

Fig. S1 The dissected female crab *O. senex senex* displaying 'H' shaped ovary with different stages during reproduction [Pre vitellogenic (A), Vitellogenic stage-I (B), Vitellogenic stage-II (C), Vitellogenic stage-III (D)].

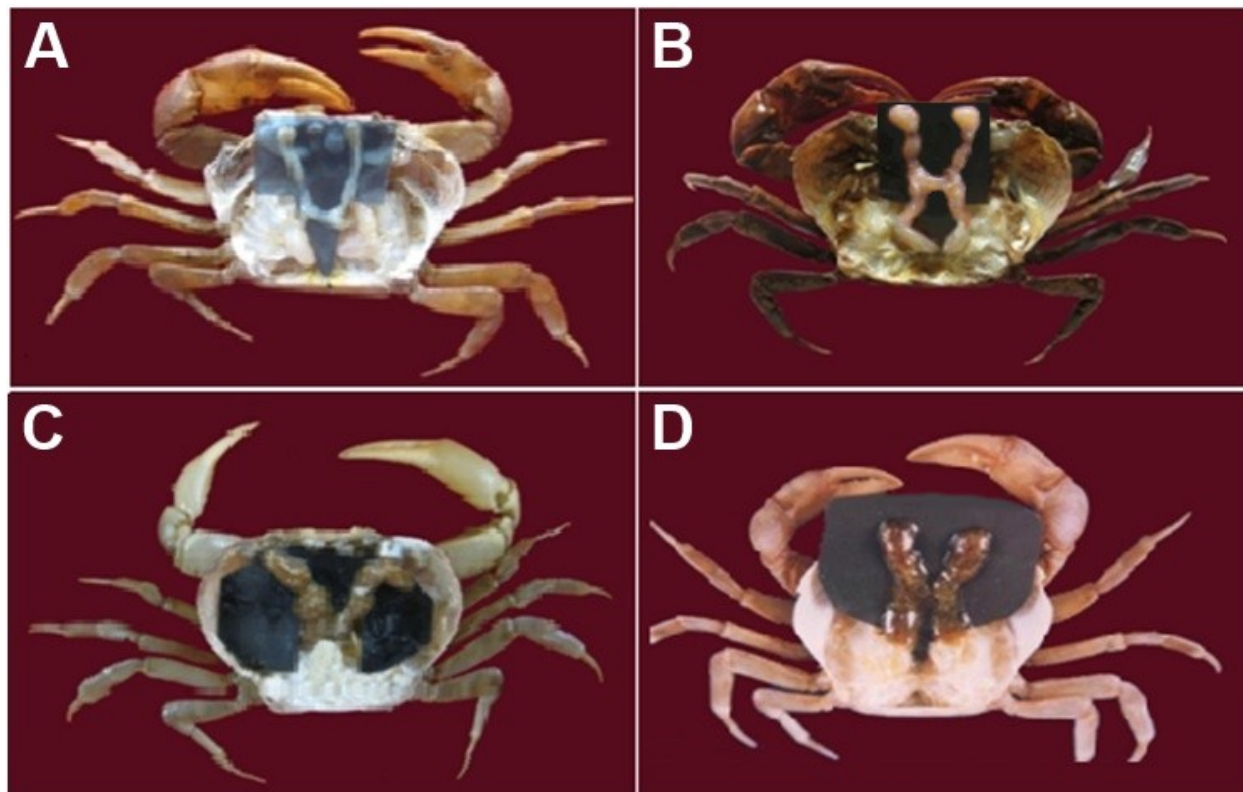


Table S1: Morphological and histological description of the different stages of ovarian development in the crab *O. senex senex*.

Reproductive stage	Morphological and histological description
Previtellogenic	Ovaries are thin strand-like and translucent to opaque white in colour. Ovary has a thick ovarian wall with a centrally located germanium surrounded by a number of oocytes. The follicular cells are spherical or oval in shape and are arranged at the periphery of the oocyte.
Vitellogenic stage I	Ovary appears pale yellow due to accumulation of carotenoids. Oocytes consist of peripherally located (deposited) yolk globules with a prominent nucleus and nucleolus.
Vitellogenic stage II	Ovary appears orange and the peripherally located yolk globules in the oocytes tend to move towards centre, gradually replacing the protein yolk.
Vitellogenic stage III	Ovary is brown to dark brown colour and is characterized by large accumulation of yolk globules occupying the whole of ooplasm. The nucleus and nucleoli which were conspicuous in the previtellogenic stage will disappear at this stage. The fine protein yolk globules are inter-dispersed between the large lipid yolk globules.