

FIRST RECORD OF PAUROPODA FROM INDIA, WITH DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES, *DECAPAUROPUS KRISHNANI*

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(With 1 Text-figure)

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I—INTRODUCTION

Until now only one species of the Pauropod genus *Decapauropus* Remy, namely, *D. cuenoti* Remy has been known from Wagen forests, Germany (Remy, 1931). Another species belonging to this genus is now recorded from south India. This is the first record of Pauropoda from the Indian Region.

The new species differs from the other known species of *Decapauropus* Remy in having small, sessile globulus and nine tergal plates. In *D. cuenoti* the globulus is large and pedicellate and there are six tergal plates.

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II—SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

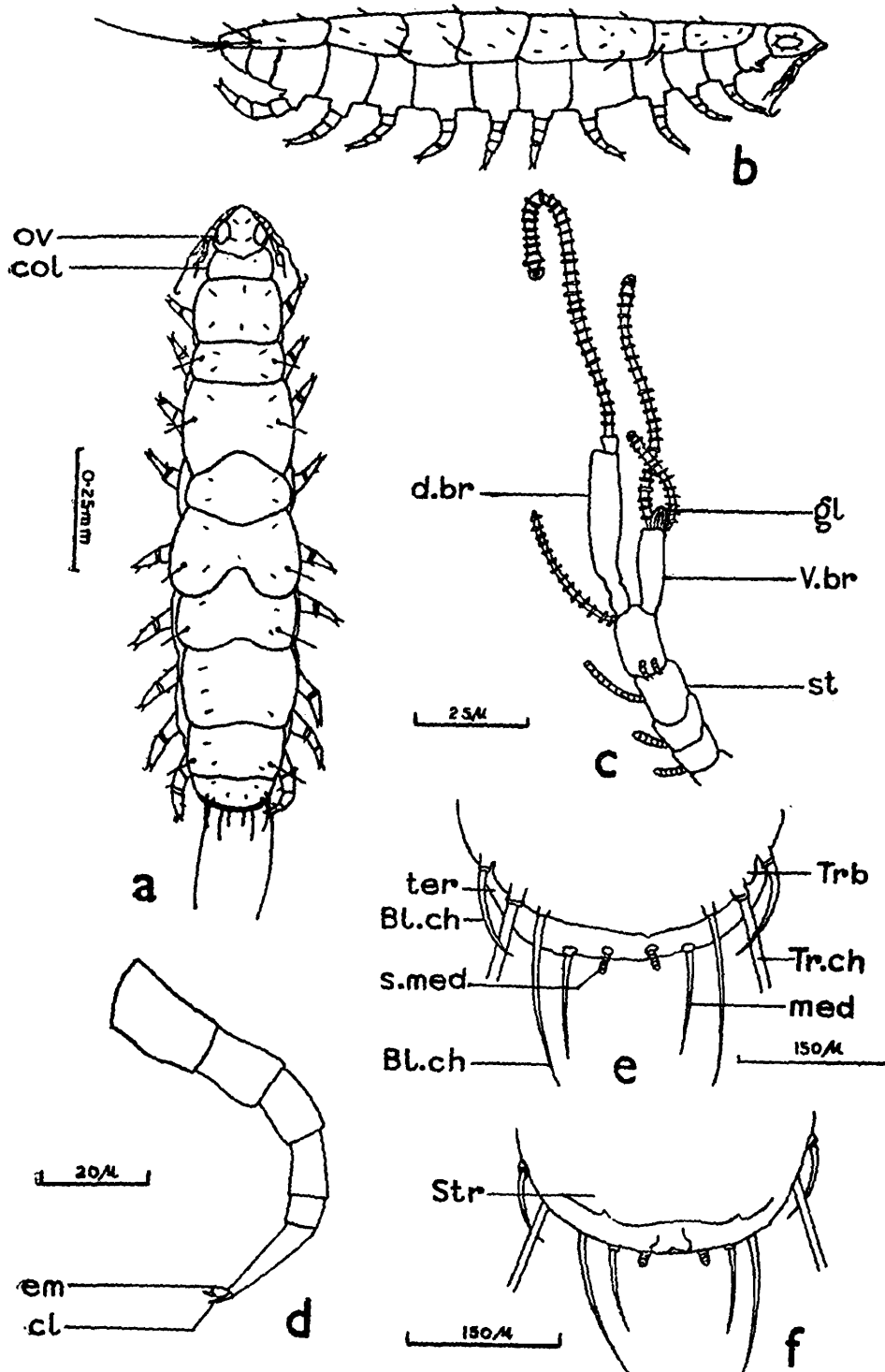
***Decapauropus krishnani* Sundara Rajulu, sp. nov.**

Material.—7 examples, Alagar Koil Hills (Madras State, south India), ca. 9°55' N. latitude and 78° 10' E. longitude ; coll. G. Sundara Rajulu, 1-6-1962, found in soft mud under stones.

¹ Named after Dr. G. Krishnan.

Description.—Adult. (Text-fig. 1).

General.—Body creamy white ; anterior region narrow. Total body-length (without antennae) 1.25—1.75 mm.



TEXT-FIG. 1.—*Decapauropus krishnani* Sundara Rajulu, sp. nov.

(a). Dorsal view of the entire animal. (b). Lateral view of the entire animal. (c) Left antenna. (d) 9th leg. (e) Dorsal view of telson. (f) Ventral view of telson.

Bl. ch., basal chaeta of the trichobothridium ; *cl.*, claw ; *col.*, collum ; *d. br.*, dorsal branch of the antenna ; *em.*, empodium ; *gl.*, globulus ; *med.*, median chaeta of the telson ; *ov.*, oval area on the sides of the head ; *med.*, submedian chaeta of the telson ; *st.*, stalk of the antenna ; *Str.*, sternum of the telson ; *ter.*, tergum of the telson ; *Trb.*, trichobothridium ; *Tr. ch.*, trichobothridial chaeta ; *V. br.*, ventral branch of the antenna.

Head.—Small and conical, with a pair of smooth, clear, oval areas on the sides. *Eyes and ocelli* : Absent. *Antennae* : Borne on the anterior margin of the head ; very conspicuous, with a 4-segmented stalk and two long well-separated apical branches, one dorsal and the other ventral ; the dorsal branch with a single long multiarticulate flagellum at the apex and a similar flagellum at its base ; ventral branch with two flagella, of which the dorsal one longer than the ventral, and a small sessile globulus in between the bases of these flagella (Text-fig. 1c). Shorter flagella borne on the segments of the stalk also.

Trunk.—13-segmented (Text-fig. 1b), including the first segment, the collum, and the last segment, the telson. *Legs* : long ; ten pairs ; the first pair on the second body segment and the last pair on the eleventh ; each leg with six segments, the last segment of the leg bearing a pair of lateral claws and a median empodium (Text-fig. 1d). *Tergites* : Nine tergal plates on the dorsum (Text-fig. 1a) ; tergites 2, 3, 5 and 6 each with a pair of short tactile bristles projecting from the sides of the body. *The collum* with a pair of small papillae on the ventral side ; posterior half of the dorsum covered by the first tergal plate. *Penultimate segment* with a pair of trichobothridia on the dorso-lateral aspects of the posterior margin of the tergum, one on each side ; each trichobothridium with a long stout chaeta at the apex and two smaller chaetae at its base, one on the outer side and the other on the inner side (Text-fig. 1e). *Telson* : The tergum with a pair of short, segmented and flagellar submedian chaetae and a pair of long unsegmented and non-flagellar median chaetae (Text-fig. 1e), the sternum with no chaetae (Text-fig. 1f). The genital opening on the ventral side of the third segment and the anus on the last segment.

Type-specimens.—*Holotype* : An adult, Z. S. I. Reg. No. 2800/18, in spirit in a vial, Alagar Koil Hills (Madras State), 1. vi. 1962, coll. G. Sundara Rajulu, deposited in the National Zoological Collections, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

Paratypes : The same data as for the holotype ; deposited as follows :

(i) Two adults, Z. S. I. Reg. No. 2801/18, in spirit in a vial, in the Zoological Survey of India. (ii) One adult with Dr. G. Krishnan, Professor of Zoology, University of Madras Extension Centre, Madurai.

Type locality.—INDIA : Alagar Koil Hills (Madras State), ca. 9°55' N. latitude and 78°10' E. longitude.

Geographical distribution.—INDIA : Alagar Koil Hills, Madras State. Known only from the type-locality.

Remarks.—*Decapauropus krishnani* Sundara Rajulu is close to *D. cuenoti* Remy, but is easily distinguishable as follows.—(i) Well separated apical branches in the antennae ; (ii) sessile small globulus ; (iii) nine tergal plates ; (iv) presence of basal trichobothridial chaetae ; (v) unsegmented long median chaetae from the tergum of the telson ; and (vi) absence of chaetae from the sternum of telson. In *D. cuenoti* the apical branches of the antennae are very closely placed ; the globulus is large and pedicellate ; six tergal plates on the dorsum ; basal trichobothridial chaetae are absent ; median chaetae from the tergum of telson are short and segmented, and sternum of telson bears chaetae.

III—SUMMARY

1. A new species of genus *Decapauropus* Remy namely, *Decapauropus krishnani* is described from southern India. It is the first record of Pauropoda from the Indian Region.

2. The new species differs from the closely allied *D. cuenoti* Remy in the possession of nine tergal plates, small sessile globulus and in the possession of basal trichobothridial chaetae. In *D. cuenoti* there are only six tergal plates, a large pedicellate globulus and no basal trichobothridial chaetae.

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