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A swimming crab, *euphylax dovii* Stimpson 1860, new to the marine fauna of California

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ABSTRACT

On 30 August 1974, during a series of otter trawls conducted by the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project in Santa Monica Bay, a specimen of the purple swimming crab, *Euphylax dovii* Stimpson 1860, was collected near Playa del Rey. The specimen was taken in a 15 min tow at lat 33°56.15' N, long 118°26.75' W, in 11 m (36 ft) of water. This species of swimming crab is common in the stomach contents of tuna caught throughout the Central American Pacific at distances of up to 190 km (115 miles) offshore (Suhl 1955; Alverson 1963). Although the crab has been taken at great distances offshore, indicating a high degree of mobility, it has only been recorded as far north as Bahia de Manzanillo, Colima, Mexico (Garth and Stephenson 1966). Thus, our observation adds almost 2,200 km (1320 miles) to the known range of the species.

Three other swimming crabs have been reported in California waters, *Portunus xantuisii* (Stimpson 1859). These and other distributional information can be found in Garth and Stephenson 1966. The purple swimming crab, *Euphylax dovii* (Figure 1) is easily distinguished from these other, more common forms because of its narrow, T-shaped rostrum, its very long eye stalks (with orbits occupying nearly the whole anterior border of the carapace), and its reddish-purple carapace.

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