

XII NOTE ON THE OCCURRENCE IN THE
RIVER GANGES OF THE AMPHIPOD,
AMPELISCA PUSILLA SARS

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Some time ago I received from Dr. N. Annandale a tube containing some Amphipods collected in the river Ganges at Buxar, about 600 miles from the mouth, by T. Southwell, Esq. These were sent for comparison with the Amphipods from the Chilka Lake Survey which I was then examining. The specimens from Buxar proved to be *Ampelisca pusilla* Sars, a species which was also represented by many specimens from several localities in the Chilka Lake. This species was originally described by Sars¹ from the seas off the coast of Norway at depths from 180 to 370 metres. These northern specimens had the eyes imperfectly developed, without any trace of the corneal lenses. In 1910 Stebbing² with some hesitation referred to this species a single specimen obtained by the "Thetis" off Wata Mooli on the east coast of Australia, but stated that in this specimen the corneal lenses appeared to be present. They are also present in the specimens both from the Chilka Lake and from Buxar, but from the very close resemblance in all other respects of the specimens, both male and female, to the descriptions and figures given by Sars, I feel quite confident that they are rightly referred to *Ampelisca pusilla*. The imperfection in the eyes of the northern specimens is probably to be associated with their occurrence at considerable depths in the ocean. In the specimens from Buxar the eyes in most of the specimens were distinctly red, though they had been for a considerable time in spirit, in some the whole eye with its two corneal lenses being red, in others the red colour being somewhat patchy.

As I have stated in my report on the Chilka Lake Amphipoda³ I think *Ampelisca chevreuxi* Walker from Ceylon should be considered as a synonym of *Ampelisca pusilla*.

So far as I am aware, the numerous species of *Ampelisca* have hitherto been recorded from marine localities only, and the occurrence of this species in fresh water in the river Ganges seems therefore worthy of a special note. In the Chilka Lake it occurs at several localities at some of which the water is probably brackish or perhaps quite fresh at certain seasons of the year.

¹ Crustacea of Norway, I, Amphipoda, p. 181, pl. 63, fig. 2.

² Amphipoda of "Thetis" Expedition, *Australian Museum Mem.* IV, p. 576.

³ *Mem. Ind. Mus.* V (in the press).

The occurrence of the species in such widely separated localities as the Arctic Seas, India and Australia will doubtless help to throw light on the causes that have led to the distribution of this and other Amphipods. In this connection it should perhaps be mentioned that in the Chilka Lake *Ampelisca pusilla* occurs along with *Paracalliope fluviatilis* (G. M. Thomson), a species which is common in fresh and brackish waters in New Zealand and has also been recorded under the name of *Pherusa australis* Haswell from Botany Bay, east coast of Australia. Quite recently I have received specimens also from the Philippine Islands.