

New 'strawberry' crab species found off Taiwan

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In this undated image released from the National Taiwan Ocean University, a new species of crab (*Neoliomera Pubescens*) is displayed. A marine biologist said he has discovered a new crab species off the coast of southern Taiwan that looks like a strawberry with small white bumps on its red shell. (AP Photo/National Taiwan Ocean University)

(AP) -- A marine biologist says he has discovered a new crab species off the coast of southern Taiwan that looks like a strawberry with small white bumps on its red shell.

National Taiwan Ocean University professor Ho Ping-ho says the crab resembles the species living in the areas around [Hawaii](#), Polynesia and Mauritius. But it has a distinctive clam-shaped shell about 1 inch (2.5 centimeters) wide, making it distinct.

Taiwanese crab specialist Wang Chia-hsiang confirmed Ho's finding.

Ho said Tuesday his team found two female [crabs](#) of the new species last June off the coast of Kenting National Park, known for its rich marine life. The crabs died shortly thereafter, possibly because the water in the area was polluted by a cargo ship that ran aground.

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