

Trichodactylidae



Crab

Scientific classification

Domain: Eukaryota
Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Arthropoda
Subphylum: Crustacea
Class: Malacostraca
Order: Decapoda
Suborder: Pleocyemata
(unranked): Reptantia
Infraorder: Brachyura
Section: Eubrachyura
Subsection: Heterotremata
Superfamily: Trichodactyloidea
Genus: Trichodactylidae

Binomial Name

Trichodactylidae

(Milne – Edwards 1853)

Trichodactylidae is a family of crabs, in its own superfamily, Trichodactyloidea.⁵⁰ They are all freshwater animals from Central and South America, including some offshore islands, such as Ilhabela, São Paulo.⁵¹ Only one of the 50 species is known from the fossil record, *Sylviocarcinus piriformis* from the Miocene of Colombia.⁵²

The Trichodactylidae appear as a very old group, due to (a) the high morphological diversity, which is reflected in the multiplicity of sister groups above species level present in the cladogram, and (b) the relatively primitive respiratory adaptations, which contrast with the highly developed efferent channels and pseudolungs of other freshwater crabs. Within the family, the Trichodactylinae is perhaps the most ancient group. This subfamily is divided into several genera, with their areas of distribution fragmented over a vast territory.