

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Thia scutellata

English name: Tumbnail crab/Polished crab	Scientific name: <i>Thia scutellata</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Malacostraca Order: Decapoda Family: Thiidae	Species authority: Fabricius, 1793	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: <i>Cancer scutellata</i> Fabricius, 1793	Generation length: –	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Potentially eutrophication (H01.05), Fishing (bottom trawling; F02.02.01)	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Potentially eutrophication (H01.05), Fishing (bottom trawling; F02.02.01), Construction (windmills; C03.03?)	
IUCN Criteria: –	HELCOM Red List Category:	DD Data Deficient
Global / European IUCN Red List Category NE/NE	Habitats Directive:	
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark –/–, Estonia –/–, Finland –/–, Germany –/D (Data deficient, incl. North Sea), Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden –/VU Redlisted as DD in the Norwegian Red List 2010.		

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

Within the HELCOM area the species has only been found on the shallow offshore bank Fladen. However, Danish data are lacking. Outside the HELCOM area the species is reported from the Skagerrak and the North Sea. In the Swedish part of the Skagerrak the species has only been recorded on a few localities, in the Gullmaren and Koster fjords. The species is probably very rare due to its habitat choice.



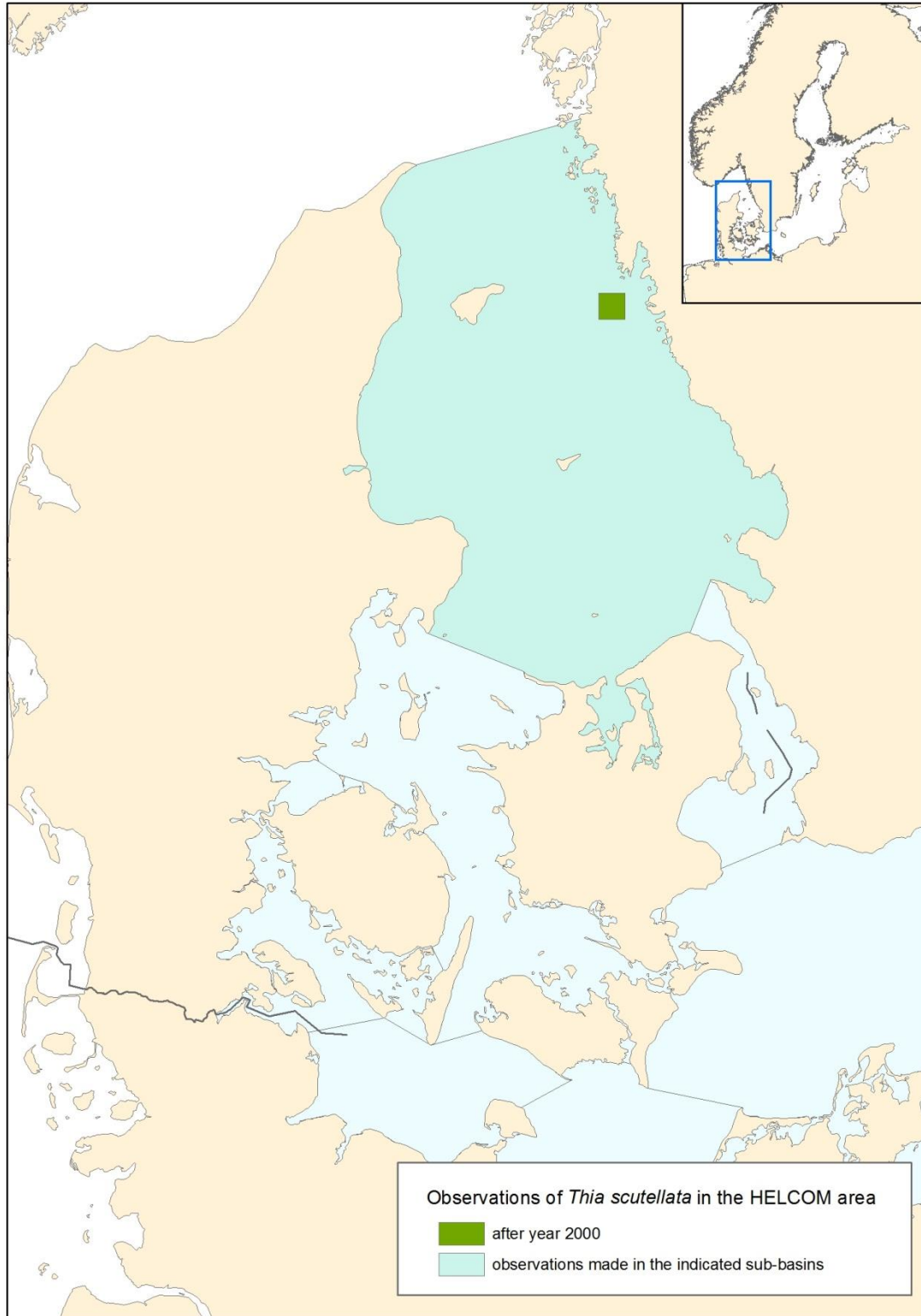
Thia scutellata. Photo by Anders Salesjö Photography, Undervattenbilder.se.

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Distribution map

The records of species obtained from the species database of the Swedish Species Information Centre (Artportalen).



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Habitat and ecology

Thia scutellata is a small digging crab with a characteristic pink and heart-shaped carapace. It burrows in sand and mud from low water to about 45 m. *Thia scutellata* seems to prefer coarse-grained sediments with a low mud content, of the same bottom type where Lancet fish *Branchiostoma lanceolatum* can be found. Otherwise, the ecology of the species is poorly known.

Description of major threats

The species is probably naturally rare due to its habitat choice, but as it is difficult to detect with standard sampling it may also be more common than suspected. At present it is not known whether the species is under a specific threat or not. However, the offshore bank where the species is found within the HELCOM area is vulnerable to sedimentation caused by e.g. eutrophication and trawling. As offshore banks are of interest for the windmill industry, exploitation will probably also be an issue in the near future.

Assessment justification

Very limited data - the species has only been recorded on the shallow offshore bank Fladen in the Kattegat. However, Danish data is lacking. The habitat of the species is probably rare but the information available is insufficient to determine which of the redlist categories is the most likely. The species is categorized as Data Deficient (DD).

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

In general the negative effects of eutrophication and trawling on marine biotopes need to be reduced. More information on the species distribution and status within the HELCOM area is needed.

Common names

Denmark: –, Estonia: –, Finland: –, Germany: –, Latvia: –, Lithuania: –, Poland: –, Russia: –, Sweden: nagelkrabba

References

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