

**Red hairy crab (*Pilumnus spinifer*) • Bristly crab (*Pilumnus hirtellus*)**



*P. hirtellus*, Persgrunden, Skagerrak. Photos: © Swedish Taxonomy Initiative

<b>Common names in English</b>	<i>Pilumnus spinifer</i> : Red hairy crab. Hairy crab. <i>Pilumnus hirtellus</i> : Bristly crab. Brown hairy crab.
<b>... and in other languages</b>	<i>Pilumnus spinifer</i> Dutch: Rood ruig krabbetje. Spanish: Cangrejito peludo. <i>Pilumnus hirtellus</i> Dutch: Ruig krabbetje. French: Crabe poilu rouge. Italian: Granciporetto.
<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Pilumnus spinifer</i> . See also <i>Pilumnus hirtellus</i> forma <i>spinifer</i> and <i>Pilumnus hirtellus</i> .  "In some areas of the Mediterranean, alleged intermediates between <i>Pilumnus hirtellus</i> and <i>P. spinifer</i> have been recorded. However several problems concerning the European <i>Pilumnus</i> are not solved and the identity of such 'intermediates' should be reconsidered. In South Portugal, both <i>P. hirtellus</i> and <i>P. spinifer</i> have been found side by side in the same sample, without intermediates." • "Intermediates between <i>P. hirtellus</i> and <i>P. spinifer</i> have been recorded. Their systematic position is unclear. Specimens which are definitely true <i>P. hirtellus</i> sometimes have a small superodistal tooth on the carpus of the walking legs."
<b>Organism group</b>	Crustaceans. True crabs. Bristle crabs (hairy crabs, Pilumnidae).
<b>Size and appearance</b>	<i>Pilumnus spinifer</i> : This small crab has a carapace width of at most 25 mm. It is red, with a dense covering of hairs or bristles (setae) on its carapace and legs.  <i>Pilumnus hirtellus</i> : The carapace of this species, which is broader than it is long, measures from about 15 mm to a maximum of 25 mm across. Both the carapace and the legs are densely covered with club-shaped setae ( <i>hirtellus</i> means "the little hairy one"). The right claw is considerably larger and more powerful than the left. This crab is reddish brown, sometimes purplish in colour.
<b>May be confused with</b>	See above concerning the identification of <i>Pilumnus spinifer</i> , <i>Pilumnus hirtellus</i> forma <i>spinifer</i> and <i>Pilumnus hirtellus</i> . Young specimens of <i>P. hirtellus</i> may also be confused with young edible crabs ( <i>Cancer pagurus</i> ).
<b>Geographical origin</b>	Europe?

<b>First observed in Swedish waters</b>	<p><i>Pilumnus spinifer</i>: One observation has been made, in a harbour in Bohuslän.</p> <p><i>Pilumnus hirtellus</i>: The first find of this species was made in 2005, at Persgrunden in the Skagerrak.</p>
<b>Occurrence in Swedish seas and coastal areas</b>	?
<b>Occurrence in other sea areas</b>	<p><i>Pilumnus spinifer</i>: From the Bay of Biscay (France/Spain) to Mauritania, the Azores, the Canary Islands and Madeira, and throughout the Mediterranean.</p> <p><i>Pilumnus hirtellus</i>: South-west Norway (observed in Hordaland and Rogaland). From western coasts of the British Isles and the Netherlands to Morocco, the Azores, Madeira, the Canary Islands and Cape Verde. Throughout the Mediterranean and in the Black Sea.</p>
<b>Probable means of introduction</b>	Shipping, in ballast water and sediment.
<b>Habitat(s) in which species occurs</b>	<p><i>Pilumnus spinifer</i>: Found on various types of bottom, from shallow inshore areas with water just a metre deep to depths of almost 180 m.</p> <p><i>Pilumnus hirtellus</i>: Occurs mainly on hard bottoms (rocks, stones), but also on softer substrates (mud and sand), from shallower coastal waters to depths of around 75–90 m.</p>
<b>Ecological effects</b>	?
<b>Other effects</b>	?
<p><i>FIND OUT MORE</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tromsø Museum, Universitetsmuseet: Pictorial guide to the Crustacea Decapoda of the Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean Sea and adjacent continental waters: <i>Pilumnus hirtellus</i> <a href="http://www.tmu.uit.no/crustikon/Decapoda/Decapoda2/Species_index/Pilumnus_hirtellus.htm">http://www.tmu.uit.no/crustikon/Decapoda/Decapoda2/Species_index/Pilumnus_hirtellus.htm</a></li> <li>• Norsk Marin Fauna: Hårkrabbe - <i>Pilumnus hirtellus</i> <a href="http://www.marinbi.com/arthropoda/p-hirtel.htm">http://www.marinbi.com/arthropoda/p-hirtel.htm</a></li> <li>• UW Photo: Hårkrabbe (<i>Pilumnus hirtellus</i>) <a href="http://www.uwphoto.no/shopexd.asp?id=6933">http://www.uwphoto.no/shopexd.asp?id=6933</a></li> <li>• Black Sea Photo Gallery: Crustaceans: <i>Pilumnus hirtellus</i> <a href="http://www.klissurov.dir.bg/black_sea/crustaceans/crustaceans1.htm">http://www.klissurov.dir.bg/black_sea/crustaceans/crustaceans1.htm</a></li> <li>• Zoological Museum, University of Amsterdam: Macrobenthos of the North Sea: <i>Pilumnus hirtellus</i> <a href="http://ip30.eti.uva.nl/BIS/crustacea.php?menuentry=soorten&amp;id=233">http://ip30.eti.uva.nl/BIS/crustacea.php?menuentry=soorten&amp;id=233</a></li> <li>• Marine Life Information Network for Britain &amp; Ireland: Bristly crab - <i>Pilumnus hirtellus</i> <a href="http://www.marlin.ac.uk/species/Pilumnushirtellus.htm">http://www.marlin.ac.uk/species/Pilumnushirtellus.htm</a></li> <li>• Conseil Régional, Nord-Pas de Calais: Crabe rouge poilu (<i>Pilumnus hirtellus</i>) <a href="http://www.nordpasdecalais.fr/photos_plongee/maran/pilumnus_hirtellus.htm">http://www.nordpasdecalais.fr/photos_plongee/maran/pilumnus_hirtellus.htm</a></li> <li>• European Nature Information System Database (EUNIS): <i>Pilumnus hirtellus</i> <a href="http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/species-factsheet.jsp?idSpecies=27418&amp;idSpeciesLink=27418">http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/species-factsheet.jsp?idSpecies=27418&amp;idSpeciesLink=27418</a></li> <li>• Stichting Anemoon: Ruigkrabje (<i>Pilumnus hirtellus</i>) <a href="http://www.anemoon.org/soorten/crustacea/Pilhir01.html">http://www.anemoon.org/soorten/crustacea/Pilhir01.html</a></li> <li>• Marine and estuarine invertebrates native to The Netherlands: <i>Pilumnus hirtellus</i> <a href="http://home.hetnet.nl/~faassema/Pilumnushirtellus.html">http://home.hetnet.nl/~faassema/Pilumnushirtellus.html</a></li> <li>• De Krabben van Nederland: Ruig krabbetje (<i>Pilumnus hirtellus</i>) <a href="http://www.krabben.net/ruigkrab.html">http://www.krabben.net/ruigkrab.html</a></li> <li>• De Digitale School: Ruig krabbetje <a href="http://www.digischool.nl/bi/onderwaterbiologie/html/biologie/zeeland/ruigkrabbetje.htm">http://www.digischool.nl/bi/onderwaterbiologie/html/biologie/zeeland/ruigkrabbetje.htm</a></li> <li>• Natuurlijk mooi: <i>Pilumnus hirtellus</i> <a href="http://www.natuurlijkmooi.net/zeeland/krabben_en_kreeften/pilumnus_hirtellus.htm">http://www.natuurlijkmooi.net/zeeland/krabben_en_kreeften/pilumnus_hirtellus.htm</a></li> </ul>	

- De Onderwaterwereld: *Pilumnus hirtellus*  
[http://www.onderwaterwereld.net/oww\\_ml/php/data.php?PHPSESSID=9422e6d4cc534dbe68bd2504a1411b80&TLC=NL&SOC=KRBBN&SSC=Pilumnus hirtellus](http://www.onderwaterwereld.net/oww_ml/php/data.php?PHPSESSID=9422e6d4cc534dbe68bd2504a1411b80&TLC=NL&SOC=KRBBN&SSC=Pilumnus%20hirtellus)
- De Fotogallery: Ruig krabbetje  
<http://gallery.zweijtzer.nl/v/NL-onderwater/NL-geleedpotigen/Krabbrood.jpg.html>
- De Fotogallery: Ruig krabbetje  
[http://gallery.zweijtzer.nl/v/NL-onderwater/NL-geleedpotigen/DSC\\_6209.jpg.html](http://gallery.zweijtzer.nl/v/NL-onderwater/NL-geleedpotigen/DSC_6209.jpg.html)
- La Valle del Metauro, Centro di Educazione Ambientale: *Pilumnus hirtellus*  
[http://www.lavalledelmetauro.it/standard.php?lingua=uk&id\\_sezione=21&id\\_sottosezione=10&record=9825](http://www.lavalledelmetauro.it/standard.php?lingua=uk&id_sezione=21&id_sottosezione=10&record=9825)

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<http://www.artdata.slu.se/svenskaartprojektet.asp>

- This factsheet on *Pilumnus spinifer* and *Pilumnus hirtellus* was created on 30 November 2006
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