

The leaping behavior of the sally lightfoot crab *Grapsus grapsus* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura) at an oceanic archipelago

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ABSTRACT:

The genus *Grapsus* includes a total of nine recognized species of semi-terrestrial crabs. Among them, *Grapsus grapsus* (Linnaeus, 1758) stands popularly known as sally lightfoot crab. It is very abundant in Oceanic Islands, such as the Fernando de Noronha Archipelago, Brazil. The present study registered the behavior of jumping between the rocks by *G. grapsus* in the supralittoral of Fernando de Noronha Archipelago. Field observations were performed in May 2012, including video footage. The crabs, juveniles and adults, males and females, jump from a rock to another. This can be related to a defense habit, but it seems that the crabs also jump to avoid entering into the sea, or to escape from wave wash. Other registers on crabs jumping from literature are also discussed. However, more studies on this behavior are still necessary for understanding them completely.

Keywords:

Crab behavior, Fernando de Noronha Archipelago, Red rock crab, Semi-terrestrial crab.