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Percnon gibbesi (H. Milne Edwards, 1853) - Italy, Sicily, Santa Maria del Focallo

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***Percnon gibbesi* (H. Milne Edwards, 1853) (Decapoda Plagusiidae).** The Nimble Spray Crab, *Percnon gibbesi*, is a species native to the tropical coasts of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. In 1999 it was observed for the first time in the coastal area of the Sicilian Island of Linosa. This species probably arrived by ship, traveling with ballast water, and settled in due to the tropicalization of the Mediterranean. From that first observation many others followed and to date it has been observed on the coasts of Sicily (including the Egadi islands and Pantelleria), the Balearic islands, Malta, Sardinia, the islands of Ischia, in various locations in the Tyrrhenian Sea, on the coasts of Calabria, on those of Salento (Puglia), in Greece, in Turkey and in Libya.



Although it is a mostly algivorous species, it has been observed feeding in a generalist way, which would make it a potential competitor for some native Mediterranean species, with which it shares habitats, such as *Pachygrapsus marmoratus* (Fabricius, 1787) and *Eriphia verrucosa* (Forskål, 1775). Fortunately, recent studies show that even Mediterranean species are starting to interact in a predatory way with this species. In fact, specimens of rock goby (*Gobius paganellus* Linnaeus, 1758) have been observed preying on it effectively, which could reduce its abundance and perhaps its diffusion.