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Submission 5

## Record of mud lobster *Thalassina anomala* Herbst 1804 from mangrove ecosystem around Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary

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Mud lobsters, belonging to the genus *Thalassina* are lesser known but important crustaceans of the mangrove ecosystem (Hassan, 2015). Five live specimens of mud lobsters (*Thalassina anomala*) were recorded from the mangrove ecosystem around Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary (TCFS) during the field surveys conducted from June 2019 to July 2021. TCFS is situated between 19° 00' to 19° 15' N latitudes and 72° 55' to 73° 00' E longitudes on the Western bank of the Thane creek, Maharashtra, India. Located between Greater Mumbai City & Navi Mumbai City, the sanctuary includes mangrove and mudflat habitats which play a vital role in supporting aquatic and marine fauna. *T. anomala* was first reported by Sankoli during 1963 and 1970 who studied the occurrence and natural history aspects of the mud lobsters across coastal Maharashtra. Apart from these studies, there is a significant research gap on the current the status of Family Thalassinidae for Maharashtra. Being the least studied species from the intertidal zone in Maharashtra, the record of live specimens of *T. anomala* from the mangrove areas of TCFS contributes to the valuable information to the occurrence of mud lobster in Maharashtra.

Keywords: *Thalassina*, Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary, Mangroves.