

1 **Burrow Morphology of Genus *Ocypode* (Brachyura: Decapoda: Ocypodidae) Along**  
2 **the Coast of Karachi**

3 **S. Odhano and N. U. Saher \***

4 *Centre of Excellence in Marine Biology, University of Karachi, Karachi 75270,*  
5 *Pakistan*

6 *e-mail: noorusaher@yahoo.com*

7 **Abstract**

8 Burrow morphology of *Ocypode rotundata* and *O. ceratophthalma* was studied on the  
9 sandy beach of Karachi with the aim of identifying their significance and relationship to  
10 the shore environment. The small sized burrows found at low tide level and large sized  
11 burrows found at the high tide level up to dry or splash zone. The burrow count during  
12 the winter season was lower as compared summer season. Only single burrow opening  
13 was observed in *O. rotundata* and *O. ceratophthalma* oriented towards the sea. The  
14 burrow depth was between 460 to □ 1300 mm and 490 to □ 760 mm in *O. rotundata*  
15 and *O. ceratophthalma* respectively. Strong correlation ( $r^2=81.2$  and  $89.2\%$ ) was  
16 observed between carapace length and burrow diameter of the *O. rotundata* and *O.*  
17 *ceratophthalma* respectively. For the grain size analysis, maximum amount of grain  
18 resulted with fine sand 57.04% (2.5Φ, 3.0Φ). For anthropogenic analysis, data showed  
19 no any significant difference (P value =0.128 and 0.671) from two sites but number of  
20 burrow counts decreases as the number of human activity increasing day by day at the  
21 selected beaches.

22  
23 **Keywords:** burrow morphology, *Ocypode certatophthalma*, *O. rotundata*, Sandspit,  
24 ghost crabs, Ocypodidae

## INTRODUCTION

Ghost crabs of the genus *Ocypode* are so called semi-terrestrial species [6,11,19,21,23,25]. These crabs are frequently found in tropical to sub-tropical areas along the sandy coasts of the world, starting from American Atlantic through the Mediterranean, Red Sea to American Pacific and Indo-Pacific regions [11,19,27]. *O. ceratophthalma* and *O. rotundata* are commonly distributed in the Indo-Pacific region, found in large quantities above the high tide mark on sandy shores [1,6,7,10,19,20,27]. These species are prominently macroscopic invertebrates inhabiting the sandy beaches found along the coasts of Pakistan.

Ghost crabs are relatively large invertebrates typically nocturnal, but their juveniles can also be seen during day time because they do not have capability to spent much time inside their burrows. As they are nocturnal species they feed during night time. They have ability to feed on any type of food (such as, macroscopic, microscopic, live or dead animal or plant materials or sometimes they are called scavengers [26]).

Those marine organisms living in soft sediments of marine coastal area have developed a burrowing adaptability which is commonly found in the invertebrates [22]. Burrows can be constructed by ghost crabs in different shapes and sizes then symbolised through their alphabetical terms such as J-, Y-, U- shaped which purely depends on sediment properties, tidal level and shore types [5, 6]. Ghost crabs can construct deep and complex burrows may be as deep as 2 m [10] which provide shelter against climatic extremes and predators and serve as sanctuary during molting and motherliness [6, 13]. The burrow openings of ghost crabs are circular with accumulated sand mounds and are often surrounded by intense feeding lines left by the crabs [5,6]. There are clearly visible entrances of a ghost crab on the surface of sandy beaches which are maintained as territory [24] by which counting of these holes can help to measure the densities of ghost crab easily [13,15].



1 The both stations (S1 and S2) were subdivided into the 2 localities: locality one was  
2 termed as Upper Shore Limit (USL) which was 38 feet away from the surf zone of sea  
3 and locality two was named as Lower Shore Limit (LSL) started from surf zone. The  
4 number and size distribution of burrows within each locale was examined. Total  
5 number of burrows, total number of pyramids were observed and counted before  
6 analysis.

7 The beach of Sandspit (24° 50'N, 66° 56'E) is covered by wide areas of mangrove on its  
8 back shore. The backshore and foreshore are separated by a wide strip of road which  
9 connects the Hawksbay coastline with Manora beach Sandspit in between them [12].  
10 The total area of Hawksbay and Sandspit is about 20 km, where detailed study was  
11 carried out on two different stations of Sandspit [12]; area opposite to WWF regional  
12 office (S1) and area routes towards the Manora beach where the CEMB laboratory is  
13 situated (S2).

14

### 15 *Sampling methodology*

16 The present study was carried out for two years from March 2011 to September  
17 2012. Data was collected in four months (March, April, August, September) in each year  
18 (2011-2012). In each station (S1 and S2) about eight transects were placed for burrow  
19 count and cast filling through line transect method. Each transect was a 2 m<sup>2</sup> in size. A  
20 measurement was taken from upper shore limit to the lower shore limit. Four quadrates  
21 were placed in upper shore limit and in lower shore limit. Aqueous solution of plaster of  
22 Paris to water with the ratio of 2:1 was poured into the selected crab burrows until the  
23 burrows were completely filled. The solution could dry for 30 to 60 minutes [16, 20].  
24 This technique has significantly improved our awareness that how ghost crabs construct  
25 their burrows in different shapes. After pouring the cast into the burrow if the crabs  
26 emerge out were collected and placed into the marked poly bags and brought into  
27 laboratory for relative growth analysis. On several occasions the crabs trapped inside

1 their burrows and could not emerge out because of the depth and branching of the  
2 burrow and immediate drying effect of the cast. The casts were excavated carefully as  
3 they become solidified and carefully taken to the laboratory then measurements of  
4 burrow proportions were carried. The casts were cleaned prior to measurement through  
5 brush to remove excess sediments. The complete casts were used for the further  
6 analysis. Burrows were sorted according to their concerned species and shapes. Burrow  
7 counts and cast filling were replicated during each visit, the purpose of this replication to  
8 test the human disturbance over time.

### 9 *Sediment analysis*

10 To observe the variation in the sediment structure sediment samples were taken nearby  
11 to the casting area from the depth of 30 cm for each quadrat replicate, to determine the  
12 sediment properties. Sediment analysis was carried out in laboratory to observe the  
13 percent organic matter and grain size of sediment through the oven, furnace and sieves  
14 with different mesh sizes respectively [18]. For percent organic matter, 200-g sediment  
15 taken into pre-weighted crucibles then placed into the oven at 70°C for 5 hrs, then  
16 weighted again and positioned in a furnace at 400°C for 24 hrs after that weighted again  
17 and data was used for statistical analysis.

18 For the grain size analysis, sediment was dried at room temperature and treated to have a  
19 permanently wrinkled appearance. About 100 g of sediment sample were taken from a  
20 dried sample of sediment and sieved through the sieve machine by keeping standard  
21 mesh sized sieve (Fig. 5). Time was kept constant during the sieving period about 15  
22 minutes for getting perfect results. The sediments retained on each sieve were collected  
23 and weighted then collected data was statistically analyzed to obtain the percent grain  
24 size.

### 25 *Anthropogenic impact*

26 For the purpose to explore the anthropogenic impact on ghost crab population the  
27 involvement of human activities on sandy beaches was observed; that can greatly cause

1 the reduction in crab density. About 20-m area from each site of Sandspit (S1 and S2)  
2 selected and one reference site selected which was most populous site and regularly  
3 visited site by humans for picnic. The ghost crab densities were calculated by counting  
4 the number of active burrow openings on the beach surface once visited the site. In each  
5 section burrows counted from the selected zone through line transect method.  
6 Measurement was taken from upper shore limit to the lower shore limit. Four lines were  
7 positioned in each limit (4 in upper shore limit and 4 in lower shore limit) and burrow  
8 densities were made as the number of burrows per line. Burrow counts were replicated  
9 during each visit, the purpose of this replication to test the human disturbance over time.  
10 This study was carried out 8 times in each year (2011 & 2012) during two times of each  
11 month (March, April, August and September).

#### 12 *Statistical analysis*

13 Following analysis was carried out by using the MS Excel (ver. 2013), Minitab ver. 17  
14 and SPSS ver. 16: Regression, correlation with burrow structure, t-test was employed  
15 between two stations. Descriptive analysis and One-way ANOVA were employed to the  
16 data obtained during experimental work (i.e., burrow morphology, crab morphology,  
17 sediment structure and anthropogenic analysis).

18 The regression analysis ( $y = a + b x$ ) was used for the study for morphometric analysis  
19 of each population (male and female) where (b) designates the slope and (a) as a Y –  
20 intercept. The t-test was employed to observed the difference between means of two  
21 different sites. The descriptive analysis was used for both populations' data to  
22 investigate the basic difference and to observe the maximum minimum ratio of all  
23 variables along with their means and standard deviation. The One-way ANOVA that  
24 was employed with the supporting null hypothesis that states the populations of genus  
25 *Ocypode* from two different sites were same.

26 For the burrow morphology analysis following variables were used for the analysis: total  
27 burrow length (TBL), total burrow depth (TBD), opening diameter of burrow (ODB),

1 branch (shaft) length (BL), burrow distance from sea (BDS). For relative growth  
2 analysis only 6 morphological characters were selected: carapace length (CL), carapace  
3 width (CW), enlarged chela length (EnL), enlarged chela width (EnW), abdominal  
4 length (AbL) and abdominal width (AbW). For Sediment Analysis percent of organic  
5 matter, and grain size were observed. And finally, for anthropogenic impact every visit  
6 burrows were counted from the selected area to identify the impact of humans over the  
7 burrows.

## 8 9 RESULTS

### 10 *Burrow morphology*

11 Total 107 complete burrow casts were collected in which ghost crabs *O. rotundata* 60  
12 casts (46 males and 14 female), *O. ceratophthalma* 39 casts (28 males and 11 female)  
13 and another 8 unknown casts (Table 1, Fig. 3) were hosting. Where *O. rotundata* male  
14 occupied the highest percentage (42.99%) then the other found species and unknown as  
15 cast secured the lowest percentage (7.47%) (Table1). The species *O. rotundata*  
16 represented four different types of burrow structures: J-shaped (12 burrow casts), L-  
17 shaped (13 burrow casts), Network (3 burrow casts), and I-shaped (32 burrow casts)  
18 ((Figs. 1, 2). Whereas ghost crab *O. ceratophthalma* also characterized with four types  
19 of burrow structures but out four two were different from *O. rotundata*: C-shaped (15  
20 burrow casts) and Y-shaped (14 burrow casts) along with two similar types of burrow  
21 casts J- and L-shaped (4 and 6 burrow casts respectively) (Figs. 1, 3). The maximum  
22 number of collected casts were straight in I-shaped (32%); while the minimum number  
23 of collected, casts were Network (3%) that were only observed in the *O. rotundata* (Fig.  
24 1).

25 Through regression analysis burrow opening diameter and total burrow length showed  
26 positive allometric relation with carapace length in *O. rotundata* ( $R^2= 81.2\%$ ) in both  
27 variables respectively. While in *O. ceratophthalma* positive allometric relation was

1 observed in burrow opening diameter with carapace length (89.2%) while isometric  
2 relation was observed in total burrow length with carapace length ( $R^2 = 89.2\%$ ) (Figure 4  
3 a-d). Other comparative variables were also used for regression analysis where carapace  
4 width was used as independent variable (Table 2).

5 A two-sample t-test was employed on the basis of statistical hypothesis in which the  
6 mean of two populations were examined. A two-sample t-test was observed to compare  
7 whether the average difference between two populations is really significant or if it is  
8 due instead of indiscriminate chance. A significant difference (0.007 and 0.001) was  
9 observed in both species *O. ceratophthalma* and *O. rotundata* regarding carapace width  
10 ( $35.44 \pm 2.81$  and  $45.76 \pm 1.14$ ) and carapace length ( $29.96 \pm 2.24$  and  $40.23 \pm 1.57$ )  
11 respectively.

12 The J-shaped burrows had the smallest volume with a mean opening diameter (OD) of  
13 38.31 mm in *O. rotundata* (Fig. 2, Table 4); whereas in *O. ceratophthalma* Y- shaped  
14 burrows showed the smallest OD of 52.21 mm (Fig. 3, Table 3). The primary and  
15 secondary arms joined together into a straight shaft and ended up in a chamber at the  
16 base (Fig. 2, 3). All the primary arms faced the seaward side and vice versa for the  
17 secondary arms in *O. ceratophthalma* but not in *O. rotundata*. The highest mean opening  
18 burrow diameter in *O. rotundata* was  $87.0 \pm 67.7$  mm along with the mean CL was 26.00 mm;  
19 however, in *O. ceratophthalma* C-shaped burrowed  $59.87 \pm 14.31$  mm OD and made by  
20 crabs with mean carapace length 37.6 mm (Table 3; Fig. 2, 3).

21 The maximum (62 mm) of carapace length was observed from the I-shaped cast; while  
22 Network shaped cast was observed (26.00 mm) (Table 3, Fig. 1). *O. ceratophthalma*  
23 showed the maximum number of the cast structure in C- and Y- shaped with 15 and 14  
24 casts respectively (Fig. 1, Table 3). Both cast structure (C and Y) showed a maximum  
25 number of carapace length with (56 and 58 mm) (Table 3). The male species of *O.*  
26 *rotundata* was lacking C and Y shaped burrow structures while *O. ceratophthalma* male  
27 was missing the I-shaped and Network type of burrows. While female of *O. rotundata*

1 species showed only I- and J-shaped structures only C- and J-shaped structures were  
2 observed in female of *O. ceratophthalma* (Table 3).  
3 The burrow opening diameter (OD) showed the positive correlation with carapace length  
4 (CL) ( $R^2 = 81.2, 89.2\%$ ) of crabs *O. rotundata* and *O. ceratophthalma* respectively  
5 while total length of burrow (TL) showed positive correlation with CL ( $R^2 = 81.2\%$ ), in  
6 *O. rotundata* as compared to *O. ceratophthalma* where total length of burrow (TL)  
7 showed isometric correlation with carapace length ( $R^2 = 72.5\%$ ) (Fig. 4 a-d). A  
8 comparison of the morphological parameters of the sampled burrows reveals the  
9 contrasting burrow architecture between two species of *Ocypode*. These findings  
10 indicate that morphological variations in these burrows may enable the differentiation of  
11 species habitat in the site.

#### 12 *Sediment analysis:*

13 Sediment analysis was carried out to obtain the percent organic matter and percent grain  
14 size. The yearly grain size analysis results the maximum amount of fine sand observed  
15 from both sites among which fine sand observed to be about 70% of total sand from core  
16 6 (C6). The minimum amount coarse slit sand not more than 2% from any core, site or  
17 year was observed details given in the figure 4 and 5. This analysis showed the  
18 significant difference during the period (Fig. 5, Table 4). The grain size analysis showed  
19 that the maximum amount of grain found in fine sand of two sieve 57.04% (2.5 $\Phi$ , 3.0 $\Phi$ ).

#### 20 *Anthropogenic impact*

21 Both selected sites were observed to be lower impact of human population for bathing  
22 and picnicking due to construction of private huts throughout the coastal belt. But the  
23 number of people increased during the weekend days (Saturday and Sunday). Both sites  
24 are morphologically similar, burrow density was analysed through One-way ANOVA  
25 and descriptive analysis was used to express the difference between the two sites. The  
26 analysis showed that the distribution of burrow densities varied considerably with grades  
27 of human disturbance (S1 and S2) but no any significant difference was observed in

1 positions across the shore as shown in Table 5. The reason for not showing any  
2 significant difference that the selected sites were not frequently visited by public due to  
3 private huts which are constructed throughout the coastline which cause the public  
4 restricted area for bathing and picnicking which showed a significant difference ( $P$   
5 =0.008) which was used as reference site. Importantly distribution of burrow densities  
6 showed variation with sequential changes during every visit which describes that  
7 number of burrow densities change in space and time which may lead to the cause of  
8 anthropogenic impact. The data showed (Table 5) number of burrows decrease by the  
9 passage of time due to increased number of human activity over the beach.

## 10 DISCUSSION

11 The identification of these two species by the current study was featured by using the  
12 available identification keys and these both species were commonly found abundantly  
13 along the both selected stations. Both stations were showing major difference in terms of  
14 their tidal height and sediment properties (Fig. 2) and most importantly, human impact  
15 that is also the major factor on and construction of their burrows. Both the areas are  
16 separated by picnic point (Sandspit picnic point) where a little or no any ghost crab  
17 population was observed. The ghost crab species *O. rotundata* and *O. ceratophthalma*  
18 showing sympatric relationship is widely distributed along the sandy beaches of  
19 Pakistan on high tide mark.

20 Total 106 casts were observed, which shows that most casts were collected *O. rotundata*  
21 60 species (55.66%) while the *O. ceratophthalma* 39 species (36.79%) remaining 8  
22 species (7.55%) were unknown casts where no occupants were observed (Table 3).

23 When the cast structure was compared with these two species I-shaped and N-shaped  
24 structures were only found in *O. rotundata* and C- and Y-shaped structure were found in  
25 *O. ceratophthalma* which clearly distinguishes the two-different species according to  
26 their burrow structure. Now these species can easily be identified according to their  
27 burrow structure.

1 Space and food are two fundamental resources required by organisms that provided by  
2 the sediment which supports the predominantly space for the burrowing and deposited  
3 food for organisms. Particle size can also regulate the dispersal and stratification of  
4 crabs by manipulating the organic matter that the grainier sediments usually have greater  
5 amount of organic content than other type of sediment [17]. Sediment percent grain size  
6 showed 70 to 95% sediment were fine to medium sand at both stations. The dispersal of  
7 particle sizes within a substratum is designated by sorting and skewness features [4].  
8 The sorting co-efficient can be classified as moderately well sorted to moderately sorted  
9 at both stations.

10 Sandspit beach comprises of ghost crabs are dominant and can be placed as top  
11 carnivores. This is the first report of burrow morphology and distribution of ghost crabs  
12 along the coastal areas of Pakistan. Ghost crabs inhabit the vast intertidal zone of almost  
13 all sandy areas of world frequently tropical to sub-tropical areas.

14 The ghost crabs are observed to be found on fine to medium grain sized sediment. The  
15 ghost crab density, distribution and zonation can be influence by many other factors  
16 such as competition (interspecific or intraspecific) along with temperature and light [8].

## 17 REFERENCES

- 18 1. Alcock, A., Material for a carcinological fauna of India. No. 6. The Brachyura  
19 Catometopa, or Grapsoidea, *J. As. Soc. Beng*, 1900, vol. 64, pp. 279–486.
- 20 2. Barros, F., Ghost crabs as a tool for rapid assessment of human impacts on  
21 exposed sandy shores, *Biol. Conserv.*, 2001, vol. 97, pp. 399–404.
- 22 3. Branco, J.O., Hillesheim, J.C., Fracasso, H.A.A. et al., Bioecology of the ghost  
23 crab *Ocypode quadrata* (Fabricius, 1787) (Crustacea: Brachyura) compared with  
24 other intertidal crabs in the Southwestern Atlantic, *J. Shellfish. Res.*, 2010, vol.  
25 29, no. 2, pp. 503–512.
- 26 4. Buller, A.T. and McManus, J., Sediment sampling and analysis, *Estuarine*  
27 *hydrology and sedimentation*, 1979, pp. 87–130.

- 1 5. Chakrabarti, A. Burrow patterns of *Ocypode ceratophthalma* (Pallas) and their  
2 environmental significance, *J. Paleontol.*, 1981, vol. 55, no. 2, pp. 431–441.
- 3 6. Chan, B.K.K., Chan, K.K. ., and Leung, P.C.M., Burrow architecture of the ghost  
4 crab *Ocypode ceratophthalma* on a sandy shore in Hong Kong, *Hydrobiologia*.  
5 2006, vol. 560, pp. 43–49.
- 6 7. Chappgar, B. F., One the marine crabs (Decapoda: Brachyura) of Bombay state  
7 part I, *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 1956, vol. 54, pp. 399–439.
- 8 8. Crane, J., *Fiddler Crabs of the World: Ocypodidae: Genus Uca*; Princeton, NJ:  
9 Princeton University Press, 1975, 425 pp.
- 10 9. Defoe, O., McLachlan, A., Schoeman, D.S. et al., Threat to sandy beach  
11 ecosystems: review, *Estuar. Coast. Shelf. S.*, 2009, vol. 81, pp. 1–12.
- 12 10. George R.W., The distribution and evolution of the ghost crabs (*Ocypode* spp.) of  
13 Hong Kong with a description of a new species, *The Marine Flora and Fauna of*  
14 *Hong Kong and Southern China*, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 1982,  
15 pp. 185–194.
- 16 11. Jackson, L.F., Smale, M.J., and Berry, P.F., Ghost crabs of genus *Ocypode*  
17 (Decapoda, Brachyura, Ocypodidae) of the east coast of South Africa, 1991, vol.  
18 61, no. 3, pp. 280–286.
- 19 12. Khan, M.Z., Ghalib, S.A., and Hussain, B., Status and new nesting sites of Sea  
20 Turtles in Pakistan, *Chelonian Conservation and Biology*, 2010, vol. 9, no. 1, pp.  
21 119–123.
- 22 13. Lucrezi, S. Schlacher, T.A., and Walker S. Monitoring human impacts on sandy  
23 shore ecosystems: a test of ghost crabs (*Ocypode* spp.) As biological indicators on  
24 an urban beach, *Environ. Monit. Assess.*, 2009, vol. 152, pp. 213–424.
- 25 14. McLachlan, A. and Brown, A.C., *The ecology of sandy beaches*. Burlington:  
26 Acad. Press. 2006.

- 1 15. Moss, D. and McPhee, D.P., The impacts of recreational four-wheel driving on  
2 the abundance of the ghost crab (*Ocypode cordimanus*) on subtropical beaches in  
3 SE Queensland, *Coast. Manage.*, 2006, vol. 34, pp. 133–140.
- 4 16. Qureshi, N.A. and Saher, N.U., Burrow morphology of three species of fiddler  
5 crab (*Uca*) along the coast of Pakistan, *Belg. J. Zool.*, 2012, vol. 142, no. 2, pp.  
6 112–124.
- 7 17. Saher, N.U., Population dynamics and biology of fiddler crab in the mangroves  
8 area of Karachi Coast, *Extended Abstract of Dept. of Zool.*, Karachi: University of  
9 Karachi, 2008.
- 10 18. Saher, N.U. and Qureshi, N.A., Spatial distribution of *Uca sinensis* (Crustacea,  
11 Ocypodidae) along the coast of Pakistan, *Egypt. Acad. J. Biol. Sci.*, 2012, vol. 4,  
12 no. 1, pp. 119–129.
- 13 19. Sakai, K. and Turkay, M., Revision of the genus *Ocypode* with the description of  
14 a new genus, *Hoplocypode* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura), *Mem. Queens.*  
15 *Muse. Nat.*, 2013, vol. 56, no. 2, pp. 665–793.
- 16 20. Seike, K. and Nara, M., Burrow morphology of ghost crabs *Ocypode*  
17 *ceratophthalma* and *O. sinensis* in foreshore, backshore and dune sub  
18 environment of sandy beach of Japan, *J. Geol. Soc. Japan.*, 2008, vol. 114, no. 11,  
19 pp. 591–596.
- 20 21. Strachan, P.H., Smith, R.C., Hamilton, D.A.B. et al., Studies on the ecology and  
21 behavior of ghost crab, *Ocypode cursor* (L.) in Northern Cyprus, *Sci. Mar.* 1999,  
22 vol. 63, pp. 51–60.
- 23 22. Trivedi, J.N. and Vachhrajani, K.D., On burrow morphology of the ghost  
24 crab, *Ocypode ceratophthalmus* (Decapoda: Brachyura: Ocypodidae) from sandy  
25 shore of Gujarat, India, *International Journal of Marine Science*, 2016, vol. 6,  
26 no.15, pp. 1–10.

- 1        23. Turkay, M., Sakai, K., and Apel, M., The *Ocypode* ghost crabs (Crustacea:  
2        Decapoda: Brachyura) of the Arabian Peninsula and adjacent regions, *Fauna of*  
3        *Saudi Arabia*, 1996, vol. 15, pp. 117.
- 4        24. Vannini, M., *Sandy beach decapods*. Researches on the coast of Somalia. The  
5        shore and the dune of Sar Uanle. 10, *Monitore Zool. Italiano*, (n. ser.) suppl. 1976,  
6        vol. 8, no. 10, pp. 255–286.
- 7        25. Weber, F., *Nomenclator entomologicus secundum entomogiam systematicum ill.*  
8        *Fabricii adjectis speciebus recens detectis ET varitatibus*, 1795, 172 pp. (Chilonii  
9        and Hamburgi).
- 10       26. Weinstern, R. B., Locomotor behavior of nocturnal ghost crab on the beach: focal  
11       animal sampling and instantaneous velocity from three dimensional motion  
12       analysis, *J. Exp. Biol.*, 1995, vol. 198, pp. 989–999.
- 13       27. Yousaf, F., Farzana, A., and Kazmi, Q. B., Some Ghost Crabs of the Genus  
14       *Ocypode* (Decapoda: Brachyura: Ocypodidae) from Pakistan's Waters (Northern  
15       Arabian Sea), *Turk. J. Zoo.*, 2007, V. 31, pp. 107-112.

1 **Table 1.** Percentage occupied by two *Ocypode* species during burrow cast collection

Species	Sex	Total number	Percentage (%)
<i>Ocypode rotundata</i>	Male	46	42.99
	Female	14	13.08
<i>O. ceratophthalma</i>	Male	28	26.16
	Female	11	10.28
Unknown	???	08	7.47
Total		107	100

2 **Table 2.** Regression analysis of comparative variables in two *Ocypode* species N= total  
3 number of individuals, R<sup>2</sup>=? AM= allometric growth, CL= carapace length, CW=  
4 carapace width, EnChlL= enlarged chela length, SmChlL= small chela length, AbL=  
5 abdominal length, AbW=abdominal width.

Comparative variables	Sex	N	<i>Ocypode rotundata</i>			<i>O. ceratophthalmus</i>			
			Y=a + b(x)	R <sup>2</sup>	AM	N	Y=a + b(x)	R <sup>2</sup>	AM
CL vs CW	M	14	Y=05.02+1.00x	0.78	O	28	Y= 2.50+1.08x	0.95	O
	F	46	Y=-0.41+1.16x	0.87		11	Y= 2.64+1.11x	0.98	+ve
CW vs EnChlL	M	14	Y=4.03+0.72x	0.88	-ve	28	Y= 2.91+0.81x	0.88	O
	F	46	Y=1.35+0.76x	0.84		11	Y=-4.48+0.84x	0.88	O
CW vs SmChlL	M	14	Y=2.97+0.54x	0.85	-ve	28	Y= 4.85+0.44x	0.69	-ve
	F	46	Y=3.10+0.52x	0.84		11	Y=-4.42+0.73x	0.96	O
CW vs AbL	M	14	Y=5.84 + 0.51	0.67	-ve	28	Y= 1.02+0.54x	0.75	-ve
	F	46	Y=7.19 + 0.47x	0.68		11	Y= 0.57+1.97x	0.71	+ve
CW vs AbW	M	14	Y=-2.18+0.50x	0.50	-ve	28	Y= 6.33+0.09x	0.021	-ve
	F	46	Y=-0.41+0.51x	0.59		11	Y= 0.79+0.58x	0.69	-ve

6

1 **Table 3.** Descriptive analysis of burrow cast structure of *Ocypode* species along the  
 2 coast of Karachi  
 3 (OR = *O. rotundata*, OC = *O. ceratophthalma*, CL= carapace length, OD= opening  
 4 burrow diameter, TL= total length of burrow, TD= total depth of burrow, CS= cast  
 5 shape)

Variable	CS	Species	N	Mean $\pm$ SD	Minimum	Maximum
CL (mm)	J	OR	12	26.33 $\pm$ 2.462	23.00	31.00
		OC	04	40.50 $\pm$ 16.74	26.00	55.00
	L	OR	13	33.62 $\pm$ 10.63	26.00	52.00
		OC	06	24.00 $\pm$ 1.549	23.00	26.00
	N	OR	03	26.00 $\pm$ 0.000	26.00	26.00
	I	OR	32	35.94 $\pm$ 11.35	26.00	62.00
	C	OC	15	37.60 $\pm$ 12.56	26.00	56.00
	Y	OC	14	28.00 $\pm$ 12.71	23.00	58.00
OD (mm)	J	OR	13	38.31 $\pm$ 8.900	30.00	60.00
		OC	04	67.50 $\pm$ 14.43	55.00	80.00
	L	OR	13	63.10 $\pm$ 36.20	30.00	170.0
		OC	06	52.22 $\pm$ 9.810	46.00	65.00
	N	OR	05	87.00 $\pm$ 67.70	30.00	200.0
	I	OR	37	70.46 $\pm$ 48.67	30.00	205.0
	C	OC	15	59.87 $\pm$ 12.56	40.00	80.00
	Y	OC	14	52.21 $\pm$ 13.90	46.00	85.00
TL (mm)	J	OR	13	630.0 $\pm$ 74.00	550.0	770.0
		OC	04	757.5 $\pm$ 125.0	640.0	880.0
	L	OR	13	693.8 $\pm$ 138.1	540.0	950.0
		OC	06	608.3 $\pm$ 56.40	550.0	680.0
	N	OR	05	786.0 $\pm$ 275.0	580	1240
	I	OR	37	770.5 $\pm$ 294.7	300.0	1300
	C	OC	15	702.7 $\pm$ 82.10	540.0	820.0
	Y	OC	14	610.0 $\pm$ 104.9	550.0	680.0
TD (mm)	J	OR	13	576.9 $\pm$ 79.70	480.0	710.0
		OC	04	660.0 $\pm$ 104.6	560.0	760.0
	L	OR	13	631.3 $\pm$ 123.8	500.0	840.0
		OC	06	536.7 $\pm$ 38.30	500.0	580.0

	N	OR	05	582.0 ± 141.7	460.0	820.0
	I	OR	37	767.8 ± 296.0	300.0	1300
	C	OC	15	596.7 ± 73.40	500.0	720.0
	Y	OC	14	540.0 ± 91.60	490.0	760.0
DS (cm)	J	OR	13	3596.5 ± 293.4	3383.30	4236.70
		OC	04	3825.2 ± 17.6	3810.00	3840.50
	L	OR	13	3762 ± 8310	2591	5608
		OC	06	3390.9 ± 185.9	3871.0	4230.90
	N	OR	05	4504 ± 6390	4115	5639
	I	OR	37	4107.1 ± 565.2	2590.8	5516.9
	C	OC	15	3700.3 ± 177.7	3322.3	3962.4
	Y	OC	14	3601.1 ± 102.1	3413.8	3659.6

1

2 **Table 5.** Decriptive analysis of total number of burrows showing anthropogenic impact.

3 Minimum number of burrows, maximum number of burrows and One-way ANOVA P

4 value of two selected sites along with Picnic site ( )

Site	Year	Total	Mean±SD	Minimum	Maximum	P
Picnic site	2011	103.00	12.88±4.70	8.00	21.00	0.008
	2012	60.000	7.500±1.773	5.000	10.000	
Shore Labe	2011	1320.0	165.0±47.0	69.0	188.0	0.128
	2012	987.0	123.4±38.5	78.0	226.0	
WWf Site	2011	1161.0	145.1±32.1	103.0	192.0	0.671
	2012	1400.0	175.0±41.2	83.0	210.0	

**Table 4.** Detailed descriptive analysis of t annual percent of organic matter and grain size analysis

Core	Year	Station	Organic matter (%)	Coarse slit (>4.0/230)	Very fine sand (=4.0/230)	Fine sand (=3.0/120)	Fine sand (=2.5/80)	Medium sand (=2.0/65)	Medium sand (=1.5/45)
Core 1	2011	Shore Lab	8.68	1.25	3.52	43.62	22.11	15.73	14.00
	2012		7.23	1.15	2.98	44.62	21.30	14.63	15.32
Core 2	2011	Shore Lab	3.93	1.36	4.37	43.02	25.07	13.67	12.03
	2012		9.55	1.46	4.88	41.44	29.56	11.33	11.33
Core 3	2011	Shore Lab	3.74	0.34	1.28	18.92	24.34	15.35	37.45
	2012		1.86	1.14	2.18	38.22	18.66	17.66	22.14
Core 4	2011	Shore Lab	5.21	1.07	3.99	35.84	33.85	14.75	12.7
	2012		3.30	1.34	4.80	28.99	32.55	19.88	12.44
Core 5	2011	Shore Lab	1.91	1.29	4.01	31.23	33.03	16.01	15.35
	2012		3.28	0.66	3.55	38.55	24.78	14.99	17.47
Core 6	2011	Shore Lab	1.26	1.90	5.03	40.27	36.58	11.43	7.12
	2012		5.49	1.99	4.66	41.29	33.76	10.44	7.86
Core 7	2011	WWF Site	1.23	1.75	4.52	42.62	21.11	14.73	15.21
	2012		0.21	1.20	4.38	43.22	20.20	15.10	15.90
Core 8	2011	WWF Site	4.47	1.56	3.37	41.02	22.07	16.67	15.03
	2012		1.86	1.26	3.25	40.44	23.66	15.10	16.29
Core 9	2011	WWF Site	1.86	1.34	2.28	35.92	29.34	15.35	16.45
	2012		3.30	1.15	1.98	34.29	28.66	16.63	17.29
Core 10	2011	WWF Site	3.30	2.07	2.99	31.84	30.85	16.75	15.7
	2012		6.50	1.98	3.50	30.22	29.88	17.88	16.54
Core 11	2011	WWF Site	1.65	1.90	4.01	36.23	28.03	16.01	13.35
	2012		1.65	2.14	3.70	38.44	25.77	14.66	15.29
Core 12	2011	WWF Site	0.21	0.9	3.03	40.27	36.58	15.43	4.12
	2012		1.23	1.25	2.78	39.55	33.27	14.28	8.87