

Ebalia tuberosa (Pennant, 1777): a rare discovery in Dutch coastal waters

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On 11 September 1999 during a small expedition (the 49th 'Kor & Bottocht') in the Oosterschelde estuary, near 'de Hammen' (province of Zeeland, the Netherlands), a remarkable find was made. In debris of a dredging, performed at 50 metres depth by fishing vessel ZZ10, a female specimen of *Ebalia tuberosa* (PENNANT, 1777) was discovered by Mr. A. Oosterbaan (Ecomare). This species is known from depths up to 200 metres, living on gravel or clayish bottoms, where it is active at night and hides among the substrate in the daytime. *E. tuberosa* is rarely

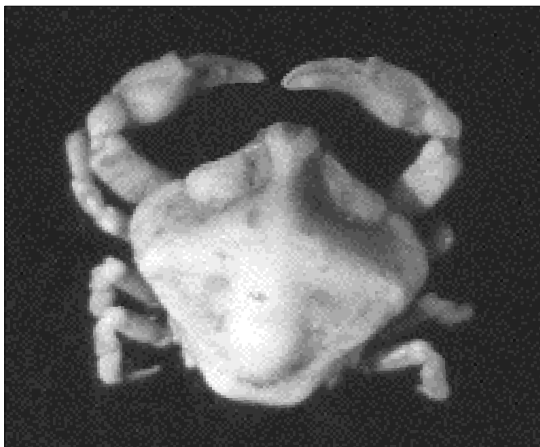


Figure 1 Second find in the Netherlands of *Ebalia tuberosa* (PENNANT, 1777), now kept in the Natuurmuseum Rotterdam (NMR 9995-00943). [photo Frans J.A. Slieker]

seen in tidal areas (Christiansen 1969). It appeared that this species was found only once before in Dutch coastal waters: in 1962 in the North Sea, 30 km west of Zoutelande, province of Zeeland (51°29'N; 3°10'E) (Adema 1991). This particular specimen is stored in the collection of the Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum in Leiden (reg. nr. RMNH D.32988). The species is known from the westcoasts of Norway and Sweden, the coasts of Great Britain including the North Sea. From the British Channel it ranges southward down to Senegal, the Azores and the Canary Islands, and it is also known from the Mediterranean (Christiansen 1969). The carapax can attain a maximum width of 18 mm; our adult specimen measures 17.5 mm. The specimen from the Oosterschelde estuary (Fig. 1) is kept in the collection of the Natuurmuseum Rotterdam (reg. nr. NMR 9995-00943).

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