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Short Communication

ON THE FIRST RECORD OF THE PEN SHELL, *PINNA INCURVA* GMELIN (MOLLUSCA : BIVALVIA : PTEROIDA : PINNIDAE) FROM DIGHA COAST OF WEST BENGAL

INTRODUCTION

During the marine invertebrates survey along the Digha-Junput coast of Bay of Bengal, the authors came across four specimens of living Pen shells *Pinna incurva* Gmelin from trash collection deposit at Digha Mohana fishing harbour.

Molluscan fauna of West Bengal coast were well studied by Subba Rao *et al.* (1992). The occurrence of living pen shell *Pinna (Atrina) pectinata pectinata* Linnaeus belonging to family Pinnidae was reported by Mitra *et al.* (2002). So it is the first record of this species from the coast of West Bengal.

A brief description of this species is given below.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

Digha beach, a famous tourist spot of West Bengal, situated at the southern most part of West Bengal. It's a sandy beach. A big fishing harbour, Shankarpur is situated just 5 km. east of Digha beach. Two canals namely Ramnagar canal and Champa canal open here in Bay of Bengal by providing necessary facilities for forming a fishing harbour. Between the two canals there is a large sand dunes where the trash collections of trawl catches are normally deposited.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Four living specimens were collected from the trash materials deposited on the northern side of Champa canal. The soft parts were removed, and the two valves of the shells were washed in 70% alcohol and finally kept in boxes.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Phylum MOLLUSCA

Class BIVALVIA

Order PTERIOIDA

Family PINNIDAE

Pinna incurva Gmelin, 17911791. *Pinna incurva* Gmelin Syst. Nat. 13th ed., vol., 1(6) : 3021-3910.*Material examined* : 4 exs, Digha-Mohana. Coll. S. Mitra. Regd. no. 2091. Dated 21.i.99.**Figs. 1.** *Pinna incurva* Gmelin

Diagnosis : Valves thin, fragile and sculptured with nearly obsolete radiating ribs. Shell translucent, or nearly transparent, colour light reddish brown, surface smooth and shining. Posterior margin extremely arcuate, attenuate and wedge shaped in outline. Nacreous lobe iridescent, well separated by longitudinal sulcus forming a deep V shaped. Dorsal and ventral nacreous lobe obliquely truncated and sloping from sulcus. Posterior abductor muscles not touching to posterior margin of nacreous lobe and never extended on the ventral lobe. Radial sculpture hardly observable consists of about six ribs limited to posterior slope.

Measurements (in mm) : Length 290.00-268.00; Height 78.00-68.00; Width 25.00-18.00.

Distribution : India : West Bengal (Midnapore), Tamil Nadu (Gulf of Mannar), Nicobar Islands.

Elsewhere : Myanmar, Philippines and North Australia.

Remarks : These specimens inhabitants of Sandy-Muddy substratum, below the low tide mark, at a depth of in 9-12 fathoms. Here these are collected from fishing trawler, which are operated beyond 20-30 km from the shore; or the offshore area of West Bengal coast.

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S. MITRA

*Zoological Survey of India,
F.P.S. Building,
27, J.L. Nehru Road;
Kolkata-700 016*