

Penaeus monodon

Giant Tiger Prawn



Scientific classification

Kingdom: [Animalia](#)
Phylum: [Arthropoda](#)
Subphylum: [Crustacea](#)
Class: [Malacostraca](#)
Order: [Decapoda](#)
Suborder: [Dendrobranchiata](#)
Family: [Penaeidae](#)
Genus: [Penaeus](#)
Species: ***P. monodon***

Binomial name

Penaeus monodon
[Fabricius](#), 1798

Synonyms ^[1]

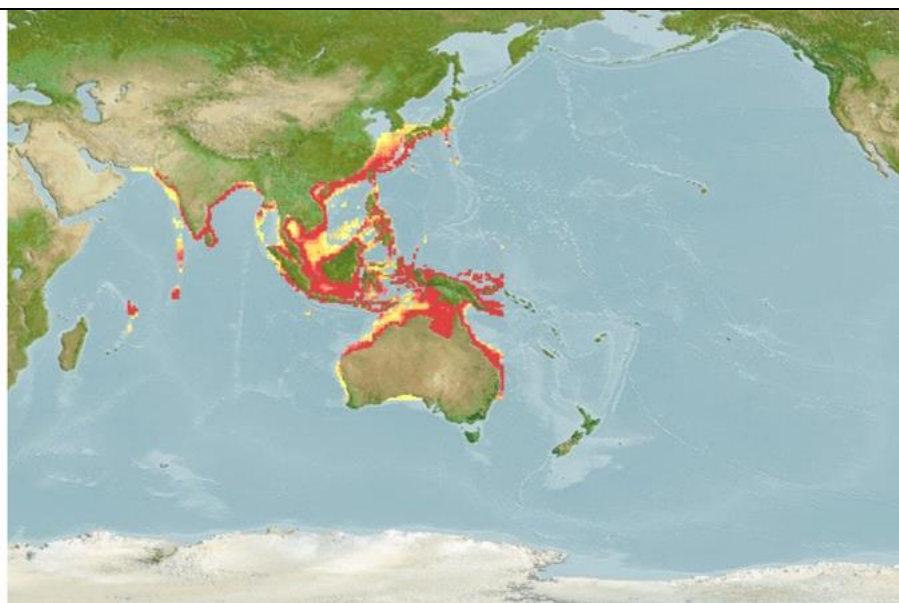
- *Penaeus carinatus* Dana, 1852
- *Penaeus tahitensis* Heller, 1862
- *Penaeus coeruleus* Stebbing, 1905
- *Penaeus bubulus* Kubo, 1949

A. Environment/Ecology:

Environment

Benthic; depth range 0 - 150 m (Ref. [10](#)), usually ? - 60 m (Ref. [10](#)). Tropical; 17°C - 38°C (Ref. [72772](#)), preferred 24°C (Ref. [107945](#)); 36°N - 33°S, 55°E - 154°E

B. Distribution:



Note: Distribution range colours indicate degree of suitability of habitat which can be interpreted as probabilities of occurrence.

***Penaeus monodon* was reported from 45 countries/islands**

Present in 45 countries/islands (endemic, native, introduced)

Continent	Country		Occurrence	Main Ref.
Africa	Cote d'Ivoire	CIV	introduced	74657
Africa	Gambia	GMB	introduced	74657
Africa	Guinea	GIN	introduced	74657
Africa	Guinea-Bissau	GNB	introduced	74657
Africa	Kenya	KEN	introduced	74657
Africa	Madagascar	MDG	introduced	8
Africa	Mauritius	MUS	native	75620
Africa	Réunion	REU	native	75620
Africa	Senegal	SEN	introduced	74657
Africa	Somalia	SOM	native	8
Africa	Tanzania	TZA	introduced	74657
Asia	Bangladesh	BGD	native	8
Asia	Cambodia	KHM	native	84689
Asia	China	CHN	native	75620
Asia	Cyprus	CYP	introduced	74657
Asia	Hong Kong	HKG	native	75620
Asia	India	IND	native	8

Asia	Indonesia	IDN	native 	8
Asia	Iran	IRN	introduced 	74657
Asia	Japan	JPN	native 	8
Asia	Korea (North)	PRK	native 	75620
Asia	Korea (South)	KOR	native 	75620
Asia	Malaysia	MYS	native 	75620
Asia	Pakistan	PAK	native 	8
Asia	Philippines	PHL	native 	8
Asia	Singapore	SGP	native 	8
Asia	Sri Lanka	LKA	native 	75620
Asia	Taiwan	TWN	native 	8
Asia	Thailand	THA	native 	8
Europe	Italy	ITA	introduced 	74657
North America	Dominican Rp	DOM	introduced 	74657
North America	Mexico	MEX	introduced 	74657
North America	Panama	PAN	introduced 	74657
North America	USA	USA	introduced 	8125
Oceania	Australia	AUS	native 	8
Oceania	Fiji	FJI	introduced 	75620
Oceania	French Polynesia	PYF	introduced 	75706
Oceania	Guam	GUM	introduced 	74657
Oceania	Hawaii	HWI	introduced 	74657
Oceania	New Caledonia	NCL	native 	96697
Oceania	Papua New Guinea	PNG	native 	8
Oceania	Samoa	WSM	introduced 	74657
Oceania	Solomon Is.	SLB	introduced 	74657
Oceania	Tahiti	TIT	introduced 	75706
South America	Brazil	BRA	introduced 	74657

Ecosystems where *Penaeus monodon* occurs

n = 66

Ecosystem	Type	Status	Ref.
Arabian Sea	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	8

Arnhem Coast to Gulf of Carpentaria	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	8
Atlantic Ocean	Sea/Bay/Gulf	introduced	97531
Calauag Bay	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	10
Carigara Bay	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	10
Central Indo-Pacific	sea/bay/gulf	native	8
Central Polynesia	sea/bay/gulf	introduced	74657
Cold Temperate Northeast Pacific	sea/bay/gulf	introduced	8125
Cold Temperate Northwest Pacific	sea/bay/gulf	native	75927
Davao Gulf	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	10
East African Coral Coast	Sea/Bay/Gulf	introduced	74657
East China Sea	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	75927
Eastern Coral Triangle	sea/bay/gulf	introduced	74657
Eastern Indo-Pacific	sea/bay/gulf	introduced	75706
Eastern Philippines	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	8
Fiji Islands	Sea/Bay/Gulf	introduced	75620
Greater Antilles	Sea/Bay/Gulf	introduced	74657
Gulf of Guinea	sea/bay/gulf	introduced	74657
Gulf of Guinea Upwelling	Sea/Bay/Gulf	introduced	74657
Gulf of Guinea West	Sea/Bay/Gulf	introduced	74657
Gulf of Mexico	Sea/Bay/Gulf	introduced	97531
Hawaii	Sea/Bay/Gulf	introduced	74657
Hawaii - province	Sea/Bay/Gulf	introduced	74657
Indian Ocean	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	8
Lagonoy Gulf	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	10
Lingayen Gulf	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	10
Manila Bay	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	10
New Caledonia	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	96697
Northern Bay of Bengal	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	8
Ormoc Bay	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	10
Pacific Ocean	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	8
Palawan/North Borneo	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	8
Panguil Bay	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	10
Red Sea	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	75620
Red Sea and Gulf of Aden	sea/bay/gulf	native	75620
Sahelian Upwelling	Sea/Bay/Gulf	introduced	74657
Samoa Islands	Sea/Bay/Gulf	introduced	74657
San Miguel Bay	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	10
Society Islands	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	75706
Solomon Archipelago	Sea/Bay/Gulf	introduced	74657
Somali/Arabian	sea/bay/gulf	introduced	74657
Sorsogon Bay	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	10
South China Sea	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	8
South India and Sri Lanka	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	8
Southeast Polynesia	sea/bay/gulf	introduced	75706

Southern China	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	8
Southern Palawan	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	8
Southwestern Caribbean	Sea/Bay/Gulf	introduced	74657
Sulu-Celebes Sea	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	10
Sunda Shelf	sea/bay/gulf	native	84689
Tahiti I.	Sea/Bay/Gulf	introduced	75706
Tayabas Bay	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	10
Temperate Australasia	sea/bay/gulf	native	149
Temperate Northern Pacific	sea/bay/gulf	native	75927
Tropical Atlantic	sea/bay/gulf	introduced	74657
Tropical East Pacific	sea/bay/gulf	introduced	74657
Tropical Northwestern Pacific	sea/bay/gulf	introduced	74657
Tropical Southwestern Pacific	sea/bay/gulf	introduced	75620
Visayan Sea	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	10
West African Transition	sea/bay/gulf	introduced	74657
West and South Indian Shelf	sea/bay/gulf	native	116140
Western Coral Triangle	sea/bay/gulf	native	8
Western India	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	116140
Western Indian Ocean	sea/bay/gulf	introduced	74657
Western Indo-Pacific	sea/bay/gulf	native	8
Yellow Sea	Sea/Bay/Gulf	native	75927

Distribution

Indo-Pacific: From Pakistan to Japan, the Malay Archipelago and Australia. Introduced in the Atlantic Ocean (Africa and USA). Tropical to temperate.

Invasive species

The first occurrence of Asian tiger shrimp in the U.S. was in November 1988. Close to 300 shrimp were captured off the South Eastern shore after an accidental release from an aquaculture facility. This species can now be caught in waters from Texas to North Carolina. Although the Giant Tiger prawn has been an invasive species for many years, they have yet to grow large established populations. However, escapes in other parts of the world have led to established black tiger shrimp populations. Areas such as West Africa, Brazil, and the Caribbean have established populations of *P. monodon*.

C. Length at first maturity / Size / Weight / Age:

Maturity: L_m [?](#), range 4 - 4.22 cm

Max length : 33.6 cm TL male/unsexed; (Ref. [8](#)); max. published weight: 250.00 g (Ref. [116487](#))

Maximum total length 336 mm. Weight 60 to 130 g

D. Short description

Uniformly glabrous body; carapace with well-developed antennal and hepatic spines. Horizontal and straight hepatic carina. Rostrum armed with 7 or 8 dorsal and 3 ventral teeth. Color: body is reddish with darker bands. Brown to blue pleopods and reddish fringing setae.

E. Biology

Caught by pond fishing and inshore fishing. Considered a delicacy in the Philippines that in 1980, retail price was Php60 to 80 (US\$8.6 to 11.5)/kg in Manila and Php50 to 70 in local areas (Ref. [10](#)). Juveniles are found in estuarine environments (Ref. [8](#)). Enters shallow brackish water or kept in ponds (Ref. [374](#)). Less of a scavenger; mainly a predator of slow moving benthic macroinvertebrates like small crabs and molluscs. Also capable of capturing more mobile forms like small penaeids and fishes (Ref. [102664](#)). Members of the order Decapoda are mostly gonochoric. Mating behavior: Precopulatory courtship ritual is common (through olfactory and tactile cues); usually indirect sperm transfer (Ref. [833](#)).

F. Life cycle and mating behavior

Members of the order Decapoda are mostly gonochoric. Mating behavior: Precopulatory courtship ritual is common (through olfactory and tactile cues); usually indirect sperm transfer.

G. Fisheries

Fisheries

In S.E. and E. Africa (Natal to Somalia, including Madagascar) the species is of minor or moderate commercial importance, it is used for bait and food. In Pakistan it is likewise of minor importance. Jones (1967:1333) indicated that it is more common in prawn catches on the east coast of India than on the west coast. According to Chopra (1939:222) "This is the commonest largesized penaeid of Calcutta, and is sold in our markets in enormous quantities". Kurian & Sebastian (1976:100) cited it as an important commercial species in India, especially on the east coast (Bengal and Orissa); juveniles being caught in estuaries. Also in Bangladesh it is of considerable commercial importance. In Malaya and Thailand *Penaeus monodon* is fished in offshore waters. It is obtained both by pond fishing and inshore fishing in Malaya, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines and Taiwan; because of its large size the species is quite important economically. Domantay (1956:363) indicated that "among the commercially important prawns in the Philippines, *Penaeus monodon* Fabricius stands foremost". In Japan and Korea it seems to be of minor importance; Yoshida (1941) remarked that it was sold on the Fusan market in Korea. Also in Australia the species is of commercial interest: Harrison, Kesteven & Setter (1965:8) listed it among the commercial species of the Gulf of Carpentaria, while Racek (1957:12) mentioned it as the last of the six most important species of New South Wales, and as the fourth in importance of the species taken in offshore waters of Queensland. Rapson & McIntosh (1971:17) reported it as constituting about 7% of the commercial catches in New Guinea (mainly in the Gulf of Papua).

Aquaculture

Penaeus monodon is the second-most widely cultured prawn species in the world, after only [whiteleg shrimp](#), *Litopenaeus vannamei*. In 2009, 770,000 [tonnes](#) were produced, with a total value of [US\\$3,650,000,000](#). *P. monodon* makes up nearly fifty percent of cultured shrimp alone.

The Tiger prawn is popular to culture because of its tolerance to salinity and very quick growth rate. However, they are very vulnerable to fungal, viral, and bacterial infections. Diseases such as white-spot baculovirus and yellow-head virus have led to a great economic impact in shrimp industries around the globe. They can receive transmitted diseases from other crustaceans such as the [Australian red claw crayfish](#) (*Cherax quadricarinatus*). The Red claw crayfish is susceptible to the yellow head virus and has shown to transmit it to the Black tiger prawn in places like Thailand.

P. monodon has been farmed throughout the world including areas such as West Africa, Hawaii, Tahiti and England. For optimal growth, *P. monodon* is raised in waters between 28°C and 33°C.

Characteristically for the *Penaeus* genus, *P. monodon* has a natural ability to survive and grow in a wide range of salinity. Optimal salinity for the prawn is around 15-25 ppt. Naturally *P. monodon* feed on mollusks, crustaceans, and polychaete worms. While in a farm setting the shrimp are typically feed a compound diet which is produced in dried pellets. By mixing the diet to have compound feeds and fresh feed the Black tiger shrimp showed to have better reproductive performance.

H. IUCN Red List Status

Not Evaluated

I. More Information:

1) Stocks

???

2) Ecology

Ecology of *Penaeus monodon*

Main Ref.	Holthuis, L.B., 1980			
distribution	Marine - Neritic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supra-littoral zone • littoral zone • sublittoral zone 	Marine - Oceanic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • epipelagic • mesopelagic • epipelagic abyssopelagic • hadopelagic 	Brackishwater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • estuaries/lagoons/brackish seas • mangroves • marshes/swamps 	Freshwater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rivers/streams • lakes/ponds • caves • exclusively in caves
	Highlighted items on the list are where <i>Penaeus monodon</i> may be found.			
Remarks	Juveniles are found in estuarine environments (Ref. 8). Enters shallow brackish water or kept in ponds (Ref. 374). Less of a scavenger; mainly a predator of slow moving benthic macroinvertebrates like small crabs and molluscs. Also capable of capturing more mobile forms like small penaeids and fishes (Ref. 102664).			

Substrate

Substrate	Benthic: mobile; demersal; Soft Bottom: sand; mud;
Substrate Ref.	Holthuis, L.B., 1980
Special habitats	
Special habitats Ref.	

Associations

Ref.	Holthuis, L.B., 1980
associations	
Associated with	
Association remarks	

Parasitism	
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3) Diet

Feeding						
feeding type	plants/detritus+animals (troph. 2.2-2.79)					
feeding type ref	Marte, C.L., 1980					
feeding habit	hunting macrofauna (predator)					
feeding habit ref						
trophic level(s)		original sample		unfished population		Remark
estimation method		Troph	s.e.	Troph	s.e.	
From diet composition						
Ref.						
From individual food items		3.36	0.35			Trophic level estimated from a number of food items using a randomized resampling routine.

4) Reproduction

Reproduction of <i>Penaeus monodon</i>	
Main Ref.	Ruppert, E.E., R.S. Fox and R.D. Barnes, 2004
Mode	dioecism
Fertilization	
Spawning Frequency	
Batch Spawner	No
Reproductive Guild	bearers External brooders
Description of life cycle and mating behavior	Members of the order Decapoda are mostly gonochoric. Mating behavior: Precopulatory courtship ritual is common (through olfactory and tactile cues); usually indirect sperm transfer.
Search for more references on reproduction	Scirus

5) Maturity

Maturity studies for <i>Penaeus monodon</i>							
n = 2							
Lm (cm)	Length (cm)		Age range (y)	tm (y)	Sex of fish	Country	Locality
	3.6	-	4.2	-	female	Tanzania	Ruvu estuary, Bagamoyo/ 1988
	3.1	-	3.5	-	male	Tanzania	Ruvu estuary, Bagamoyo/ 1988

6) Spawning

???

7) Spawning aggregation

???

8) Fecundity

Fecundity for <i>Penaeus monodon</i>									
n = 2									
Country	Locality	Absolute Fecundity			Relative Fecundity			Fecundity/length relationship	
		Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	a	b
India	Andhra Pradesh	323,007	1,072,174	0					
Tanzania	Bagamoyo	72,000	314,000	0					

9) Eggs

??

10) Egg development

??

11) Age/Size

List of Population Characteristics records for <i>Penaeus monodon</i>					
n = 6					
Sex	Wmax	Lmax (cm)	Tmax (y)	Country	Locality
unsexed	240.00 g			Philippines	Unspecified, Philippines
unsexed		25.8		India	Digha/ 2012-2013
male		26.8			Eastern Central Atlantic
unsexed		29.5		India	Andhra Pradesh/ 2011-2012
unsexed		33.6			Not specified
female		35			Eastern Central Atlantic

12) Growth

Growth parameters for <i>Penaeus monodon</i>												
Maximum Length 33.599984741211cm TL												
n = 5 Note that studies where Loo is very different (+/- 1/3) from Lmax are doubtful.												
<u>Auximetric graph</u>	[n = 4]											
<u>M vs K graph</u>	[n = 5]											
<u>M vs Linf graph</u>	[n = 5]											
$\phi = 3.20$												
L inf = 30.5 cm TL												
K = 1.7												
Median record no. 3												
Ref. 7676												
Loo (cm)	Length Type	K (1/y)	to	Sex	M (1/y)	Temp° C	Lm	ϕ'	Country	Locality	Questionable	Captive
28.80	TL	1.200		M	2.03			3.00	Bangladesh	Unspecified	No	No
30.00	TL	0.940		M	1.72			2.93	Bangladesh	Unspecified	No	No
30.50	TL	1.700		F	2.51			3.20	Bangladesh	Unspecified	No	No
32.10	TL	0.970		F	1.72			3.00	Bangladesh	Unspecified	No	No
35.00	TL	0.350			0.90			2.63	Philippines			

13) Length-weight

Length-Weight Parameters for <i>Penaeus monodon</i>									
Length-Weight Parameters for <i>Penaeus monodon</i>									
<u>Length-weight (a vs b) graph</u>		[n=24]		Median Record No. 13 a = 0.0186 cm BL b = 2.9107 Ref. 117291					
a	b	Doubtful?	Sex	Length (cm)	Length type	No.	Country	Locality	
0.0055	2.102	Yes	male		TL	11	Nigeria	Iko River estuary / 2011-2012	
0.7510	2.299	No	female	6.5 - 17.7	TL	327	Tanzania	Ruvu estuary, Bagamoyo / 1998-1998	
0.0418	2.432	No	female	9.5 - 16.0	TL	497	India	Pichavaram mangroves / 2007-2007	
0.0360	2.485	No	mixed	9.2 - 16.0	TL	985	India	Pichavaram mangroves / 2007-2007	
0.0292	2.568	No	male	9.2 - 16.0	TL	488	India	Pichavaram mangroves / 2007-2007	
0.0037	2.597	No	mixed		TL	16	Nigeria	Iko River estuary / 2011-2012	
0.0237	2.675	No	male		TL	117	USA	western Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico / 2009-2012	
0.0256	2.764	No	female	6.1 - 12.6	BL	202	China	Sanya coast	

0.0239	2.789	No	mixed	6.1 - 12.6	BL	412	China	Sanya coast
0.0234	2.795	No	female	4.2 - 12.2	BL	168	Mozambique	Mozambique Channel
0.0230	2.803	No	male	6.1 - 12.0	BL	210	China	Sanya coast
0.0506	2.851	No	mixed	4.2 - 12.2	BL	358	Mozambique	Mozambique Channel
0.0186	2.911	No	male	4.2 - 11.9	BL	190	Mozambique	Mozambique Channel
0.0523	2.940	No	juvenile		TL		India	Cultured pond
0.0080	3.000	No	unsexed		TL			Unspecified
0.0062	3.016	No	female	11.1 - 18.9	TL		Sri Lanka	Kakkaithivu, Jaffna estuary / 2010-2011
0.0077	3.040	No	mixed	15.0 - 25.0	TL		USA	western Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico / 2009-2012
0.0054	3.075	No	male	9.6 - 16.4	TL		Sri Lanka	Kakkaithivu, Jaffna estuary / 2010-2011
0.0063	3.093	No	female		TL	5	Nigeria	Iko River estuary / 2011-2012
0.9150	3.106	No	male	7.5 - 16.8	TL	302	Tanzania	Ruvu estuary, Bagamoyo / 1998-1998
0.0056	3.147	No	female		TL	80	USA	western Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico / 2009-2012
0.0620	3.190	No	female		TL		India	Kakinada / 1980-1983
0.0039	3.218	No	mixed	9.6 - 18.9	TL		Sri Lanka	Kakkaithivu, Jaffna estuary / 2010-2011
0.0107	3.250	No	male		TL		India	Kakinada / 1980-1983

14) Length-length

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15) Length-frequencies

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16) Morphometrics

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17) Morphology

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18) Larvae

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19) Recruitment

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20) Abundance

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