

**A NOTE ON *MOINODAPHNIA MECLEAYI* (KING) A LITTLE
KNOWN CLADOCERAN SPECIES FROM INDIA**

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INTRODUCTION

The author is presently engaged in the study of crustacean fauna of India. Over 3000 samples of freshwater crustaceans have been collected from all over India. Of these, only a single sample which was collected from Ropar (Punjab) on 21.9.1985 contained 4 specimens of parthenogamic reproductive females of *Moinodaphnia meclavi* (King.). The literature search revealed that this taxon had only once been reported from India by Brehm in 1953.

Since this species is very rare in its occurrence in India, a short illustrated description of it is presented in this short note.

Moinodaphnia a closely related genus to *Moina* Baird was erected by Herrick in 1887. However, it differs from *Moina* in the shape of the head, carapace and in the possession of ocellus. *Moinodaphnia* has the unusual setation on the second antennae, the distal segment of the exopod has four rather short setae instead of three long setae. The abdominal folds are well developed serving to close off the brood pouch. The compressed body has the elliptical valves crested dorsally. Carapace covers the body but for the head. Head is conical.

Although under the genus *Moinodaphnia*, as many as seven species have been described yet six of these have either been transferred to the genus *Moina* or synonymised with *M. macleayi* (King) with the result *Moinodaphnia* remains monotypic (see Goulden, 1968).

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Class	CRUSTACEA
Subclass	BRANCHIOPODA
Order	CLADOCERA
Family	MOINIDAE

***Moinodaphnia Macleayi* (King, 1853)**

Moina Macleayi King, 1953 *Roy.Soc. Van Diemens-Land papers* pp. 251-252, pl.5

Moina submicronata Brady, 1986 *Linn. Soc. Journ. Zool.* p. 294, pl. 3.

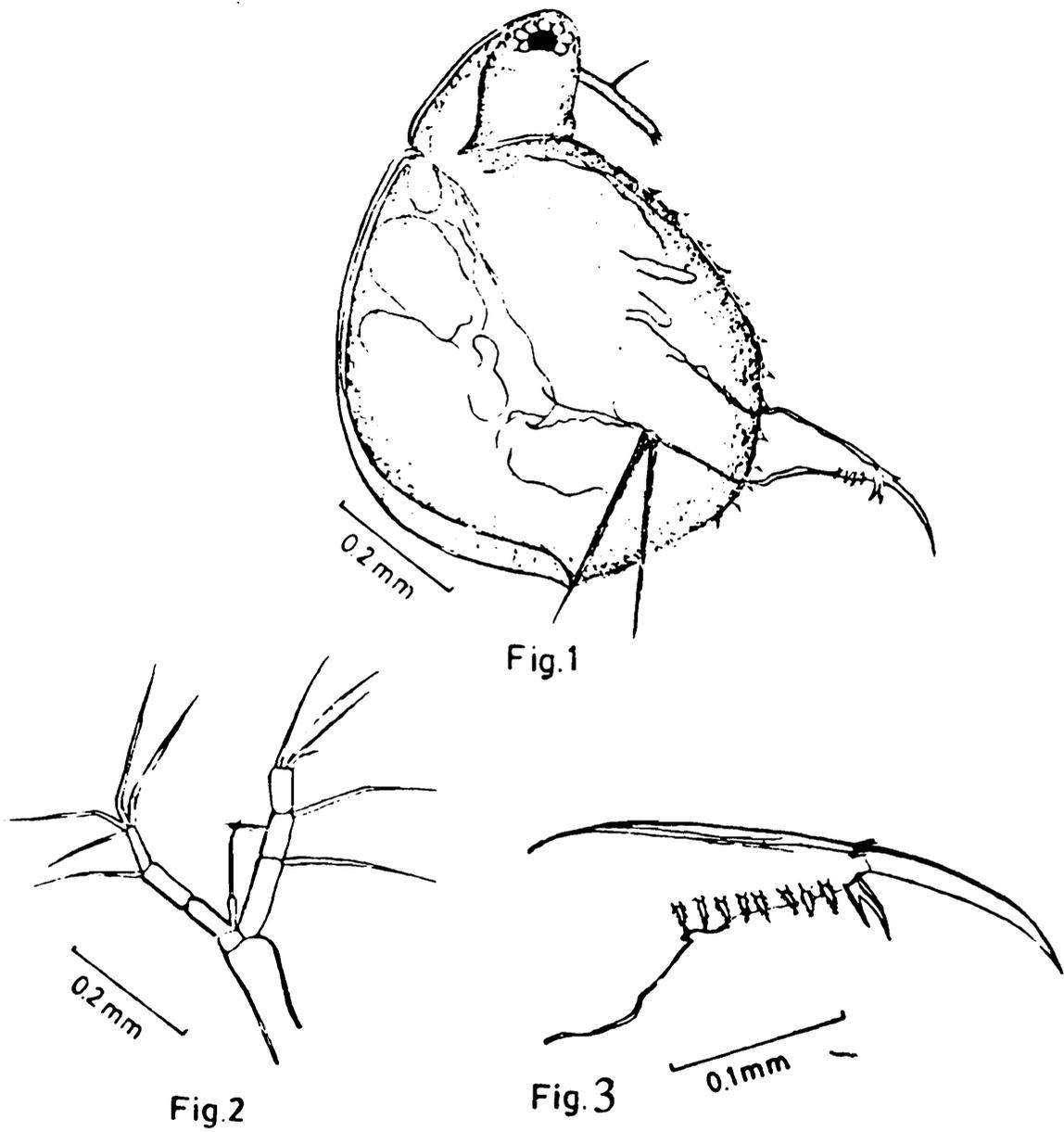


Fig. 1. Parthenogenetic female from right side

Fig. 2. Antenna

Fig. 3. Postabdomen of female

Moinodaphnia alabamensis Herrick, 19887 *Mem. Soc. Zool. France* pp. 35-56.

Moinodaphnia mocqueryst Richard, 1892, *Mem. Soc. Zool. France* pp. 222-226, fig. 7-8.

Moinodaphnia macleayi Brehm, 1953 *Osterreichische Zool. Zeit.* pp. 324-325, fig. 92.

Material studies : Four reproductive females. Coll. ditch at Ropar (Punjab).

Female : (Compressed and crested dorsally with elliptical valves completely covering body except head; head triangular having flat ventral side carrying long and thin antennules, large eye present near the tip of the head, ocellus present; fornics well developed; antenna long, basal segment bearing two sensory setae, endopod three segmented and bearing normal setae, exopod distal segment with four setae, postabdomen having distal tapering end, ten feathered spines and a bident spine, claw without pecten but with fine hair. Ehippial female not found.

Size : 1.0-1.1 mm (Slides C₂₁F₁, and C₂₁F_a).

Male : Not found.

Distribution : *Moinodaphnia* has been reported from atleast four continents : Africa, Asia, Australia and South America and quite a few islands. In India it occurs rarely, the only previous record of it is by Brehm (1953).

According to Goulden (1968) *Moinodaphnia* apparently has a completely different distribution and habitat from *Moina*, it occurs in small lakes, swamps and pools. Contrary to the Goulden's observation *M. macleayi* for the present study was collected from a pond, about half acre in area and depth of 60 cm.

SUMMARY

Moinodaphnia macleayi (King) has been reported from a pond at Ropar (Punjab). It is very rare in its occurrence in India. The only previous record of it from India is of Brehm (1953).

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