STUDIES ON THE CRUSTACEAN FAUNA OF MYSORE COAST 1. DECAPODA : BRACHYURA

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I—INTRODUCTION

The crabs dealt with in the present paper were collected during a recent faunistic survey of the Mysore coast under the leadership of the senior author. Altogether twenty two species are identified and included. The crustacean fauna of the coastal belt from north of Mangalore to south of Karwar has not been properly surveyed and one of the main purposes of the recent faunistic survey was to uncover the different crustacean species that are met with along this coast. The brachyuran crabs are dealt with in the present communication. Other groups will follow in subsequent papers.

We are grateful to Dr. A. P. Kapur, Director, Zoological Survey of India for his kind encouragement and to the members of the survey party for their cooperation in the collection of the present material.

II—ECOLOGICAL NOTES

The area surveyed included the south and north Kanara districts of the Mysore state. The entire coastal tract from Mangalore (74°50' E, 12°52' N) to Karwar (74°05' E, 14°50' N) was covered during the survey. Sandy expanses are met with only in the southern coastal parts while the northern coastal stretch is mountainous and rocky. In many places lofty extensions of the Western Ghats almost merge with the sea. Coast line is zig-zag, sandy enclosures being met with between hilly projections into the sea. However, many of the rocky areas are devoid of any vegetation. They are granite masses constantly washed by the sea, with least amount of hiding places. The result is that the shore fauna in these areas is rather poor.

Crabs described in this paper were all collected either from sandy tracts or from among crevices among the granite rocks.

III—SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Family DORIPPIDAE

1. Dorippe facchino Herbst

1783. Dorippe facchino Herbst, Krabben, 1 (2) : 190.

Material—2♂, 1♀, Mangalore beach, 24. xii. 66.

Distribution.—East coast from the mouth of Hooghly to Madras, also widely reported from many parts of the world.

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Family LEUCOSIDAE

2. Philyra scabriscula (Fabr.)

Material.—50 ♂, 126 ♀, Karwar; 2 ♂, 5 ♀, Kumta, 16.i.67 and 10.i.67 respectively.


Family CALAPPIDAE

3. Matuta lunaris (Forskål)

Material.—2 ♂, 2 ♀, Kumta; 2 ♂, 5 ♀, Karwar; 5 ♂, 3 ♀, Bhatkal; 4 ♂, 6 ♀, Mangalore 11.i.67, 16.i.67, 4.i.67 and 18.xii.66 respectively.

Distribution.—Indian coasts, Andamans, Red Sea, Zanzibar, Madagascar. Also from Ganges delta, Arakan, Madras, Ceylon, Malabar coast, Karachi, Penang, Tavoy from the Indo-Pacific.

4. Matuta banksii Alcock

Material.—4 ♀, Mangalore, 17.xii.66.

Distribution.—Andaman-Nicobars, Mergui, Sundarbans & Ganges delta, Madras, Mahanadi delta, Bombay, Karachi, Durban Bay, Mozambique, Mauritius.

Family MAIIDAE

5. Doclea gracilipes Stimp

Material.—1 ♂, 6 ♀, Malpe beach, Udipi on 26.xii.66.

Distribution.—Sandheads, R. Hooghly, Andamans, Hong Kong, Mergui Is., and localities in the Indo-Pacific.

Family PORTUNIDAE

6. Portunus pelagicus (Linnaeus)

Material.—1 ♂, 1 ♀, Karwar; 2 ♀, Sirur; 2 ♂, 2 ♀, Coondapore; 3 ♀, Malpe, Udipi 16.i.67, 4.i.67, 29.xii.66 and 26.xii.66.
**Distribution.**—This is a widely distributed species having been recorded from Indian coasts, east Africa, Japan, Philippines, Australia, Tahiti, Mediterranean.

7. *Portunus sanguinolentus* (Herbst)


**Material.**—9 ♂, 3 ♀, Coondapore; 10 ♂, 4 ♀, Mangalore beach on 29.xii.66 and 24.xii.66 respectively.

**Distribution.**—Very common in Indian coasts, Andaman-Nicobar Is., East coast of S. Africa, Australia and Hawaii Is. Holthuis (1956)* says that this Indo-Pacific species has migrated to the Mediterranean through the Suez Canal.

8. *Scylla serrata* (Forskål)


**Material.**—1 ♀, Mangalore; 2 ♂, 1 ♀, Kumta beach on 18.xii.66 and 13.i.67 respectively.

**Distribution.**—The whole of Indo-Pacific region including east Africa, Red Sea, Japan, Tahiti, New Zealand and Australia, Philippines, Viet-Nam.

9. *Charybdis riverandersoni* Alcock


**Material.**—1 ♂, Kumta; 3 ♂, 7 ♀, Karwar on 10.i.67 and 16.i.67 respectively.

Known distribution includes Indian coasts and Japan.

10. *Charybdis affinis* Dana


**Material.**—2 ♂, Suratkal (Mangalore) on 22.xii.66.

**Distribution.**—It has been recorded from Mergui, Akyab, Orissa coast and from coasts of Burma and Andaman group of Is.

**Family XANTHIDAE**

11. *Menippe rumphii* (Fabr.)


**Material.**—1 ♀, Sirur; 5 ♂, 7 ♀, Dhareswar; 1 ♀, Karwar on 4.i.67, 10.i.67 and 16.i.67 respectively.

**Distribution.**—Indian coasts, Penang, Tavoy, Mergui Is., Persian Gulf, Ceylon, Laccadives, Karachi.


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12. *Eriphia leavimanus* Guerin


**Material.**—1 ♂, from Murudeswar (Bhatkal) on 6.i.67.

**Distribution.**—Aracan coast, Laccadives, Mergui, Indian coasts, Ceylon, Andaman, East Africa and Australia.

13. *Pilumnopeus indica* (de Man)


**Material.**—4 ♂, 4 ♀, Murudeswar on 6.i.67.

**Distribution.**—Mergui Is., Japan, Karachi, Bombay.

14. *Ozius tuberculosus* M. Edwards


**Material.**—1 ♂, Bhatkal beach on 4.i.67.

**Distribution.**—Mergui Is., Nicobar, New Caledonia, Mauritius, and now the Mysore coast.

**Remarks.**—Alcock (loc. cit.) (1898) obtained two specimens which are present in the Zoological Survey of India from the Nicobar Is. and Mergui Is. The present record seems to be the first from the Indian coast.

There is considerable difference in the size of the three specimens we examined, and this is presented below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Breadth</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nicobar</td>
<td>5.8 mm.</td>
<td>7.9 mm. (female)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mergui</td>
<td>3.9 mm.</td>
<td>5.7 mm. (female)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhatkal</td>
<td>2.7 mm.</td>
<td>3.9 mm. (female)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Brief description of the present specimen is as follows:

Carapace studded with small pearly granules. Front cut into four equidistant teeth. Anterolateral border, exclusive of orbital angle, cut into five teeth. Branchial region of the carapace crossed transversely by two furrows, which have a common starting point at the fourth tooth. Dark brown to red colour in spirit; fingers and dactyli of legs dark brown.

15. *Ozius rugulosus* Stimpson


**Material.**—1 ♂, Mangalore; 2 ♀, Dhareswar (Kumta) on 18.xii.66 and 10.i.67.

**Distribution.**—Wide distribution in tropical regions of the Indo-Pacific from Japan to India, Red Sea, East coast of Africa, Andamans and Arakan.
16. **Epixanthus frontalis** (Milne Edwards)


**Material.**—1 ♂, Sirur, 1 ♀, Murudeswar on 4.i.67 and 6.i.67.

**Distribution.**—East and west coasts of India, Ceylon, Andaman Nicobars, Mauritus, Mergui, Akyab, Orissa coast and Makran coast.

17. **Xantho (Leptodius) exaratus** (Milne-Edwards)


**Material.**—1 ♂, 1 ♀, Murudeswar; 3 ♂, Dhareswar 6.i.67 and 10.i.67 respectively.


Family **OCYPODIDAE**

18. **Uca annulipes** (Laterielle & Edw.)


**Material.**—25 ♂, 1 ♀, from Malpe (Udipi), on 26.xii.66.

**Distribution.**—Indian coasts, Red Sea, East Africa, Australia, West coast of America.

19. **Ocypoda ceratophthalma** (Pallas)


**Material.**—2 ♂, from Sirur (Bhatkal) beach, 4.i.67.

**Distribution.**—This widely distributed Indo-Pacific species is recorded from several localities from Indian coasts.

Family **GRAPSIDAE**

20. **Grapsus grapsus** (Linn.)


**Material.**—1 ♂, 2 ♀, Kumta; 6 ♂, 25 ♀, Coondapore; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Suratkal; 3 ♂, Hosabetu; 4 ♂, 3 ♀, Penambur, 13.i.67, 30.xii.66, 22.xii.66, 21.xii.66 and 19.xii.66 respectively.

**Distribution.**—Widely recorded from coasts of India and Ceylon.

21. **Metapograpsus messor** (Forskål)


**Material.**—4 ♂, 4 ♀, Coondapore, on 30.xii.66.
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Distribution.—Widely distributed in the Indo-Pacific from Hawaii to Red Sea and east African coasts including India.

22. Plagusia depressa (Herbst) var. squamosa (Herbst)


Material.—2♀, Karwar beach on 16.i.67.

Distribution.—Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal and Indo-Pacific.

IV—Summary

Twenty two species of crabs belonging to eight families and eighteen genera obtained from the Mysore coast during a recent faunistic survey of the area are listed with distributional accounts. Ozius tuberculosus M. Edwards is a new record from Indian coasts. This was formerly recorded from the oceanic islands of Mauritius and Nicobars in the western and eastern ends of the Indian Ocean.

V—References


Holthuis, L. B. 1956. Proposed addition to the “Official list of generic names in Zoology” of the names of twentyfive genera of Macrura Reptantia (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda), including proposals for the use of the plenary powers (a) to validate the spelling “Cherax” as the valid original spelling for the generic name published as “Cherax” and “Cheraps” by Erichson in 1846 (b) to suppress the specific name “Goudotti” Guerin-Meneville, 1839 as published in the combination “Astacoides Goudatti” and (c) to validate the emendation to Palinurus of the generic name “Pallimurus” Weber, 1795. Bull. zool. Nomencl., 12 (4) : 107-119.