

On the right side of the individual; all parts except dactyl parts of the swimming leg and the tip of the cheliped' fixed finger and dactyl were albino. On the left side of the individual; all of the third leg, the merus part of the first leg, the coxa and propodus parts of the swimming leg, and the dactyl parts of the second and fourth legs were pseudo-albinism. It was determined that the carapace part of the individual had normal colours (Figure 1).

It is known that the color difference between these individuals is related to the sexual dimorphism and molt cycle (Williams, 1974). However, the situation observed in this individual does not originate from these reasons. The albinism observed in the crabs – partially or wholly white – reported as sporadic (Hogarth, 1982). Similarly, albinism and partial albinism found in blue crab species have previously been reported in scientific literature and these individuals are kept in the museum (Gowanloch, 1952; Sims and Joyce, 1965). General assumption is that albinism seen in crabs is similar to that seen in humans, due to the absence of pigment and is genetically determined (Hogarth, 1982). According to Hogarth (1982), both assumptions are questionable.

In this study, partial albinism findings of a blue crab individual are presented. Since there is no scientific evidence to explain the cause of the partial albinism observed in the individual, it is not known whether this is an individual's pigment deficiency, genetic origin, or both.

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Figure 1. Dorsal and ventral views of the specimen (Photo: A. T. İlkyaz)

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