular light brown, yellowish brown, or white patches on the posterior carapace with light brown chelipeds.
 - The new species is **small** and has a maximum width of up to 20 mm.
 - This species is **not aggressive** and can move fast like other intertidal crabs.

दृष्टि
The Vision

▪ **Habitat:**

- The species inhabits **muddy banks of mangroves**, and the **burrows were located near the pneumatophores of Avicennia mangroves**.
- Burrows have a depth of 25-30 cm and are branched, with larger pellets around the entrance.

▪ **Significance:**

- The occurrence of Pseudohelice in India **links the distribution gap between the western Indian Ocean and the western Pacific Ocean**.
- The new species provides additional **evidence of the geographic isolation of the eastern Indian Ocean** for some marine organisms

[Source: TH](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/new-species-of-estuarine-crab>

