



MarLIN

Marine Information Network

Information on the species and habitats around the coasts and sea of the British Isles

(Lithodes maja)

MarLIN – Marine Life Information Network
Marine Evidence-based Sensitivity Assessment (MarESA) Review

Emily Wilson

2006-10-25

A report from:

The Marine Life Information Network, Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom.

Please note. This MarESA report is a dated version of the online review. Please refer to the website for the most up-to-date version [<https://www.marlin.ac.uk/species/detail/1278>]. All terms and the MarESA methodology are outlined on the website (<https://www.marlin.ac.uk>)

This review can be cited as:

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A northern stone crab in the furoid zone of Robin Hoods bay.
 Photographer: Richard Smith
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See online review for
 distribution map

Distribution data supplied by the Ocean
 Biogeographic Information System (OBIS). To
 interrogate UK data visit the NBN Atlas.

Researched by Emily Wilson

Refereed by

This information is not
 refereed.

Authority (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Other common
 names** -

Synonyms

Lithodes maia

Summary

Description

A large crab with a well-calcified carapace with a width up to 12 cm. The carapace is almost circular with a well-defined rim of irregular spines. These spines are scattered on the back and legs. The right pincer is larger than the left and the fifth legs are small and hidden.

Recorded distribution in Britain and Ireland

A northern species, the majority of records limited to the northern North Sea and northern Scotland and England but with a few records off south-west England.

Global distribution

Recorded from northern Norway and the North Sea, into the Kattegat and south-west of England in the North East Atlantic, and from the Davis Strait south to Carolina in the North West Atlantic.

Habitat

Found on open coasts and offshore from 10-1000 m.

Depth range

10 - 1000 m

🔍 Identifying features

- Carapace width 12 cm, circular, well-defined rim of irregular spines.
- Right chela larger than left.
- Fifth pereopods very small and hidden.
- Abdomen, particularly of female, strongly asymmetrical.

🏛️ Additional information

-none-

✓ Listed by

🔗 Further information sources

Search on:



Bibliography

- Hayward, P.J. & Ryland, J.S. (ed.) 1995b. *Handbook of the marine fauna of North-West Europe*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Howson, C.M. & Picton, B.E., 1997. *The species directory of the marine fauna and flora of the British Isles and surrounding seas*. Belfast: Ulster Museum. [Ulster Museum publication, no. 276.]

Datasets

- Environmental Records Information Centre North East, 2018. ERIC NE Combined dataset to 2017. Occurrence dataset: <http://www.ericnortheast.org.uk/home.html> accessed via NBNAtlas.org on 2018-09-38
- NBN (National Biodiversity Network) Atlas. Available from: <https://www.nbnatlas.org>.
- OBIS (Ocean Biogeographic Information System), 2019. Global map of species distribution using gridded data. Available from: Ocean Biogeographic Information System. www.iobis.org. Accessed: 2019-03-12