



The Coconut Crab

(Birgus latro)

The coconut crab is a terrestrial species of giant hermit crab and is also known as the robber crab or palm thief. It is the largest terrestrial arthropod known, with a weight up to 4.1 kg. The distance from the tip of one leg to the tip of another can be as wide as 1 m.

Once found in Australia, it is now restricted to islands across the Indian and Pacific Oceans, as far east as the Gambier Islands, Pitcairn Islands, and Caroline Island, and as far west as Zanzibar.

Adult coconut crabs feed primarily on fleshy fruits, nuts, seeds, and the pith of fallen trees, but will eat carrion opportunistically.

