

**OCCURRENCE OF *CRAMBIONELLA ANNANDALEI* RAO,
A SCYPHOZOAN JELLYFISH (RHIZOSTOMAE : CATOSTYLIDAE)
FROM DIGHA COAST, MIDNAPORE, WEST BENGAL**

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INTRODUCTION

During the course of investigation on jellyfishes at the coast of West Bengal, the authors noticed a numbers of *Crambionella annandalei* Rao., the scyphozoan jellyfishes belonging to the family : Catostylidae, caught in drag net, operated by local fishermen at Digha coast, Midnapore, West Bengal.

Scyphomedusae from Bay of Bengal is known from the works of Rao (1931). Haldar and Chowdhury (1995) reported a number of medusa from Hughly-Matla estuary, West Bengal, but in their accounts, there is no record of this species from this area and hence this is the first record of *Crambionella annandalei* Rao from coast of West Bengal.

A brief description of this species is given below.

MATERIALAND METHOD

The specimens were collected by drag net during fishing and after collection, the specimens are preserved in 5% formalin solution.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Phylum CNIDARIA
Class SCYPHOZOA
Order RHIZOSTOMEAE
Family CATOSTYLIDAE

***Crambionella annandalei* Rao**

1930. ? *Crambionella stuhlmanni* Menon., *Bull. Govt. Mus. Madras* (N.S.). III. p.18, pl. iii, figs. 14a, c, e.

Materials examined : 5 exs., Digha Hospital Ghat., coll. J. Sarkar and S. Talukdar., Regd. No. 2197 dt. 26.ix.96.

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Diagnosis : Bell dome-shaped, margin more or less incurved, exumbrellar surface finely granulated, minute short furrows and ridges arranged radially, velar lappets 14 in each octant, mouth-arm well developed with stout long terminal club. Base of mouth arm cylindrical, middle part with trifoliate wing. Terminal club about half of entire mouth-arm and devoid of whip-like filament.

Colour : Light brown when freshly caught but centre of the bell lighter than margin.

Measurements (in mm) :

Specimens	Diameter of bell	Total length of mouth-arm	Length of terminal club
1	141.4	25	13
2	172.8	37	20
3	204.2	39	22
4	251.4	50	26
5	267.1	55	28

Distribution : India : Coast of Puri, Visakhpatnam, Madras and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Occurrence of *C. annandalei* at Digha coast indicates the northern range of extension of the species. Elsewhere : Burma.

DISCUSSION

The description of the species is based on the specimen collected in September, 1996. After that in September, 1998 and in October, 1999 the authors again noticed the same species in large number from Digha coast and Shankarpur coast near Digha. From this observation it is said that this species is the permanent visitor of this estuarine areas.

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